



LaurelwoodLiving

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LAURELWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

ISSUE 27, Spring & Summer 2011

FALL FUN FAIR to RETURN

The LWNA is pleased to announce the return of the Fall Fun Fair. The great success of last year's fair has kick-started the organization for an even improved version scheduled for the end of September. Your LWNA Fall Fair Organizing Committee has plans well underway to build the "Something For Everyone" event. Look for the return of the popular fair and its' carnival booths featuring fun-filled activities, games and displays, as well as tempting food concessions. We are especially looking forward to the new and improved carnival rides to be provided by Magic Carnival this year. The fair will also feature exhibition displays, a silent auction, an outdoor movie and staged entertainment. Work is ongoing with the City of Waterloo and our volunteers to build the event.

Students interested in volunteering may obtain hours for high school credit. Volunteers of all types are dearly needed to help. Jobs from the simplest to the largest all need doing. If you are able to help, please contact Deb Crawford deb Crawford@rogers.com

The fair will be held at Old Oak Park on September 30 & October 1st.



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Easter Egg Hunt

Can you imagine hiding over 3300 eggs? Well, we did it this year with 198 children in our



Laurelwood Easter Bunny

Easter egg hunt! Lots of hustle and bustle, children busy looking for Easter eggs, parents gathering on Easter Saturday morning, and see who is hopping down the bunny trail. Why it's the Easter Bunny — he came! as we knew he would!

See Egg Hunt, Page 2

Youth Night A Bustling Success

Youth Night has been a terrific success once again this year. Our enthusiastic coordinator, Julia Manzo, has brought much energy and competence to this valued program.



In addition to engaging the kids in crafts and sports activities, Youth Night

See Youth, Page 2

Youth, from page 1

has promoted respect and cooperation among young people.

Fulfilling the all important Youth Night objective of cultivating young leadership skills, coordinator Julia Manzo, a University of Waterloo student, commented, "I wish to thank the community for this important opportunity. I really enjoyed my time spent with the kids." Justifiably satisfied, she further praised volunteer high school youth leaders for their help with the program. Cited for their indispensable support are:

Rebecca and Shayne Morrow, Simone Joa, Clarissa Charles, Will Metske, Inayat Abid, Nabel Dawood, Ahmed Jaouhar, Erij El-kamel, Abdul Haseeb and John Tendik.

Youth Night concluded for 2012 at the end of April. Families and kids look forward to its resumption in the fall. Coordinator Julia Manzo deserves special commendation for her superb delivery of this vital Laurelwood program.

Egg Hunt, from page 1

Thank you to Jeremy and his team at Starbucks for donating the coffee and hot chocolate for our event, and our own volunteers from the association! Our event was a huge success again this year. Can't wait to see what's in store for next year! Keep in touch!

Neighbours gather for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt by St. Nicholas School



The Giant Annual Laurelwood Garage Sale

With the long awaited turn in the weather, spring can truly have said to have arrived in Laurelwood; and with it the shoppers have sprung up like proverbial May flowers in pursuit of bargains. The "Giant Annual Laurelwood Garage Sale" took off under friendly spring skies on Saturday May 7th. The event organized by your LWN provides residents with the opportunity to sort out the attic and garage, setting spring cleaning in full motion. Just as important, it brings neighbours onto the street where old acquaintances can be refreshed and new ones forged.



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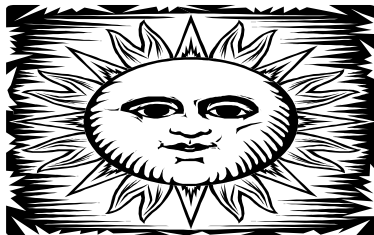
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YMCA/Library Progress

Construction begun in October of 2009 now sees an estimated date



of completion by the contractor of late Summer 2011. Many Laurelwood residents are looking forward with great relish to the opening.

The convenience of library, cultural, recreational and day

care programs in our immediate neighbourhood offers cost- and time-effective advantages which are too appetizing to ignore.

Expect an early YMCA membership sign-up campaign event in late June. *Laurelwood Living* will make every attempt to advise you of the exact date as soon as it becomes official.

SCOTIABANK INVESTS

Kitchener-Waterloo, ON – On Monday April 18, 2011 at 2pm the



**A.R. Kaufman Family
YMCA** in Kitchener welcomed representatives from the **Scotiabank**

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CELL TOWER FOLLIES

Sharon Abel & Christine Brunt
Concerned Citizens of Laurelwood

In late January a handful of residential property owners in the vicinity of Old Oak Drive received a simple notification from WIND Mobile declaring their intention to erect a 30 metre telecommunications tower at 516 Erbsville Rd. Existing regulations only require WIND to inform property owners within a meagre 90 meter radius of the installation.

