



MHBPNA NEWS

Mt. Hope-Breithaupt Park Neighbourhood Association

BLOG: <http://mhbpna.blogspot.ca> website: <http://sites.google.com/site/mhbpna> email: mhbpna@gmail.com

We asked the Questions and got the Answers!

By Lane Burman, CoChair, MHBPNA

What is going on with the Margaret Ave Bridge? When will it be open again?

The bridge design is currently underway. As you can appreciate, there is a significant amount of work involved in the design of a new structure. The consultant has just completed the geotechnical work required for the design of the new footings for the bridge. All design work should be completed by May/June, at which time we can advertise the tender for construction. If all goes well the construction should start sometime in July. Depending on the type of structure, we anticipate construction to

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take about 8 months. This could be moderately longer or shorter depending on what is built and what kind of winter we get next year. The design consultant has been hired knowing that we need something quick. They will be looking at as many prefabricated components as they can to shorten the construction duration. Council has been clear that they want the bridge rebuilt as soon as

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Come Join our A-mazing Project

During 2013, the City of Kitchener began work on their Inner City Park Rehabilitation. The first of the 100 parks the City is to rehabilitate is Breithaupt Park. You may have noticed some of our blog posts inviting you to provide input at meetings with the City. The process is well underway and you may observe some of the changes in the spring.

One of the ideas that came out of the

meetings was a living maze. So what is a living maze? I'm not entirely sure but it sounds fun!

It started with a conversation about children's fascination with mazes. At Sir Casimir Gzowski Park in Toronto, I watched as my daughter ran in circles carefully tracing the painted lines on the concrete, often stopping and backtracking until she got to the middle. She tried again and again in different entrances. All this fun with the simplicity of

Please see *A-Mazed* on page 3



Neighbourhood Bike Tour, June 1, 2014

Join us for the 2nd annual Neighbourhood Bike Tour on Sunday, June 1 2014!

Come and explore our diverse and rapidly transforming neighbourhood. From the historic architecture found in the 'warehouse district' along Breithaupt Street, the natural beauty of the woodlot in nearby Breithaupt park, to the major transportation redevelopment along Weber Street and at the future Transit Hub, there are plenty of interesting sights to see in our area!

Exploring our city by bike takes less time than you think, and you can see a lot of different things in a short period of time. A major advantage to cycling is that you get a better connection and understanding of your surroundings than you do when driving past them in a car, while covering a lot more ground than you would while walking in the same amount of time.

Our neighbourhood is in an interesting geographic location - it is accessible to both downtown Kitchener and Uptown Waterloo, yet close to large natural areas including the Grand River, it has numerous transit options including GRT, VIA and GO train service, it is connected by several major roads and highways but remains very walkable, and has unique historic and modern destinations that are all very accessible by bike.

You don't need to be an expert cyclist to join in; riders of all skill levels and ages are encouraged to attend. We plan to keep most of the route on quieter streets and trails, but there will be some on-road riding. If you aren't fully confident riding your bike on the road, now is a great time to come and get some tips from an experienced cyclist on how to ride properly on the road and feel comfortable and safe!

So dust off your bike, turn off your iPhone and unplug your kid's computer and bring the whole family out to the second annual Neighbourhood Bike Tour!

Chris Dewar, Partnership Director, MHBPNA

When: Sunday, June 1, 2014
Where: Meet at the Breithaupt Block parking lot near King & Breithaupt
Time: 1:00-2:30pm
Who: Everyone is invited, kids, teens, adults
Info: mhbpna@gmail.com or mhbpnapartnership@gmail.com

A-Mazed, continued from page 1

concrete and paint! I later learned that this was actually a wading pool during the summer, and when water is added, it becomes that much more difficult and enjoyable.

As the idea of a maze was vetted out, we realized that we could do something that was living. There are examples of this in Toronto that City staff have visited. What if we could get the 'living' part from within our neighbourhood and all the wonderful plants our community grows?

But why stop with just getting the plants from our neighbours? We can do something really special with this idea. Let's engage our youth, our teens, our adults, our seniors and people with expertise to conceptualize, design, procure materials and build a show piece in one of our great city parks.

