



MHBPNA NEWS

Mt. Hope-Breithaupt Park Neighbourhood Association

www.mhbpna.org www.facebook.com/mhbpna twitter: @mhbpna email: mhbpna@gmail.com

Development Updates

By Catherine Owens

MHBPNA Development Committee

We have pulled together a great group of neighbours to form the Development Committee. We have been meeting regularly since January and working hard to pull together information on all the development happening in our 'hood. As you can imagine with the pending building plans for developments such as the Perimeter Breithaupt Block 3 build, the SIXO development, the Regional Transit Hub, the Electrohome building, the development at King/Wellington as well as some changes to individual residences we have been a very busy group.

The learning curve has been steep as we delve into the Official Plan, RIENS (Residential

Bravery in Voting

By Levi Oakey, Co-Chair

This fall we will have the first municipal election at the Region of Waterloo that will not include Ken Seiling on the ballot. With housing prices still rising throughout the region and most parties committing to create a new two-way all-day GO service to Kitchener by 2024, the pressure to create a city with a unique identity increases. Where once we could offer cheap housing as an alternative to the expensive GTA as a reason to live here, we

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Music Fest	2
St. Teresa School	3
Development topics	4
Guest Editorial	5
Public Art Forum	6
Message from our Councillor	7

Intensification in Existing Neighbourhoods), the PARTS plan (Planning Around Rapid Transit Stations), traffic studies and in general just keeping up-to-date on the major developments which are bound to re-shape our neighbourhood in the future.

We have been able to help individual residents with their concerns about developments adjacent to their property and have been actively involved in

Please see *Development* on page 4

increasingly need to develop an identity that attracts new residents.

Our city (and region) requires radical, visionary planning that may be controversial to our pragmatic roots. But in recent conversations with city staff the recommendation is that to see change in our city, staff and council need sustained advocacy for change.

The LRT was a brave decision and even though it is not yet running, it has benefited our city with the

Please see *Bravery* on page 3

DUKE STREET WEST Music Fest

Buddy Choir
The Duke St. Alicorns
Bill & Allegra Bulmer
The Duke Street Trio
Jakki & Wayne
Rob Adlers
Ted Parkinson
Jesse Maranger
Edward John Barrington

June 23, 2018
2pm-5pm

Duke St. Playground
Free pizza & snacks!



#lovemyhood

mhbpna.org

Bravery continued from page 1

influx of development along its core. But we need to continue that progress.

One city that can be used as an example is Groningen in the Netherlands. They elected a council in the 1970s with a bold vision that traffic from the four key districts would be pushed towards a new ring road that would circle the city. Pedestrians and cyclists would be able to freely travel between the four districts but travel by car would be difficult without using the ring road that surrounded the core areas. Now Groningen has the cleanest air of any city in the Netherlands.

In Holland, Michigan, a small town made a substantial investment in a snowmelt system in the core that created sidewalk heating that would pump through the city in winter to create a year-round, accessible pedestrian network. A pedestrian culture has become part of the city's identity.

So as we reach a new election cycle I encourage those in our neighbourhood to embrace similar radical visions. How can we make housing in our neighbourhood more affordable? How can we build our neighbourhood as a place for people to live and stay? How can we foster an accessible arts community? There are many opportunities to help redefine our city and neighbourhood.

Let's ask these questions during the upcoming election and elect a council that, like Ken, can be brave and bold in their decisions.



St. Teresa Elementary School (270 Edwin St, Kitchener) currently has a play structure that has been loved and well used by students and neighbourhood families for many years.

In 2015 the School Council was informed that the play structure would have to be removed because of significant deterioration. Unfortunately, school boards do not provide funding for playground development or play structures, so we set the goal of raising \$50,000 for a new play structure.

Fast forward a couple years and with lots of school fundraising we are nearly halfway to our goal! Now they want to reach out to you, people in our community who have either previously enjoyed playing in their school yard or who would like to use it in the future.

Check out our website for more information about our project and fundraising.