Knowing that very few Laurelwood residents would ever become aware of the construction of this tower until it was up, one property owner delivered copies of the original notification to various homes in the area. The impact of the proposed structure in such close proximity to our 3 schools (St. Nicholas, SJAM and Abraham Erb), 2 daycare centres, a senior's home and our residences, brought 5 Laurelwood families together to try to protect not only our neighbourhood but any residential area populated by families and schools.

Awareness was the main goal of this small group of concerned citizens, so flyers were posted on mailboxes with contact information. Submissions to the federal and municipal governments were made and different media were contacted. Within 5 days, 500 petition signatures were



Rogers Tower, Laurelwood Commons

collected and shortly afterward presented to Mayor Brenda Halloran.

With the highly commendable support of M.P. Peter Braid, a meeting was arranged at City Hall attended by Mr. Braid, the Mayor, Councillor Karen Scian, City staff and representatives from both WIND Mobile and Industry Canada, to clarify the roles of all the parties involved. At the conclusion of this meeting, WIND Mobile agreed to consider alternate sites.

During this time, it came to light that Rogers had previously erected a 29m-high cell tower in the parking lot of the Laurelwood Commons plaza in September 2010 without filing an application with the City of Waterloo. The choice of 29m (rather than 30m) made the tower exempt from any municipal review, public consultation or process. All that was required was to make an application. In March 2011, six months after the structure was erected, Rogers filed their application which was then accepted by the City of Waterloo. Oddly, SJAM within a stone's throw of the new tower, is considered "institutional" and thus, exempt from needing city permission. The nearby homes are on "mixed use land" and so are similarly unprotected.

The results of research on health effects are mixed. Wisely, some municipalities and school boards have decided to err on the side of caution and have policies to keep cell towers a safe distance (300-500m) from residences, schools, hospitals, etc., due to concerns about health, devalued properties and aesthetics. Unconscionably, Industry Canada, the federal regulator, deems engineering alone to be the compelling issue when considering the propriety of situating a tower.

WIND Mobile is currently looking into co-locating on the CBC tower (a great option in our opinion) or with the Rogers tower at Laurelwood Commons Plaza (too close to schools and homes). Bell and Telus have erected portable cell towers on Hydro land near the YMCA/Library, indicating that better options for citizens exist.

As of May 1st, there has been no final decision on the WIND Mobile tower placement. In the case of an impasse, Industry Canada will have the final say.

For information please contact
stoplwtower@gmail.com

CITY COUNCILLOR UPDATES

City Councillor Karen Scian provides the following updates on issues of Laurelwood concern.

CELL TOWER ISSUE

The cell tower issue is still unresolved. WIND Mobile has applied to assess the CBC tower (that we see in the western horizon) for suitability. As there are no pockets of industrial land in the northwest corner of Waterloo, their challenge becomes locating their equipment in spots that provide effective cell coverage for their customers.

The City of Waterloo is NOT interested in allowing cellular towers in residential neighbourhoods and is assisting WIND Mobile in their extensive efforts to find a better answer to this puzzle. The City is also dealing with the cellular tower on the Laurelwood Commons, which Rogers installed in the fall of 2010 without following City of Waterloo procedures of application and notification. This story is still evolving – stay tuned.

SPEED BUMPS RETURN

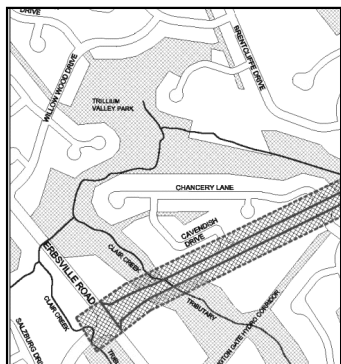
The Willow Wood speed cushions will be reinstalled shortly. These devices have been very successful in controlling traffic along this strip of residential road – average speeds have dropped by over 15kph! The pilot program has been so successful that other parts of the city have been trying to "relocate" our speed cushions. They have proven to be an inexpensive and effective way to calm traffic.



The City will be installing permanent versions on Willow Wood this year and will be launching a comprehensive plan to applying this program across Waterloo. These speed cushions were specially designed to accommodate our Waterloo fire trucks – allowing for effective traffic calming, but maintaining mandated emergency response times.