Starting on April 15th, I will be running a program at the Breithaupt Centre called 'The Living Maze Project'. (Pg 71 of the Spring Leisure Guide Webreg 157732). This is a free program and is the first of a 3 part series of programs that will run this spring, summer and

fall. Participate in one or all.

I don't know exactly how this will all pan out in the end but I am eager to take a stab at it. I have some ideas of what I want to do but they may not be the ideas that the group want to do. I want everyone to have input and to create something that is truly community-born. The slate is clean and all ideas are welcome.

Parents: Eligible students will be able to use this project for volunteer hours. Better yet, join with your teen and do it together. Grandparents, you can bring your teenage grandchild too. This is open to anyone 14 years and older that wants to participate.

The program is scheduled for 11 weeks and runs for 1 ½ hours each week. That may seem like a large time commitment but there are 20 positions available and there will be lots of hands to help so missing a day won't hurt.

If you want to learn about engaging the City, grant writing, design, plants, or just want to help build community, please register for this program. I promise we will have fun doing it!

Lane Burman



Questions we asked, continued from page 1

reasonably possible. As a result, the schedule for the Margaret Avenue bridge has been very aggressive from the start.

Steve R Allen

Manager, Engineering Design and Approval
City of Kitchener

Do YOU have questions? Try calling the City of Kitchener Contact Centre at 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.

How the Weber Street Widening going?

The overall project is proceeding on schedule. The roadworks component of the project has been shut-down for the winter and is expected to start-up again on, or about, April 1 depending on the weather. The construction of the grade separation structure has been ongoing throughout the winter. So far, temporary railway bridges have been installed to support the rail tracks while the permanent bridge foundations and abutments are built.

Over the last several months steel piles to support the concrete foundation for the permanent bridge have been built. Also steel sheet piles have been installed to support the surrounding land as the earth is excavated under the rails for the new road. The first concrete pour for the permanent bridge

foundations is scheduled to occur during the week of March 24. The new steel girder railway bridge should be completed by the end of August. The retaining walls and decorative panels abutting the underpass should be completed by the end of September.

Work between Wilhelm and Guelph will start early in April and should be complete by the end of October. Overall project completion from College Street to Union Street will occur by the end of November 2014.

We will be issuing Newsletter #5 to local residents in the next several weeks to provide an update on the construction status.

Peter D. Linn, P.Eng.

Senior Project Manager

Transportation & Environmental Services
Design and Construction Division
Regional Municipality of Waterloo

Margaret Ave is slated to be resurface in 2014. When will this happen and will the Bike Lanes be repainted?

The City did not give an official response at the time of printing, but we did have a conversation with the traffic department via telephone

To paraphrase- Because of the unexpected bridge repair on Margaret Avenue, it will not be resurfaced in 2014. Instead the centre lines will be ground and repainted to better seen. There will be an opportunity in the future to discuss any changes to the Bike Lanes before resurfacing.

Walking with Lanterns

Last fall I worked with neighbours and friends to organize a Lantern Walk for December 21st, 2013. The event was delayed two days by the ice storm, but it was a hit! 70 people braved the ice and cold, lanterns in hand, to join us on December 23.

In case you also have a seed of an idea for a community event or project, here are some thoughts of how you might move forward, based on how the Lantern Walk event took shape.

1. Dream a little. The Lantern Walk idea began to take shape in my mind during the hours I spent on the rocking chair, getting my baby to sleep: An event to get people onto the street, into the cold and into the dark of the longest night of the year, carrying lanterns. A bonfire, some hot apple cider, and hopefully, lots of snow and friendly people.

2. Commit yourself by telling others. Put it out on social media, ask your friends, talk to neighbours as you walk the dog. What does the idea sound like when you say it out loud? This is a great chance to hear feedback and involve others.

