



# MHBPNA NEWS

**Mt. Hope-Breithaupt Park Neighbourhood Association**

BLOG: <http://mhbpna.blogspot.ca> website: <http://sites.google.com/site/mhbpna> email: [mhbpna@gmail.com](mailto:mhbpna@gmail.com)

## “Who you gonna call?” Introducing the Kitchener Contact Centre

By Lane Burman, President, MHBPNA

This past winter, I backed my car out of my driveway and into a frozen snow bank and cracked my bumper. While this angered me, I looked at why it had happened. Snow had been piling up on both sides of the road, leaving only a car width and a half to drive on. The banks had been overflowing on the roads making residential snow removal difficult.

The same day this happened, I travelled down Dekay St, and noticed that all of the snow was removed. In fact, there wasn't even snow on the boulevards. At first I thought that the residents had cleared the

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boulevards.

I contacted our City Councillor Dan Glenn Graham to ask for assistance. He immediately told me to contact the Contact Centre. I hadn't even thought to contact them.

Upon calling the Contact Centre, I explained my situation, and asked for assistance. I was

Please see *Contact Centre* on page 4

## Fall Program Review: exciting and diverse

Our Mount Hope - Breithaupt Park Neighbourhood Association is sponsoring a number of programs at the Breithaupt Centre this fall. Any money we make from these will go back into the community to sponsor other programs or events like the Much Music dance we threw last winter. We have Lego, Dance, cooking and more!

These programs are advertised in the City of Kitchener's *Leisure Guide* (p. 87) which has

just been delivered to homes and is also available online (just 'google' it). You can register for these programs at the Breithaupt Centre or online through the city's WEBreg site (search online for "Kitchener WEBreg" to find the page).

As always, email us at [mhbpna@gmail.com](mailto:mhbpna@gmail.com) if you have any questions. Please turn to page 2 of this newsletter for detailed information about our programs.

Please see *Programs* on page 2

## *Fall Program Overview*



### **Lego Anyone?**

We are offering 3 different Lego Programs this Fall for kids from 5 to 12 years of age. You can go choose from:

--Creative Lego Building....for the little gaffers that like to go crazy with a giant pile of Lego, no holds barred.

--Lego Mechanics.....Use gears and pulleys to create and problem solve. We issue the challenge, you build the solution.

--Lego Robotics.....Use LEGO robotics and a computer interface to solve a given problem and build robots. Totally impress your parents and scare the cat.



### **So you think you want to learn to dance?**

We can certainly help with that, because we offer a variety of Latin Dance Programs for kids, youth and families! Our world class trainer Kristina Kelly provides all the right training for your level of dance. She will also assist with costume-making for the serious enthusiast.

### **Welcome to a meat free world!**



Would you like to add vegetarian dishes to your menu, or are you looking to begin the learning process? We'll make some classic dishes and learn some ethnic dishes too in our vegetarian cooking course.

No animals were harmed in the making of this message

## Guelph Street Community Garden Update

This spring, the Guelph Street Community Garden was created in the Uniroyal Goodrich Park. Sod was lifted by the city, plots were dug by volunteers, and crops are now fruiting and flourishing. Here are a few updates to share from recent weeks.

A four person decision making collective was started to guide the garden through the season and to make decisions on behalf of all gardeners. This committee, along with a large number of volunteers, has been very busy with non-gardening tasks such as fence design and building, water storage and collection, as well as pathway development and neighbourhood liaison.

Twenty of the twenty-four plots have assigned gardeners and are flourishing. Those plots

which weren't planted by gardeners in time were filled with donated seedlings from generous committee members and have brought the total number of communal plots to four. Signs will soon be posted to invite the greater community to share in our bounty. Walking through the garden and tasting from the designated communal plots is welcomed and encouraged. Please remember to respect those plots which are not communal and refrain from harvesting crops in all other areas.

Next year is already in the planning stages. A waiting list has been started for plots which will be vacant next year. If you would like to be involved, email us at [guelphstreetgarden@gmail.com](mailto:guelphstreetgarden@gmail.com) Volunteer activities are available for people of all ability levels. Come visit our open house on Saturday, September 28th to talk to gardeners and have a taste of the bounty that has come from our inaugural year. Stay tuned for more details. Happy Harvesting!



*Contact Centre* continued from page 1

told that they would 'send someone out'. To my surprise, the next morning a City of Kitchener pickup truck rolled through our neck of the woods, looking at the snow. To my bigger surprise, 12 dump trucks and a whole snow clearing crew showed up the following morning and got down to work. Snow was cleared in a couple of hours. Very impressive!