COLUMBIA STREET IMPROVEMENTS

Columbia Street (Fischer-Hallman to Erbsville Rd) will be reconstructed and the public input sessions continue. Choices need to be made regarding intersection treatments, numbers of lanes and accommodating alternative transportation (bike lanes,



multi-use trails, etc). As a result of the engineering challenges of dealing with "the dip" in the road, this is the most expensive road in Waterloo – over \$12 million for the project.

Please see www.waterloo.ca for further information on this project.

PARKSWATCH

This spring, Gatestone Park will see the benefit of the City's new ParksWatch Program, a program that encourages neighbours to keep an eye on our public spaces and provides valuable information to the community, alerting neighbours on what to look for and how to properly report suspicious behaviour. Look for forthcoming information in your mailbox and new park signs.

For more information on neighbourhood issues, please contact Councillor Karen Scian:

519-807-7611



Scotiabank Supports Garage Sale

Manager Peter Krakowiak continues the strong Scotiabank tradition of supporting the Laurelwood Community Garage Sale by offering a drop off service to residents. All proceeds go to the SMILES for Mac Kids campaign at McMaster Children's Hospital in Hamilton.

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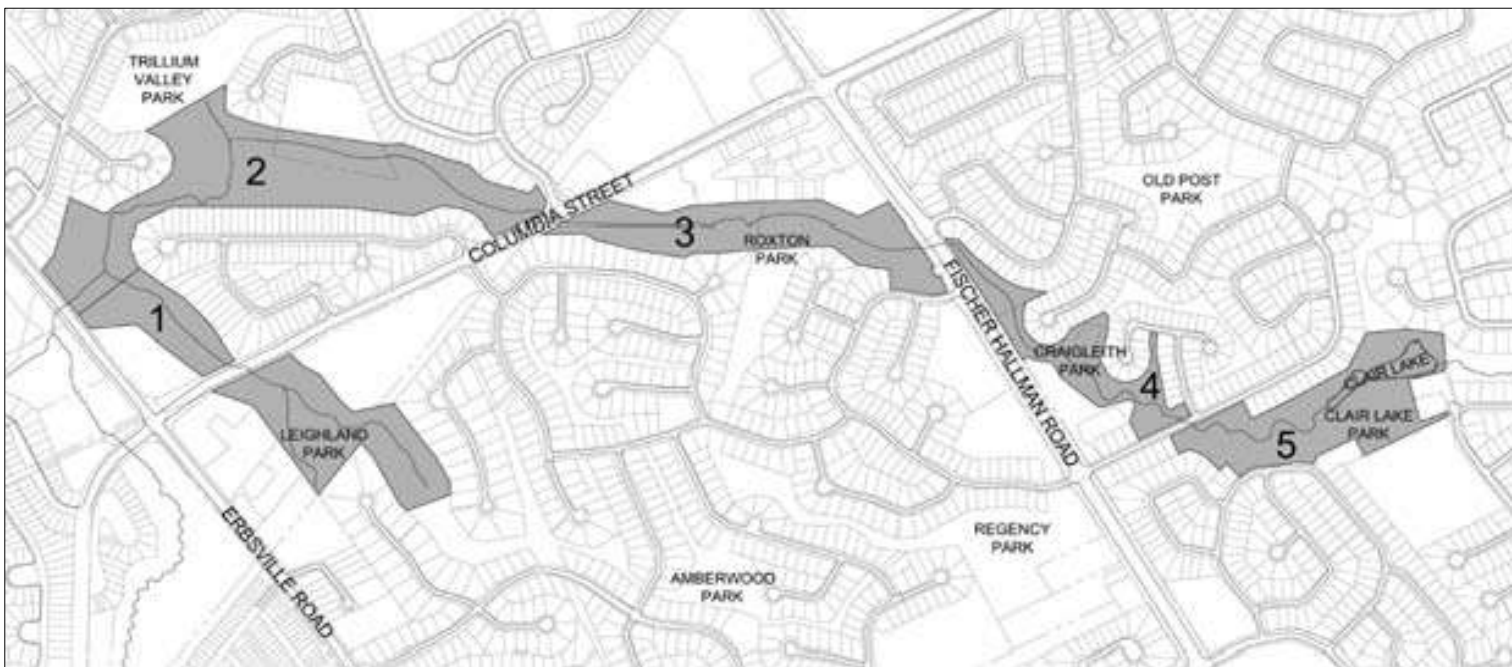
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CLAIR CREEK REHABILITATION

The City of Waterloo is in the process of developing a detailed rehabilitation plan for sections of North Clair Creek between Erbsville Road and the outfall of Clair Lake (see map delineating the five reaches of North Clair Creek).

