

KANATA NORTH NEWS

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Councillor, Kanata North

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NO WARD COUNCIL THIS MONTH

There is no Ward Council meeting this month and after September 10th (the deadline for people to be nominated for municipal office) there will be a freeze on sending out information, no newspaper columns and no holding meetings that are not a regular event unless they are staff initiated meetings. My City website will also be temporarily unavailable. Since Ward Council is a regular meeting I've been told that it is possible to hold one but it will be difficult to put out information on it. I do not have a lot of new development proposals to present as I've had both new schools at an earlier Ward Council meeting as well as subdivisions (Minto's Arcadia and Cardel's Richardson). I would like to be able to give an update on these and other developments such as the KNL lands and will see what can be done to hold a meeting as soon as feasible.

MEETING Re: 2009 FLOODING

City staff will outline their recommendations for remedial work in the Beaverbrook Community at a meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 7th at 7 pm in the Mlacak Centre. If you have had basement flooding then I urge you to attend and provide your views on the suggested course of action.

AMO CONFERENCE

The week of August 16th, I attended the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference in Windsor during which I had meetings with the Minister of Education, Leona Dombrowsky, on childcare issues; with the Minister of Transportation, Kathleen Wynne, on issues concerning the light rail project and para transpo; with the Minister of Natural Resources, Linda Jeffrey re: endangered species; with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Jim Bradley, on housing and on the Ontario Municipal Board's dealing with environmental lands and with John Gerretsen, the Minister of the Environment on water issues, the Carp landfill expansion and the provincial land use policy statement, particularly as it impacts environmental lands scheduled for development. Unfortunately two of the Ministers were changed the next day in a cabinet shuffle so I will need to set up additional meetings with the new Ministers of Municipal Affairs and Housing and of the Environment. These meetings are largely to bring matters to the attention of the Ministers and it is through follow up and meetings with their staff that action becomes possible. Hence I will be following up with them on these issues as they impact the City of Ottawa, particularly on

transit, and on Kanata North, particularly development in the South March Highlands.

BEAVERPOND LANDS

I have spent a great deal of time this summer meeting with staff and with other officials to search for additional solutions to protect the Beaverpond Lands and ensure the protection of endangered species. The possibility of developing a partnership with the NCC to have the South March Highlands considered as an extension of the Greenbelt is continuing. I have a further meeting with NCC CEO Marie Lemay and her staff in early September. Bill Teron, the founder of Kanata will be with me at the meeting. Staff have the authority and responsibility to ensure that relevant conditions are met at various stages of development of a subdivision, including tree removal. At this time no approval has been given as the conditions relating to tree cutting have not been fully met. This has given me time to search for additional solutions. I continue to work on the possibility of a land exchange with City lands or purchase to obtain a link from the remaining Beaverpond lands to Trillium Woods which will lead to the future Kanata North Recreation Centre. The NCC has continually stated that they would not consider obtaining or trading for these lands until their Greenbelt Study is completed in two years.

On August 24, at 7pm, on the full moon, Algonquin Elder, poet and community

Activist, Albert DuMont, invited the community for a special Traditional Tobacco Offering, blessing and prayer for the land. This special occasion was an Algonquin Prayer and Discussion for the Forest, A Non-Denominational Celebration and Perspective on our Relation to Ecology with special guests including Algonquin Elder, poet and activist, Albert DuMont, author, ecologist, Vedic master, and Zen teacher, Dr. Ian Prattis, and author, biologist, researcher and expert on the spiritual significance of trees, Diane Beresford Kroeger.

Residents of Kanata North and lovers of the forest, including myself came and joined this blessing at the Beaverpond to hear the voice of the people, and the voice of the land. It was a beautiful evening and a very touching ceremony.

TERRY FOX UPDATE

Construction on Terry Fox Drive is moving ahead. I recently toured the construction site with City staff to see the progress and was able to travel the entire length. The section from the Goulbourn Forced Road to the Second Line, together with the extension of the Second Line to Terry Fox, is scheduled to be open before the end of this year. The section from Kanata Avenue to the Richardson Side Road will also be open at that time. The remainder will be completed early next year. The section of the Richardson Side Road from Kanata Avenue to Terry Fox will remain closed for safety reasons. The steep hill ending at Terry Fox was

considered dangerous, as it would be hard to stop under winter conditions. A pedestrian trail will be provided there. To access the Richardson Side Road there will be a traffic light at Terry Fox/Kanata Ave where you would turn right and another traffic light at the Richardson Side Road where you would turn left onto the road.