3. Contact the Mount Hope Breithaupt Neighbourhood Association. Put your idea on their radar. I appreciated their skill at supporting the Lantern Walk without taking over. Here's some of what they did:

- Moral support: Lane Burman, the Neighbourhood Association Co Chair, was immediately positive, acting through many emails and conversations as a facilitator and mentor.
- A budget: Lane invited me to present a proposal for financial support at a Neighbourhood Association meeting. I spoke for 10 minutes about the event and answered questions. The board approved a budget of \$200.
- Connections: Lane connected me to neighbours who ended up playing a key role in organizing the event. At the Neighbourhood Association meeting I also connected with Fabienne Prior, a community facilitator with the City of Kitchener. Fabienne offered support in discussing longer term funding possibilities for the event.
- Free printing: through an agreement with the City of Kitchener print shop, the Neighbourhood Association printed our posters - and helped to deliver them around the neighbourhood!
- and more, including a willingness to wade through bureaucracy. Lane took the lead on lobbying local politicians, city staff and Hydro for permission to turn out the street lights.

4. Host a meeting: Bring friends and neighbours who want to help out together over tea, popcorn, wine, beer, etc. Figure out what needs to be done and who can do it. Even if the event or project never happens, the process is by now a chance to gather with others to talk about the neighbourhood.

5. Go door-to-door. This was one of the most important things we did. In order to get a permit to close the street from the City of Kitchener, we were required to get signatures from all of the neighbours on the street. This work took time, but it was also an opportunity to personally invite the whole street. It was also a chance to meet neighbours we'd never talked to before. Our closest neighbours ended up being some of the strongest supporters of the event, helping out with poster design, poster delivery, hot apple cider brewing, bonfire tending, etc.

I hope to see you at next year's Lantern Walk! In the meantime, good luck with any projects you dream up for the Mount Hope and Breithaupt neighbourhoods.

- Sarah Anderson



The Abitibi Paper Bins

Many of our residents have been visiting the Abitibi paper bins beside the Breithaupt Centre for many years and depositing their old newspapers and catalogues for recycling.

Did you know that these bins have quietly been generating revenue for our neighbourhood for all that time? Abitibi pays a local charity for watching over the bins and notifying them when they need to be emptied. For many years they benefitted our Optimists club that also ran a yearly fair at Breithaupt Park. That club disbanded a couple of years ago and they generously gave the bin revenue over to our Neighbourhood Association.

How much money can the NA expect?

In general, we collect \$90 to \$100 per month in revenue. Last year total revenue was around \$1100. The handoff was not without its challenges as your neighbourhood association contacted Abitibi multiple times to work out the paperwork on the transfer but after several months we are now the officially designated charity!

What can we put in the bin?

This is the big question. To keep it simple we have just two options:

YES: Newspapers and inserts, magazines, catalogs, office or school papers, mail, phone books and covers.

NO: cardboard, food boxes, fiberboard or chipboard (these can be recycled through the city's program). No textbooks or hard book covers.



It is helpful if you have a bag of newspapers to just dump the papers in and keep the bag. It is better to leave just the recyclable materials and take back your plastic bags.

Both bins accept the same materials so please use whichever is most convenient. Our NA executive visits Breithaupt Park regularly and calls Abitibi when the bins need to be emptied.

Thank you for your paper! Recycling benefits the environment and also your local community.

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week at
Mhbpna.blogspot.ca**

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

**"Like" us on our new Facebook Page
at
<https://www.facebook.com/mhbpna>**



Earth Day Celebrations

The MHPNA will be celebrating Earth Day on Thursday April 24th
2014

We will be conducting a clean up of Lippert Park as well as working
our way along the Waterloo Spur Line.

Join us at LIPPERT PARK AT 6:00PM (or whenever you can get there).
We hope this gathering of neighbours and friends may help spark a
conversation about how we all currently use the Spur Line.

**Breithaupt Centre Program of
interest:**

**Glass Fusing for Youth (12 - 17
years), Saturdays, 12:30 - 2,
starts April 26.**

**Code 159745 in the Web
Registry.**

**MHPNA April 2014 newsletter is edited
and assembled by Ted Parkinson,
Communications Director MHPNA.
Thanks to our writers and content
resources which include: Lane Burman,
Chris and Sarah Anderson**

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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

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

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