*City of Kitchener Contact Centre  
# is 519-741-2345.*

*They are open 24 hours. Main  
centre Mon - Fri 7-7 and Sat 8 - 4.  
But after hours urgent requests are  
transferred to a dispatch centre.*

The City of Kitchener has moved to a reactive form of service as opposed to a proactive. Sure the sewer guys will notify the City when they see a tree down, or manhole cover missing, but for the most part, we as residents need to report issues.

The Contact Centre operates 7 days a week 24 hours a day. When you call, a ticket is created for your issue. The ticket is then triaged, and assigned to appropriate supervisor for investigation. Once the supervisor has looked into the ticket, they will assign the proper labour to resolve the issue within their budget and labour constraints.

I encourage you to contact the Centre when you see something that needs to be taken care of within our neighbourhood. Our 'hood' used to be one of the closest to the City Yard on Bramm St. We are now the farthest from the City Yard, now located on Goodrich Dr. Sometimes we need to help assist the City and act as eyes and ears.

Here are several things I have called the Contact Centre about over the past few months:

- Snow banks on the Blucher St- 2 days to clean up
- Markings at Wellington and Ahrens- had discussion about the impending repaving with City Staff
- Garbage overflowing on Breithaupt Street - 2 days to empty
- Trees need trimming in Lippert Park- 3 days
- Trees down in Lippert Park- 2 days
- Lawn needing mowing in Major Park- 2 days
- Trees down in Breithaupt Park (majority of trails now cleared).

*If you Google "Kitchener Contact Centre" or navigate to*

*<http://www.kitchener.ca/en/contactus.asp>*

*you will get a list of many different ways to keep in contact with "City Hall"*

These are all things that resident can report to make our neighbourhood better and safer. If you see it, call it in. We need everyone's help to bring our neighbourhood to the attention of The City. The City wants to help and want to make it better, but they are not able to observe everything on our streets and trails so they need our help. If it is not something they can help you with, they will let you know and point you in the right direction.

## Weber Street Widening Dates

As we have all noticed Weber Street has begun its transformation. First the houses were leveled, then the trees were taken and now the road is being re-routed. The first construction steps have begun with the installation of new infrastructure, sewer, water and gas. This included removing and reinstalling a section of rail as well. All seems to be ticking along.

### LIST OF MILESTONES

Detour road open from Victoria to Wellington--*Mid August 2013*  
Railway Bridge construction starts--*Beginning of September 2013*  
Four lanes reconstructed from Hartwood to Union--*Mid November 2013*  
Bridge construction complete and new northbound lanes open from Victoria to Wilhelm--*Beginning of July 2014*  
Detour road closed--*Beginning of July 2014*  
New four lanes open from College to Hartwood - *End of September 2014*

Please consider these as guidelines. There are many factors that can affect these times.

## Volunteering in our Neighbourhood

We are coming up to our Annual General Meeting in October and it is time to reflect on the good things that we've accomplished in the past year.

The one thing we have struggled with is getting more volunteers. Volunteers can be anything from someone who runs a program, to someone that participates in our online discussions to someone that helps hand out flyers. We can always use support.

Through the year, our neighbourhood executive has come up with some great ideas to connect our community. We worked to create and distribute our Newsletters, we have run Jane's Walks, and created a lot of programming that did not exist last year (see this Fall's Leisure Guide). All of these have been done with volunteers. These volunteers give of their time to their community.

*Continued next page....*

However, there are many projects that we can't get off the ground because of lack of volunteers. Below is a list of ideas that we would like to start discussing or have already started and need help with.

- Movie Night- volunteers needed to organize
- Breithaupt Park Skating Track- volunteers needed to start the discussion
- MHBP 5K walk/run - we started this year, but did not have the volunteer base to bring this to fruition
- Park Safety Audits- volunteers needed to develop the process and to conduct audits
- Yellow Fish Road- volunteers, adults and children, needed to run this project
- Breithaupt Park Art Installation- volunteers needed to start discussions with interested parties
- Urban Food Forest - volunteers needed to start discussions
- Inner City Park Rehabilitation- discussions and meetings already happening
- Art Display on Victoria Common Hoarding- hoping to get this off the ground by the fall
- REEP Rain project- volunteers needed for all aspects

And there are more ideas out there. There are some great ideas of how to build our community for today and for tomorrow. But in order to do any of it, we need heads at the table, and hands on the projects.