Clair Creek North – Reaches 1 through 5

A Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for Clair Lake Park and North Clair Creek was completed in 2005. Based upon the original recommendations of the EA as well as updated recommendations specific to Clair Lake (Reach 5), the City has retained Conestoga-Rovers and Associates (CRA) to carry out the detail design for Reach 2 (Erbsville Road to Columbia Street), Reach 3 (Columbia Street to Fischer-Hallman Road), and Reach 5 (Craigleith Drive to outfall of Clair Lake). As part of the design process, the City solicited input early the design process from residents in the immediate area surrounding Reach 2 and 3. Invitations were sent out to residents to participate in a series of "kitchen table" meetings held the week of March 21 to 25, 2011 at the Columbia Street Fire Station. Residents were provided with background information and asked to provide comments on the initial design options being considered, the proposed implementation schedule, and to identify any potential impacts during construction. Information presented at the "kitchen table" meetings along with a summary of the comments received can be viewed on the project website at www.waterloo.ca/clairlake (see the Public Notices and Events tab). The next step in the design process involves developing more detailed design drawings for Reaches 2 and 3 taking into consideration the feedback received to date. A second Public Information Centre (PIC) meeting, open to all interested parties will be held in the fall of 2011 to solicit feedback on the detail design drawings for Reaches 2 and 3. For more information and to register to receive future project updates and notices, please visit www.waterloo.ca/clairlake to contact the project managers.



LETTERS to the EDITOR

Opinion: Clair Creek Rehab is Destructive

If you have read about Clair Creek Rehabilitation project, you might think this is a fairly benign process of cleaning up garbage in the creek. Wrong!

As I discovered at one of the "kitchen table" meetings, this is actually a project to bring in heavy machinery to move the creek and walking path and to completely landscape the valley.

The "reach 2" area most affected is the area of the trail between Honeywood Place and Chancery Lane. Hopefully you take the time to enjoy this calm trail from time to time. A wide variety of animals and birds inhabit the diverse meadows and dense shrub cover.

In the current plan a significant portion of the low-land meadow of reach 2 will be graded, perhaps removing a foot of topsoil along with all vegetation with the exception of perhaps a couple of "significant" trees (they may die anyhow). Bulldozers and excavators will be used to move the creek and to grade the meadow lands around the creek. The walking path will be moved to run right behind the houses of Chancery Lane, and the creek will go approximately down the middle of the valley.

In my opinion, this is a case of planning gone nuts. It is an attempt to modify the creek bed to suit some ideal of how a creek should be, in order to make it run more slowly and flood more often.

I would like to see any "rehabilitation" limited to obstructing flow in the current creek location. That land has naturalized over the past 20 years; I do not want to see this start from scratch. My kids are under 10, but they'll have left home before the valley returns to its current state.

Others have expressed concerns about cost, loss of privacy due to the trail being closer to homes, increased mosquitoes due to more flooding and reduced property value.

If you feel as I do, please let the project manager know. In any case, if you care about this small wild space, please attend the information meetings.

Dave Dolson

LETTERS to the EDITOR

We welcome and encourage the submission of letters to the editor. Letters of 350 words or less, should include the writer's name, address and phone number.

Phone numbers, street and e-mail addresses will not be published. Submissions may be edited. Published letters must be printed with the name of the writer. Letters represent the opinion solely of the writer and not necessarily those of *Laurelwood Living*.

Letters may be emailed to the editor at questions@laurelwood.ca



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Welcome Mrs. Arbuckle

The LWNA extends a warm welcome to Mrs. Liz Arbuckle, the new Principal at Laurelwood P.S. Mrs. Arbuckle has kindly shared with us some information about herself. She attended WLU and York universities, and has worked with three different school boards, including Peel, Wellington, and now Waterloo. Mrs. Arbuckle has taught grades JK-8, and Special Education. She was most recently VP at Keatsway and Highland P.S., and then Principal at Highland and Laurelwood P.S.

Mrs. Arbuckle has two adult children, and two 15-month-old, twin grandchildren whom she loves to spend time with as much as possible. We look forward to getting to know you, Mrs. Arbuckle; welcome to the neighbourhood!

New Construction By Clair Creek

The new retirement residence at the intersection of Columbia and Erbsville Road is progressing rapidly. While named Clair Hills Retirement Residence, the 530 Columbia Rd. W. structure is actually located in Laurelwood. The Clair Hills Retirement Residence aims for a broad range of elderly residents including those with assisted living requirements.



New Construction Abuts Clair Creek

The rising building towers uncomfortably over the dwindling, nearby marshland. While the large residence may not assist regional ground water recharge capacity, it certainly provides an additional option for retirees. We look forward to the arrival of our new senior neighbours and the expanded tax base that this building represents.



