



Annual President Report 2020 (May 2019-May 2020)

In spite of the global COVID pandemic the Carlington Community Association (CCA) had many successful events during the 2019-2020 term, although events in the spring and summer of 2020 needed to be cancelled or modified to include physical distancing.

2019 Annual Family Fun Day and Raven Park Theatre Events

The CCA's annual Family Fun Day was a success with over 500 attendees enjoying free food which included cotton candy, popcorn, food from local ethnic restaurants and showcased the local Carlington Coffee House serving coffee. The Annual Raven Park Theatre event attracted 350 attendees. It was an all day affair with a Wading Pool party from the City of Ottawa, Riley Brockington providing food to local residents ending with a performance of Romeo and Juliet from The Company of Fools.

2019 Yard and Plant Sale

This annual event held in Harrold Place Park and Raven Park raised \$1184 for the Greening Committee, which plans to use the proceeds to augment greening activities in Carlington.

2019 Safegrowth Meadowvale Park Project

Using the principals of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) a group of neighbours aptly called the Neighbours of Meadowvale Park which includes homeowners and residents from the Community Housing living around the park. This group worked with the CCA to improve Meadowvale Park and its image by encouraging legitimate users of the park, which resulted in two successful events at Meadowvale Park – the Welcome Back to School Party in September 2019 and Winterfest in February 2020. The Safegrowth Project is posted on the CCA website under Meadowvale Park Safegrowth. CPTED is a method which can be used in any area to create long lasting change.

2019 Neighbourhood Resource Team

October 2019 also saw the introduction of the Neighbourhood Resource Team (NRT). This team of 8 police officers assigned to Carlington is composed of one Community Police Officer, one School Resource Officer, one Traffic Officer and five Carlington based NRT officers who are out in the community working in collaboration with the community to identify and address community-based problems, crimes, and social disorders. The goal of the five Carlington based NRT officers is prevention, intervention and identifying where a different city service (for example, public health, harm reduction, etc.) should be helping an individual or group . Residents were able to meet members of the team at the 2019 November General Meeting and more information about what the NRT does is on the CCA website under Safety and Security.

Activities Committee

During the fall of 2019 the Cooking Club met monthly working together to make pastry and cookies and in January and February 2020 had two successful Family Dinner and Art Nights.



2020 Carlington Cup 2020 – was an all day affair coordinating with the City of Ottawa hosting the Alexander Winter Carnival along with a CCA Community Potluck and Clothing Exchange.

2020 Presentation from Daniel Buckles

At the February 2020 General Meeting Daniel Buckles provided a presentation on why a climate positive Official Plan is important to communities. A brief excerpt follows and the full discussion is on the CCA website under Climate-positive Official Plan.

Ottawa’s new Official Plan

Ottawa’s new Official Plan will be a policy framework for the physical development of Ottawa to 2046. It will define key targets and set broad policies for land use and related housing and infrastructure decisions that guide many other policies, programs and bylaws including zoning, community design guidelines, the Transportation Master Plan, the Climate Change Master Plan, the Greenspace Master Plan and the Waste Management Master Plan, among others. These in turn affect virtually all aspects of day-to-day life in Ottawa. The political choices we make today about land use and supporting infrastructure embodied in the new Official Plan are the most important decisions that residents and Council can make to do our part and help protect ourselves from the worst effects of climate breakdown.

President’s Report Extension (Spring and Summer 2020)

COVID in Carlington

On March 17, 2020 the province declared a state of Emergency for Ontario. This resulted in the cancellation of the CCA’s Annual Family Fun Day, Yard and Plant Sale and Raven Park Theatre Event. The CCA’s Annual General Meeting was postponed from May 26, 2020 to September 22, 2020.

Alexander Needs Assessment Survey

During the spring 2020 the Alexander Community Centre Needs Assessment Survey from Councillor Brockington asking what residents would like to see in a new and improved Alexander Community Centre. Survey results are on the CCA website.

Community Environmental Projects Grant Program

An application made to the city Community Environmental Projects Grant Program (CEPGP) to purchase a water tank to water the plants at the Merivale Triangle was successful. The Triangle Gardens are maintained by very dedicated community volunteers David and Linda Darwin.

Merivale North Beautification Project

The improvement projects started in the fall of 2019 at the Carling/Merivale Triangle, Thames node and Kirkwood/Merivale nodes were finished in the spring of 2020. They are the basis of a positive new look for Merivale North. Although there have been some issues with trees dying at the Carling/Merivale and Thames nodes – these trees will be replaced in the near future. A city contractor has been engaged for 2 years to monitor the landscaping at all three sites.



Resiliency

In spite of a global COVID pandemic the residents of the Carlington Community have shown how resilient they are. The Board of Directors of the CCA continued to meet monthly by zoom. The minutes of the Board Meetings are on the CCA website under Documents.

Some highlights include:

- using the money set aside for the 2020 Annual Carlington Community Grant to support the food programs at the Carlington Community Chaplaincy and Caldwell Family Centre during the pandemic lockdown.
- sending a letter to Riley opposing the expansion of the urban boundaries. There is still unused R4 land within the city which could be intensified and the board felt it was important to keep urban sprawl to a minimum and not use scarce farmland for housing developments,

Beyond the board meetings, our community has come together in unexpected and amazing ways:

Carlington Rocks

And the name says it all. As a community we do rock. At the beginning of the pandemic lockdown an enterprising family started leaving small painted rocks throughout the community. Other families joined in leaving their own painted rocks. Residents often mentioned how much they enjoyed seeing their painted rocks and those of others during their walks.

Ad Hoc Activity Planning Committee

Building on this initial feel good activity, members of the CCA formed an ad hoc Activity Planning Committee and planned three new successful physically distancing Carlington-wide outdoor activities during the spring and summer of 2020. The Scavenger Hunt, Treasure Hunt and Eye-Spy activities were enjoyed by over 100 community members. Lucky participants were awarded gift certificates to some of Carlington's local businesses – a win-win situation for our wonderful community.