<https://tigersplayground.wordpress.com/home/the-goal/>

Let us know your thoughts about a new playground by completing our survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MT5BW2D>

We look forward to when our playground dreams will become a reality and outdoor play will be reinvigorated for all our students and community members!

St. Teresa Playground Renewal Committee

Development, continued from page 1

coaching and educating residents on the Perimeter Development (see below). We have had meetings with other neighbourhood associations who are interested in using the MHPNA model in their neighbourhood. We have also met with a number of developers and planning firms who thought the Committee is a great idea and they are more than happy to work with us. The City of Kitchener Planning Department hosted us at a "meet and greet" in early April, which was a great opportunity to let the City know what we want to see in the neighbourhood as it changes.

We will be posting information on the MHPNA's web page in a special section:

<http://www.mhbpna.org/development-committee/>

Breithaupt Block III

Midtown residents have held numerous planning meetings and made a number of presentations to City Council and the developer with suggestions as to how they would like to see the new build known as BB3 (Wellington/Moore/Breithaupt) be integrated into the neighbourhood.

As a result of those meetings (in particular, the meeting on April 16 where council voted to defer the re-zoning decision until June 25th) the developer is looking at revising the building plans. The City is holding another public meeting on June 5th to outline the revised plans.

Note: You will receive this newsletter after the June 5th meeting. You can still find information about the presentation in the Development page of our website (see above).

The goal of the MHPNA Development Committee is to provide residents with information on development and to provide better lines of communication with the City and with Developers. Individuals who present as a Delegation at city meetings represent their own perspectives and not that of the Neighbourhood Association.

152 Shanley Charrette

On Saturday, April 28 the City of Kitchener hosted a "design charrette" around the future of 152 Shanley. There were over 60 residents in attendance and we were split into several tables to discuss a series of topics. The charrette took over three hours and the organizers did a good job of moving us along from one section to the next.

The city has not inspected the building, despite several pieces of legislation that would allow for that to occur. However, the event was structured to account for both renovating the existing building and tearing it down and building a new one. Some groups felt that tearing it down was a better option because it would make it easier to deal with the contamination underneath and a new design could make a more flexible use of the area. It is currently four "industrial" floors and residential heights of six to eight floors were discussed. Many people wanted a café or pub as part of the design. We felt a new structure could reflect the history of Electrohome without preserving the actual building if it had deteriorated too much.

Sarah Marsh has said the city will attempt another tax sale in November but the legislation allows them to be more flexible on the price. We hope the ideas generated at the charrette will encourage developers to consider bidding on the property.

As more information becomes available we will post it on our website.

Ted Parkinson, Communications, MHPNA



Editors' Note:

Following our recent forum on inclusive neighborhoods and our upcoming public art forum, we asked Sam, who owns a house on Louisa Street, to write an article on the connections between public art and affordable housing. If you would like to chat about these topics contact us at chair@mhbnpa.org.

This spring was a bumpy one for the arts and culture scene in Waterloo Region. In March, Eric Rumble, the main force behind Night\Shift, said the place-making festival would not be happening in 2019. Later that month, as if on cue, Vidyard founder Michael Litt published an OpEd in the Globe claiming a lack of cultural vibrancy was making it hard to attract tech talent.

Both events opened the door to a lot of finger pointing and online litigation. Who is to blame? Thrifty patrons, burned-out or snobbish creatives? I'm not wading into that mess because so much of it is subjective. Instead I would like to focus on more quantifiable reason why arts and culture may be struggling in our community.

Living in Waterloo Region is expensive. The average price of a home in the Region has gone up roughly \$100,000 in recent years, and that number is much higher in walkable core with the highest concentration of amenities.

It's worse for renters. A recent study found that, "46 per cent of renter households in Waterloo and 42 per cent of renter households in Kitchener are spending more than the recommended 30 per cent of their income on rent and utilities, while one of four in Waterloo and nearly one in five in Kitchener are spending more than half their income on rental housing."