There have been rumblings that construction of the Terry Fox extension has been halted until a new environmental assessment was completed. This is not true. The existing environmental assessment did not expire. A group that wishes to halt this road has initiated a court action that will be heard on Oct. 6th in Toronto. Although the decision is up to the court so I can't definitely say what will happen it is not expected that they will succeed as the City has met all requirements and obtained necessary permits from the federal and provincial governments as well as the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority.

KANATA NORTH PICNIC

The fourth annual Kanata North Picnic was a successful event enjoyed by more than 2,000 who came out to the Sandwell Green to enjoy the summer with the free barbeque, petting zoo, children's bouncies, displays and stage entertainment. I particularly enjoyed Chris Pilsworth's magic show, the quartet from the Kanata Symphony and the Chinese performers. Councillor Shad Qadri, his wife Theresa and staff again served up 800 snow cones and about 1500 cotton candy cones! The weather co-operated despite a rainy morning and supplies had completely run out by day's end! Special thanks to all the volunteers, performers, residents and all participants who joined in the community festivities and offered donations toward the Youth Room of the Kanata North Recreation Complex.

FALL CLEANING THE CAPITAL

I would like to thank the residents who continue to undertake activities to beautify our communities - from graffiti removers to the March/Kanata Horticultural gardens, to those who pull invasive plant species from our parks, protect trees, pick up litter on walkways, and those who've adopted a park or street and regularly look after litter pickup. Everyone can help and by working together we'll keep our communities clean and attractive. Fall Cleaning the Capital (a program where groups and individuals sign up to clean up areas of their communities) is coming soon. Consider doing your part to help and sign up on the City website for clean up supplies and a chance to win prizes at: http://ottawa.ca/residents/environment/community/capitalcleaning/index_en.html

ROAD CLOSURES

Kanata Avenue is closed from Terry Fox to Stikine due to blasting and construction of the road to urban standards. The closure will continue into November. OC Transpo has been involved in all the road closure discussions and have advised that the Express bus will be re-routed through the subdivision to bypass the closure. A right turn lane has been added to Kanata Ave. at Campeau, south bound, which has helped with the additional traffic during the road closure and left turn lanes have also been provided. Please remember to let those

first at the intersection move ahead and practise your defensive driving skills.

The Richardson Side Road continues to be closed from Kanata Avenue to Huntmar Drive to provide protection to the public while multiple trucks are bringing materials to construct Terry Fox Drive. The portion from Kanata Ave. to Terry Fox will remain closed permanently as the steep hill meeting Terry Fox is considered an accident hazard. Access to the Richardson Side Road will then be from Kanata Ave. along Terry Fox to the Richardson Side Road. Both intersections will have traffic signals.

WATERMAIN BREAKAGE

On August 17th, residents of the Morgan's Grant community experienced a watermain breakage caused by the contractor during a new pipe installation. When the pipe was being installed the valve was not shut off causing the cap to blow and the resultant flooding. As soon as they were able to track down the source, the pipe was fixed and pressure was returned to Morgan's Grant. The watermain was fixed by 10:30 the evening of the 17th. The pipes were flushed and tests show there was no danger to the drinking water supply.

In situations where residents have no water, the City's Water Department should be notified through asking for the Utility Services Branch of Public Works and Services by calling 311. Service is dispatched ASAP and the Water Dept. is usually on site within one hour.

UPDATE ON PARKS

Work has finally begun on Sandhill and Brookshire parks after a further delay awaiting completion of developer's work. The estimated time of completion of the parks, weather dependent, is the middle of October. In the meantime, the play structures are out to tender and will be installed once the landscape work is completed. Thank you to the residents who have agreed to be on a panel with staff to choose the best play structure bids.

OC TRANSPO CHANGES

Beginning the day after Labour Day, Residents of Brookside can look forward to the 60 express route servicing their area. OC Transpo has indicated that the change to the 60 express route will have it start at March Road and Maxwell Bridge, travel through Brookside to the former start of the 60, and then follow its existing route through Morgan's Grant to the Eagleson Park and Ride, and on to central Ottawa. I am making inquiries about when buses don't arrive so that people don't find themselves standing and waiting for unnecessarily long periods of time. Please remember to check the OC Transpo webpage and bus schedule to make sure you know when your bus arrives as service time will change and increase with the start of the school year.

The City has been working with the Transit Union Executive to make changes to the collective agreement on a number of items that would benefit both drivers and the City. The union membership did not approve the plan so there will be further discussions to ensure all

concerns are met.

