

MHBPNA NEWS

Mt. Hope-Breithaupt Park Neighbourhood Association

www.mhbpna.org www.facebook.com/mhbpna

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Our Year in Review

By Emily Slofstra, Co-Chair MHBPN

It's been a big year for the Mount Hope-Breithaupt Park Neighbourhood Association. In January, we had sad news about the passing of our treasurer, Trudy Beaulne, who had served on the board for over 14 years. We continued with our community-building throughout the rest of the year, but her presence has been missed.

We had six new members join our board, with four returning members. Together with a host of volunteers, we accomplished:

1. A new website! Our new design has our long-standing blog on it, but also pages with helpful information, such as meeting minutes and agendas, event listings, and links to city information.
2. Our first successful photo contest. With 34 entries from around the neighbourhood, we had three winners who received awesome gift certificates from Cocoon Apothecary and Ce Bakery. And now we have great shots to use on our website! Thanks to everyone who participated.

3. Three printed newsletters. After a year with no newsletters, we're glad to be back delivering these to as many residents of MHBPN as we can muster. What would you like to see in the newsletter? If you'd like to write a column, send it to us at mhbpna@gmail.com. We've been debating the future of our printed newsletter, so if you have any feedback about it, let us know. And thank you to the many volunteers who made delivery possible!
4. Four public forums. We had over 150 people attend our four forums on inclusive design, approachable density, sustainable streets and public art.

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Cycling and Multi-Use Trails in MHBP

Many of us live in the MHBP area because it is easy to cycle and walk downtown. Things were tricky for a while with King St. and the Margaret Ave. bridge closed but now we are free! But some might say “free, but confused”.

Weber Street

We were promised a “multi use trail” (MUT) on Weber St. but for two years after the widening was finished, no signs appeared. After several months of emails to various city and Regional politicians and staff we were told it had taken a long time to find the right signs to install since this is a concrete path and most MUT are asphalt. They were finally installed in mid-2018 and may surprise pedestrians and cyclists alike.



For example, if you are riding a bike (or walking) from Waterloo via the Spur Line Trail, towards downtown Kitchener, the MUT begins just “south” of Wilhelm St and extends down past Victoria to Water. Cyclists (and of course pedestrians) are legally allowed to travel in either direction on this trail. So if you are riding from downtown Kitchener towards Waterloo, you can use this trail to take you up to the Spur Line.

On the opposite side of Weber, the sidewalk looks very similar but is **not** a MUT--except for part of it next to Lippert Park so cyclists on the Spur Line can use it to take them to the Wilhelm St. crossing.

King Street

We again initiated several emails to find out about the MUT on King St. The Weber Street side of King certainly looked wide enough to support bikes and pedestrians but there was no signage. Eventually we received this response from Region staff: “Region staff have conferred with City staff and can confirm that the extra-wide sidewalk on King Street between Victoria Street and Moore Avenue is a multi-use trail primarily due to the proximity of the future transit hub and future multi-use trail connections to this site. Region staff will confirm the limits and sign locations with City staff and then install shared-use path signs similar to the ones installed recently along the multi-use trail on Weber Street between the Spur Trail and Water Street.”

This is another example of proper signage being added years after the construction is complete. It also seems as if no one had thought about cycling and King St. until we asked! Even with the MUT, the cyclist heading uphill towards Waterloo will face a decision at Moore: move onto King St. which is quite narrow at that point, take Moore which heads away from your destination, or take the sidewalk which is technically illegal.

Ted Parkinson, Communications, MHBPNA

MHBP Neighbourhood Mini Putt Challenge!

Sarah-Beth Bianchi, Treasurer MHBPN

Plans are underway to host the first annual MHBPN Mini Putt Challenge next Spring! There are several ways to get involved, beginning soon:

1) Put your creativity and maker skills to work by designing and building one of the mini putt holes.

Search online for “DIY Mini Putt” for inspiration. Stay tuned to the MHBPN Twitter and Facebook for details on a design workshop that we’ll host during the winter to spark creativity and support residents with the skills and tools needed for this fun project.

2) Volunteer to help host our one-day mini putt event! Help set up our mini putt course, host residents as they play the course, and support us as we leave the area clean and tidy afterward the event. 3) Bring your friends and family and try out the MHBPN Mini Putt course! Wear your best golf costume and put your putting skills to the test at this community event.

Have we piqued your interest? Are you looking for a fun project for the cold seasons ahead? Stay tuned to the MHBPN Facebook, Twitter and blog for more info and to sign up to build or volunteer for the event. Or email mhbpna@gmail.com to express your interest in participating!



News from the city:

Kitchener is expanding its winter sidewalk maintenance program. New for the 2018/2019 winter season, bylaw officers will be proactively inspecting sidewalks citywide.

If a sidewalk is not cleared of snow and ice, a bylaw officer will issue a one-time notice to the resident and return within 24 hours.

If the sidewalk has still not been adequately cleared, the city will clear it and the property owner will be invoiced approximately \$400.

Learn more:

www.kitchener.ca/heresthescoop

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5. A successful soccer program with 150 kids registered. Thanks to a grant from Healthy Kids Community Challenge we were able to provide a ball and t-shirt for every registrant and have a celebration at the end of the season for all of the kids.

