Carlington Community Association

MINUTES - CCA Members Meeting – Thursday, February 26, 2026

Introductions and Land Acknowledgement (Cathie Fraser): *'We would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded Algonquin territory.'*

Board members in attendance: Cathie Fraser, Robert Brinkman, Mateusz Trybowski, Matthew Ellis, Alaine Spiwak, Jenn Sailus, Deirdre Furlong

Approval of Agenda: Moved by Robert Brinkman, seconded by Cathie Fraser.

Approval of Minutes from November 20, 2025 Members Meeting: Moved by Mateusz, seconded by Matt.

Advisements of any conflicts of interest: None

Councillor Riley Brockington's Update

- Councillor Brockington expressed his sympathy regarding the recent loss of life in our community.
- He will be hosting a community event on March 3 to address these concerns.
- Councillor believes, supported by community leaders, that the NRT presence and engagement in Carlington needs to increase.
- The Alexander Community Centre is moving forward full-steam ahead.
- Local development and infrastructure updates include: the Alexander Community Centre; development at 1296-1300 Carling; Anna-Crown Crescent; Viscount, Veteran, Harrold renewal; Merivale Road renewal; Emperor and Bakervale renewal; HVAC issues at Talisman Residences; Permanent Road Closure designs on Meath/Thames and Archibald/Thames.
- Coyotes, turkeys, and rats continue to be of concern. Councillor Brockington will be hosting an information session on April 7 from 6:30-8 p.m. with experts.

- Traffic calming includes: crossing guard request at Kirkwood and Coldrey; speed and volume test at Dorchester and Bakervale; speed measures on Crerar; parking challenges on Thames; seasonal reinstatement of flex stakes.
- Each councilor receives a modest traffic calming budget each year.
- O-Train and bus reliability: the macro issue causing the most problems are insufficient number of drivers, mechanics, and buses in the fleet, which are all issues within OCTranspo's purview. Weather and traffic are outside their control but OCTranspo can prepare for these factors.
- Starting Monday, March 30, your waste collection day may change.
- Ottawa's 200th anniversary this year, with celebrations from March-December.

Question from resident: I am confused about my new garbage date and the letter I received.

Councillor Brockington: The letter is for awareness, that your collection date could change but it might not. Go to the collection calendar for April, input your address, and check for your date.

Statement from resident: Go to Engage Ottawa to input your comments on the new Alexander Community Centre and ask for book lockers, a pottery kiln, and a weight room. Councillor Brockington will furnish the weight room if approved.

Question: Given the exceptional width of Tunis, hoping it would be possible to allow for both parking and bike lanes. Has a study been conducted on this possibility?

Councillor Brockington: Staff proposal for Tunis is a bike lane, as the road will be a major connection for the community. There is no new infrastructure for the bike lane, so they can co-exist with parking. Councillor has asked staff for a balance between bike lanes and parking. Note that Councillor Brockington does not receive comments directly from the City, he needs to be cc'd.

Question: With more physical space at ACC after the construction, will there potentially be more spots open for the GAP program (after school care)?

Councillor Brockington: There is a waitlist for children's programs at ACC. We do not yet know what programs will be available during construction or after. A lot of families rely on the programs here, so we are looking into options.

Question: My children don't attend after school program here, but many classmates do. It would be really important to continue to have access during construction.

Councillor Brockington: I appreciate your comment.

Question: Have you ever gone to the St Nicholas Adult HIgh School to see if it's an option?
Councillor Brockington: I haven't, but the role of Parks and Recreation is to accommodate and they are looking at nearby sites, even if just for certain programs. I don't have answers to share yet, but will.

Ottawa Police Neighbourhood Resource Team (DJ and Ian)

- Concerning the community, two recent stabbings on Mayview and Shillington.
- Patrol attended as quickly as possible, at Mayview the NRT was the first unit on scene and provided CPR.
- These were isolated incidents with no further threat to public safety. Both suspects were arrested and charged.
- I cannot give too much detail on those as both files are open and under investigation, so details are limited until they go to trial.
- We are aware of the impact on the community. OPS is involved in PIMS and also has an OPS post-incident protocol that we follow. We get information out as quickly as possible to Councillor Brockington and community associations.
- NRT went door-to-door throughout the building on Shillington and provided trauma packages.
- 1120 Fisher: assault and robbery. Police responded quickly and one person was taken into custody. The victim is not cooperating with police. There is no threat to public safety.
- Panhandling is an issue in Carlington. NRT moved three panhandlers along last week alone. NRT has a protocol for handling panhandling. If we see repeated behaviour, we issue a ticket, then a court summons. NRT has charged some individuals. The problem is that people continue to give panhandlers money, so the issues occur. We do what we can with the limited amount of time we have to dedicate to this.
- NRT will be joining Councillor Brockington's meeting with the Chief of Police next week and will be in attendance at the Carlington Connects Community Information and Resource Night on March 3.
- There is a community safety data portal on the Ottawa Police website, with a snapshot of what is happening in your neighbourhood.
- The Carlington NRT is engaged in outreach, engagement, suppression, and enforcement.