We understand that not everyone has time to volunteer for a Neighbourhood Association. We know because we all struggle to afford time between work, dance classes, typical home life, and relaxation; every minute is precious. Every little bit of time that you can afford to the NA helps us to grow.

We have tried to make things easy for our volunteers. Our NA currently operates numerous discussion groups. These are passive discussion groups that you can join to see what is going on, and give input. For instance, for the past year, we have been floating an idea of installing a skating track of sorts at the Breithaupt Centre, to replace the skating rink that has not been level. While this is a great idea, we need to have more people to develop the idea, and eventually more hands to build the project. You may want to volunteer for one part or both. We don't know where the discussion will go, but we want to start having it. Do you build your own backyard rink, and can assist with our idea? Are you a high school student that is looking to gain volunteer hours? Anyone can help.

How do you get involved? Contact us at [mhbpna@gmail.com](mailto:mhbpna@gmail.com). We can provide access to our discussion groups along with instructions on how to use them. You can also come out to a meeting and see what we are doing.

Communities are built by the people that live in them, and enjoyed by those same people. Come help us build the community that we want to live in.

Lane Burman, President, MHBPNA

## Green Bin: Avoiding the “ick factor”

Repeatedly I read that people are not participating in the Region of Waterloo's curb side green bin program and for the life of me, I don't understand this. We have been segregating kitchen scraps since we got our bin a few years ago - well, maybe it took a few weeks to get going, but our family of 3 puts out a green bin almost every week. Plus, we have NEVER purchased those paper bags solely made for our green bins.

During the summer when we produce more vegetable and fruit scraps, we also have a separate container for the back yard compost. This isn't accessible during the winter, though.

I'm writing this article to tell people that you don't have to buy special paper bags. It is permissible to use newspaper to make a liner for your kitchen organics container. Many people don't realize this. Plus if you google "organic origami instruction 2011" you will see pictures of the 3 steps to follow to make your own bin liners from newspapers.

But you don't even have to do this: I just tear paper bags so that I have 2 pieces of paper and then slip them into the beige rectangular plastic bin. We use Tim Horton's bags, LCBO paper bags, Food Drive bags (we prefer to give a cash donation to the food bank), or just strips of newspapers.

When it's time to empty the beige bin - when it's full, but also if it's smelly - we spread out 2 sheets of newspaper, and take a third folded sheet, place it over the bin, and turn it upside down over the



spread out newspapers. This third folded newsprint sheet prevents errant bits and pieces from rolling about. Lift off the beige bin, and voila! you can now simply fold the corners of the newsprint to the centre and pop the 'package' in the green bin.

We always place the folded up newsprint 'package' with the folded sides down to prevent it from unwrapping. Our green bin is always emptied on garbage day. Plus, we have never wasted money on those liner bags.

Joan Lazarski

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updates every week at  
[Mhbpna.blogspot.ca](http://Mhbpna.blogspot.ca)**

(You can sign up on the Blog for  
automatic email notification)

**“Friend” us on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/  
mounthope.breithauptpark](http://www.facebook.com/mounthope.breithauptpark)**



**Saturday September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Breithaupt Community Centre, Kitchener  
RIM Park, Waterloo

The City of Waterloo and the City of Kitchener invite you to our **FREE Try-A-Sport Day** event! Come see a selection of sport demonstrations showcasing local athletes and take the opportunity to try a variety of sports offered in your city. Come, have fun! Challenge your neighbour and friends to participate in all the sports, enjoy a day of family and activity, or test out a sport for free before registering.

For all the latest information, check us out on Facebook and Twitter @KWTryASportDay

**MHPNA Annual General Meeting in October. Watch our Blog and/or Facebook page for date, time and location!**

Family friendly, non competitive, Road Hockey Tournament in parking lot of 91 Moore Avenue, Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013, 10am to 4pm. Sign up as team or individuals. Watch our Blog closer to the event for details!

**MHPNA Fall 2013 newsletter is assembled by Ted Parkinson, Communications Director MHPNA. Thanks to our writers and content resources which include: Lane Burman, Joan Lazarski, Ralph Erdman**

**This newsletter is written, formatted and delivered by volunteers. If you would like to write an article, tell us about an event you are having in, or volunteer to deliver the newsletter, please contact us at**

[mhbpna@gmail.com](mailto:mhbpna@gmail.com)

You can also leave a note or letter for us at the Breithaupt Centre.

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