Artists are a kind of entrepreneur and their entire life is one big bottom line. Often the space they live and work in is the same, the money they spend on food and travel is money they would otherwise be spending on supplies and promotion. The time they spend commuting is not separate from the time they spend creating, and every wasted hour and dollar hurts both bottom lines.

This same rental affordability issue is also hurting artists when looking for places to showcase their work.

The large number of shuttered storefronts along King St. in Waterloo and Kitchener might give the impression commercial rents are cheap, but anyone running a business in the core will tell you they're artificially high due to rampant property speculation driven by condo development along the LRT line.

To be fair, Waterloo Region has done a pretty good job opening up its public space for arts and culture. CAFKA, the Kitchener Blues Festival, Waterloo Jazz Festival, KW JazzRoom, Neruda Arts, & NUMUS Concerts are among the many events and organizations who have leveraged public space to bring fun and a sense of community to the Region. But it's the private space that's problematic. Public spaces are great. But they have rules. Artists need private spaces to break rules. Not every piece of art or culture can be family-friendly.

If the Region wants to attract more arts and culture in private spaces it needs figure out how young artists, fleeing Toronto's much more expensive rental prices, can find places here in the Region to hang their photos, sell their food, sing their songs and tell their stories, with the same consideration it gives to tech start-ups looking for spaces to make their ideas flourish.

Sam Toman

**MOUNT HOPE
BREITHAUPT PARK
NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS**

PUBLIC ART

JUNE 14, 2018

7 pm | Guelph Street Community Garden

Join us at the Guelph Street Garden as we discuss public and temporary art with St Marie ϕ Walker, the creators behind the Midtown Thoughts.

So grab a bite from Ambrosia Pastry, and stop by to learn more.



MHBPNA.ORG/PUBLICFORUM



Hello neighbours!

This summer, be sure to check out the multitude of free events taking place downtown Kitchener. We will have regular favourites including the Multicultural Festival and Kultrun World Music Festival, as well as some new offerings such as VegFest, and volunteer opportunities for high school students every Monday. For details see downtownkitchener.ca

In our neighbourhood, I have been working with a group of residents to address their concerns about illicit activities taking place on their street. We will meet again in June and in July to discuss ways to respond to this activity. Feel free to contact me if you are interested in attending.

I hope you find fun ways to keep cool in the warm weather, whether it be swimming at a local community pool, lounging at our Breithaupt Park splash pad, or catching a breeze on a bike ride. As always, I am reachable at sarah.marsh@kitchener.ca, my office 519-741-2786, or cell 519-807-8006.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sarah Marsh'.

Councillor Sarah Marsh – Ward 10

Executive Meeting Dates

Our next meeting date, open to all MHBP residents, is on:

Thursday, September 20

Our AGM will be in October.

All meetings take place at Breithaupt Recreation and Community Centre in room 109 at 7pm. Any member of the public is welcome to attend. Meeting agendas can be found online a week before each meeting at mhbpna.org (past meeting minutes are also posted). If you have an issue or idea you would like to bring forward, please send an email to mhbpna@gmail.com to be added to the agenda. Come chat with us and talk about our community.



MHPNA 2017-18 Executive

Co-Chair: Levi Oakey
Co-Chair: Emily Slofstra
Treasurer: Sarah-Beth Bianchi
Communications: Ted Parkinson
Partnerships: Kate Pearce
Special Events: Louis Burbach

Members at Large

Rachel Bolton
Michelle Jennings

Eli Winterfeld
Curtis Knischewsky

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. After hours urgent requests are transferred to a dispatch centre.

For concerns about structures you may call the Building Division at 519-741-2312

Printed in co-operation with



MHPNA June 2018 newsletter is edited and assembled by Ted Parkinson, Communications Director MHPNA. Thanks to our writers and content resources which include: Levi Oakey, Emily Slofstra, Catherine Owens.

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, 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.

This newsletter is printed courtesy of the City of Kitchener.