BACK TO SCHOOL

The Kanata Food Cupboard is asking for donations of school supplies for children of families who can't afford to buy them. Please consider donating items or cash to purchase them so that no child is left without them.

NEW ADULT CROSSING GUARDS

There is good news for Knudson Drive/Nelford Court, Klondike/Marconi and Shirley's Brook/Marconi. Council has approved funding for additional Adult Crossing Guard locations throughout the City. Through the City of Ottawa 2010 Budget, an Adult Crossing Guard will be placed at the intersection of Knudson Drive and Nelford Court at the beginning of the new school year for students of Stephen Leacock Public School. New Adult Crossing Guards have also been approved for the intersections of Klondike/Marconi and Shirley's Brook/Marconi for children attending South March Public School. Starting September 2010, the new supervised school crossings will be in place and the City asks all motorists and parents in the community to be aware of their responsibility and obey the Adult Crossing Guard. Crossing Guards are asked by Police Services to report all violators for appropriate action.

The City of Ottawa and Ottawa Safety Council want to ensure our children a safer walk to school. The Community needs everyone's support to make sure that children can cross streets safely as they travel to and from school.

If you have any questions about the crossing or the crossing guard operation, please contact Becky Hughes, Supervisor of the Adult Crossing Guard Program at the Ottawa Safety Council (613) 238-1513.

KANATA EXPO 55+

Councillor Peggy Feltmate, Kanata South, and I extend the invitation to join us at this year's Kanata Expo 55+ on Friday, September 17th. The event will be hosted from 1:00pm to 3:30pm at the Mlacak Centre/Kanata Seniors Centre (2500 Campeau Drive). There will be refreshments and door prizes as well as a chance to meet your 55+ Kanata neighbours, the health, social, and community agencies that serve older adults and give your views on seniors' services.

The Kanata Seniors Council will hold their Retirement Living Fair for businesses on Sunday Sept. 19th from 2-4 pm for businesses serving seniors that can't be accommodated at Expo 55+ due to a lack of space.

For more information about Kanata Expo 55+, please contact my staff and I at (613) 580-2474, Marianne.Wilkinson@ottawa.ca <<mailto:Marianne.Wilkinson@ottawa.ca>> or

Peggy at (613) 582-2752, Peggy.Feltmate@ottawa.ca <<mailto:Peggy.Feltmate@ottawa.ca>>

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Council has responded to the posting of terms of reference (TOR) by Waste Management for a new landfill on Carp Road and recycling facilities. The province is now reviewing submissions and will make a decision on what should be included in the environmental assessment (EA) this fall. The EA will take at least two years to complete. Once we know what will be studied we can ensure that the public's views are met. There will be opportunities throughout the process to comment. My personal view is that this site is no longer suitable for a landfill site.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

With school opening soon the importance of driving safely becomes needed even more as children walk to school. Please obey the speed limits as they give you time to react if a child steps out. Do not under any circumstance pass a school bus with its lights flashing - from either direction. I've had reports of that happening and since children are taught to cross the road in front of the bus when the lights are flashing their lives will be in danger if you pass that bus - so don't!

FCM

This week I'm attending Committee and Board meetings for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in Iqaluit, Nunavut. This will be my first trip into the far north and I hope to have time between meetings to get to know the area and people. During this time my staff will be available to deal with any issues that may arise.

COMING EVENTS

Sept 7th, Route 60 will be changed to begin a March Rd. and Maxwell Bridge

Sept 10th, 8:30 am, Open House and Pancake Breakfast, Kanata Senior's Centre

Sept 13th, 11 am, AGM, Kanata Seniors Council, Mlacak Centre

Sept 17th, 1 to 3:30pm, Kanata Expo 55+, Mlacak Centre/Kanata Seniors Centre, 2500 Campeau Dr.

August 15th on, Fall Cleaning the Capital Registration begins, Register your litter pickup or graffiti removal project prior to September 14 to become eligible to **win an early bird prize** donated by our generous sponsors.

Sept. 17-18th Help remove dog strangling vine, an invasive species, from our parks

Serving the residents and businesses in Kanata North

To receive the Kanata North Newsletter, to deal with a concern or make a suggestion, contact me at 613-580-2474, email Marianne.Wilkinson@ottawa.ca, or through www.mariannewilkinson.com <<http://www.mariannewilkinson.com/>>.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Please note that my city office communications will stop after September 10th and resume after the election period. We will continue to respond to your concerns and items of City business.

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