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AGM Report

The **Annual General Meeting** of the LWNA was held April 28th at nearby Wild Wings in Laurelwood Commons. Special guest Peter Krakowiak, Scotiabank Manager, outlined several Scotiabank initiatives. Thanks for Scotiabank's considerable support of the free skate, garage sale, and fall fair were expressed. The welcome contributions and leadership of newer executive members Ian Inglis and Julie Martin, as well as, Chris Hamill were noted.

President Tim Osland reviewed the past year citing many thriving LWNA programs, praising the Youth Night Skating Party, Easter Egg Hunt, Community Wide Garage Sale, Car Wash, Environmental, Skating Rink, free distribution of *Laurelwood Living* and the Firehall Christmas Festivities. Also noted were the Association's role in representing residents to government, and maintaining close connections with local business and new construction in the neighbourhood. Progress reports on the healthy finances of the LWNA and the planned 2nd annual fall fair followed.

The LWNA considered a constitutional change to accept new members from outside our Laurelwood boundaries for the purposes of augmenting our volunteer base and to help adjacent communities to establish their own associations.

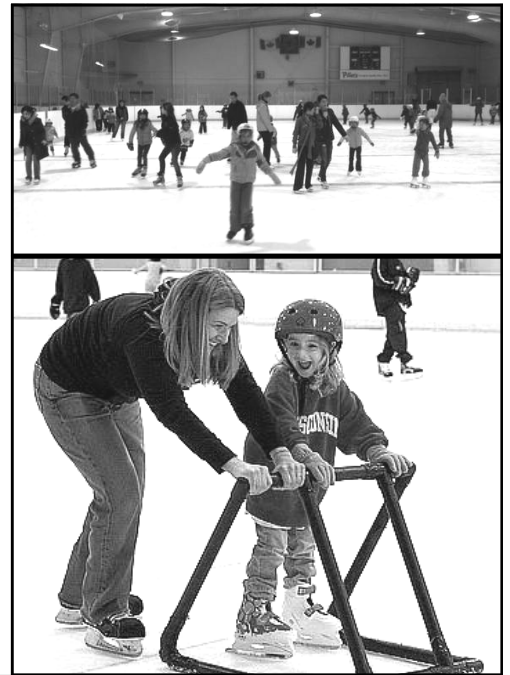
Elected to the following positions were: Tim Osland as President, Frank Anderson as Vice-President, Nancy Peng as Secretary and Antero DaSilva as Treasurer.

Appointed to the following positions were: Dave Dolson as Technology Coordinator, Julia Manzo as Youth Night Coordinator, Frank Anderson as Laurelwood Living Editor, Lorraine Bauman as Laurelwood Public School Liaison, Deb Crawford as St. Nicholas Catholic School Liaison, Nancy Peng as Sir John A. MacDonald High School Liaison and Kristi Prior as City Liaison.

With the help of these and the many community volunteers who enrich our community through its programs the LWNA welcomes the year ahead.

Laurelwood Skates

Laurelwoodites came out in full force to Albert McCormack Arena at the Annual Laurelwood Skating Party. The popular "Free Skate" event attracted about 150 participants and spectators. Albert Mac was enlivened by the laughter, cheers, spills and thrills of Laurelwood's skating fraternity. Our very own local Laurelwood Commons Scotiabank, branch manager, Peter Krakowiak was proud to bring Scotiabank's vital support promoting the Laurelwood community and providing a wonderful opportunity for families, friends and neighbours to relax, exercise and enjoy a memorable afternoon.



LWNA Calendar

May 25 LWNA Meeting
June tba LWNA Meeting
Sept. 30- Fall Fun Fair
Oct. 1
 Enjoy a safe & happy summer.

Beat the Summer Heat!

Laurelwood residents are invited to join Beechwood North for swimming, tennis and summer activities. Our recreational facility at 326 Beechlawn Drive, near Columbia and Fischer-Hallman, includes an outdoor heated pool and two lighted tennis courts. Activities include: swimming & tennis lessons, adult swims and aquafit, teen swims, kids crafts, special family activity nights, movie nights, an opening BBQ and an end of the summer carnival night. Swimming and tennis lessons are offered on weekday mornings throughout the summer at a discounted rates. The pool is open for public swimming in afternoons and evenings in July and August & after school and on weekends in June.

2011 Family Membership fees are \$475 after May 1st, including a \$75 refundable co-op fee. Do contact us.

www.beechwoodnorth.com
membership@beechwoodnorth.com

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LAURELWOOD LIVING

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