6. Garage Sale in May! We advertised the sale on social media and Kijiji and created a form for vendors to fill in their details and a Google map with all the locations marked out.

7. The first annual **Duke St. West Music Fest!** Despite a rainy day on June 23, over one hundred neighbours came out to hear 12 musicians, all of whom lived in the neighbourhood. And thanks to the City of Kitchener, we were able to serve eleven pizzas and two big bottles of apple cider to all the attendees.

8. The launch of our Development Committee. With 12 members, the Development Committee is focused on tracking the big changes that are happening in our neighbourhood. From Breithaupt Block 3 to the Ontario Dye Company on the other side of the Waterloo border, this committee is helping residents to stay informed about building developments in the neighbourhood.

2018-2019 will be another great year. If you have ideas for programs or events that you'd like to run, email us at mhbpna@gmail.com to see how we can help! And join us at our Annual General Meeting on October 27, 2018 at 10:00 in room 207 at Breithaupt Centre.



Coming Soon: The MHPNA Mini Grant

The Mount-Hope Breithaupt Park Neighbourhood Association has created the MHPNA Mini Grant to support resident-led projects in our neighbourhood. Tell us a great idea that fits with the spirit of this program, and we'll help support it with a grant of \$50 to \$200 in cold, hard cash. (In the form of a room temperature paper cheque.)

How does it work?

- Fill out the application to tell us about your project and how much money you need to make it happen.
- Members of the MHPNA Board will review your application and let you know if your grant has been... well... granted.
- Complete your project and submit an expense claim to be reimbursed for the amount of the grant.
- Send the MHPNA photos and a quick summary of the outcome of the project so that we can share the details on the MHPNA Blog, Twitter, Facebook, Newsletter, shout it from the rooftops around the neighbourhood. You get the idea.

Example projects:

- \$50 for materials to build a Little Library
- \$100 for a planter for a back alley beautification
- \$150 to purchase food for a free neighbourhood BBQ
- \$200 to rent a sound system for a concert in a park

Put your thinking caps on and start planning your grant-worthy projects. The MHPNA Mini Grant Program will launch in February 2019. Stay tuned to MHPNA.org and the MHPNA Twitter early in the new year to find out how to apply.

Sarah-Beth Bianchi, Treasurer, MHPNA



Dear Mount Hope-Breithaupt Park Neighbours,

Happy Fall! It's that time of year again when the leaves are falling and the City of Kitchener's 2018 Leaf Collection Program is in full-swing. As you know, our area is identified by the city as a curbside loose-leaf collection zone. For assurance of pick-up, your leaves must be raked to the curb by 7 am on Monday of your designated week. For properties between Margaret Ave and the express way, this date is Monday November 13th. For properties between Margaret Ave and King St, your date is Monday November 26th. There is also a leaf drop-off site at Breithaupt Park by Kinsman Park-off Union Street. For helpful tips and more information on leaf collection visit: www.kitchener.ca/leafcollection.

I hope to see you at City Hall for the 2018 Annual Festival of Neighbourhoods Celebration on November 18, 2018. Come be inspired by your neighbours and other residents across the city and see which neighbourhoods receive the various awards and the two \$20,000 neighbourhood improvement grants!

As always, if you would like to speak with me about any issues, questions or ideas you may have, my door is always open. I am reachable at sarah.marsh@kitchener.ca, my office 519-741-2786, or cell 519-807-8006.

Sincerely,

Councillor Sarah Marsh – Ward 10

152 Shanley: a “vision” and another sales attempt

On Thursday, September 27 the City of Kitchener hosted a session at city hall on the “vision statement” they have developed from the “design charrette” in April. If you go to the city's website and search for “Design Charrette 152 Shanley” you will find the web page that contains the original Staff presentation and the “Draft Vision Statement” they created (presented on the 27th). There is also an appendix with all the concepts produced at the Charrette.

We learned that the city has not inspected the interior of the building for several years because of an order to address structural issues and the owner is complying but is “very slow”. The city has sent experts to “visually inspect” the exterior of the building and believe it is not structurally “at risk.”

The city believes the vision statement gives a clear set of guidelines to encourage development because developers will know what is acceptable to the neighbourhood and that the city will work with them. The city's “visualization” shows a six-story building with over 100 units and commercial/retail usage on the first floor. There is also landscaping to reduce the impact of such a large building at street level. The city planner said their design allowed at least 5 hours of sunlight for all surrounding houses.

Next steps: The city will take into consideration input from the September session and any additional comments they are sent and produce a “final vision” in October. They hope to put up the property for another tax sale (with more flexible conditions than the initial one) before the end of the year. Let's hope this works!

Ted Parkinson, Communications, MHPNA

Announcing
MHBPNA 2018 – Annual General Meeting
Saturday, October 27, 2018
11:00 am
Breithaupt Centre
Room 207

Come out and meet your neighbours. Talk about issues in our area and ideas for building community. Have some free coffee and snacks. Elect our new executive.

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Executive Meeting Dates

Meeting dates for 2018-19 will be posted on our website after our Annual General Meeting.

All meetings take place at Breithaupt Recreation and Community Centre. *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.

MHBPNA 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

MHBPNA October 2018 newsletter is edited and assembled by Ted Parkinson, Communications Director MHBPNA. Thanks to our writers and content resources which include: Sarah-Beth Bianchi, Emily Slofstra.

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.

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