- Robynn and I are in a brand new role with Ottawa Police- Community Intake and Relations Specialist. Please reach out to me if you would like support around community action plans, community development initiatives, support with co-planning events. Happy to help and here for you collinsr@ottawapolice.ca. Thanks!

Question: Spicy Man restaurant has been robbed five times in seven days. Should she contact the police, since they have the perpetrator on video? If you are busy, how do we reach you?
OPS: 958 Merivale Road had five break-and-enters over a short period of time. The person was arrested, with the help of the NRT.
Question: We understand that a deceased person was found on the forest path along Fisher. Many people feel uncomfortable walking that path lately due to indecent exposure incidents. People are feeling less safe in that space.
OPS: Thank you. OPS does not monitor Facebook pages, please continue to report incidents - even the slightest - either online or call the Police Reporting Unit at 613-236-1222 x7300.
Question: When you witness something that is worthy to report but not an emergency, what do you do? Should you call 911?
OPS: You can report online or call the Police Reporting Unit at 613-236-1222 x7300. OPS receives roughly 6000 traffic complaints per year and is divided by neighbourhood. There is a strict prioritization when you call OPS.

Shepherds of Good Hope (SGH)

- Don't hesitate to reach out to Maddie if you ever wish to discuss any of the Shepherds of Good Hope facilities on Merivale.
- SGH wishes to expand. They are redesigning their buildings to move their administration offices to reduce the unit footprint but have head office work out of the Merivale location, which is aligned with residents' requests for more of an administrative presence.
- This is not a funded project, it is a dream. There is no timeline to build as we don't yet have funding.
- The units next to The Oaks will be closed by the end of March. It is another project we wish to bring back; they currently do not meet accessibility standards.

Chair's Update (Cathie Fraser)

- Thanks for participation in Merry & Bright,which ran from December 3-24 this year, along with our sponsors: Jen Stewart & Team; Councillor Brockington; Woodward Coffee Co; Carlington Booch; and Bowman's Bar and Grill.
- The 2 outdoor rinks, here at Alexander and at Meadowvale have been very successful this year, the CCA thanks David Hoey and Al Lopes, and Alaine Spiwak, and all of our volunteers for their tremendous work.
- Unfortunately, the rink storage facility/bunker at the ACC was broken into and robbed sometime between January 27 and 30, among things taken were 2 CCA owned snowblowers and a Hose Nozzle. A Board member has donated a snowblower to finish out the skating season, but will be looking to purchase new ones, hopefully when they go on sale at the send of the season. A police report has been filed.
- As Councillor Brockington and the police have mentioned in his report, there have been some unsettling events happening in the community over the past couple of weeks, I assure you that the City and Councillor Brockington have been consistently in contact with the CCA Board throughout these events.
- The Community Association is pleased to announce the launch on February 15 of the 2026 Community Grant. We thank Mateusz and Matt for their work on this. The grant supports small-scale, community-led projects that take place in Carlington or directly benefit Carlington residents. The CCA Community Grant provides up to $2,000 in total funding, which may be awarded to one or more selected community projects. For more information, please visit the CCA website. Applications are open until April 15, 2026 and recipients will be announced at the CCA Members Meeting on May 28, 2026.
- The CCA has an open Board member space, and also the elections for the 2026-2027 Board will take place at the members meeting on May 28, 2026. If you are interested please keep your eyes on the CCA website as the elections chairperson will be putting up information in mid-March to send in your name and contact, and a short bio of how and why you would like to join the CCA Board.

- Now that Spring and Summer are approaching, we will be having more events in the community. Please stay tuned to the CCA website and social media platforms for more information.

Development (Robert Brinker)

- Development Update

Finance & Budget (Mateusz Trybowski)

- Treasurer's Report
- Alaine put forward the motion to approve up to $3000 for the purchase of a new snowblower, Robert seconds it. There is a quorum of 10 people as outlined in our bylaws and we have it. Fifteen people voted in favour, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

Question: Do we need to purchase one or two snowblowers?

Answer: A board member has generously donated a snowblower so we only require one.

Question: Has the bunker code been changed after the break-in?

Answer: We have filed a police report. It's not certain if the door was left unlocked or not. We have reinforced lock protocols with our volunteers.

Question: Do we know what happened?

Answer: We are reinforcing the lock protocols and will change the bunker code once we have purchased the new snowblower. As part of the rink opening, we review all components of the rink, including locks and storage procedure.

Membership (Matthew Ellis)

- Members have received an email, establishing whether they are in good standing.
- We are diversifying the content on our social media and website to position ourselves as a resource in the community.
- We are exploring options for a newsletter to communicate with members.

Question: Any current strategies in place to grow membership?

Matthew: We promote through activities and physical presence is a significant way to represent the community. We also continue to promote our grant and activities, through our website and social media.

Activities (Jenn Sailus)

- Big thanks to our sponsors for Merry & Bright.
- The recent movie and hot dog night was a success, with roughly 100 people in attendance on a very snowy night.
- CCA will be participating in the Caldwell Winter Carnival next week.
- Planning is underway for our annual Plant Sale, Gowling Spring Fair, Raven Park Day, and Alexander Community Centre Day.
- We are encouraged to brand our activities to align with the 200 City of Ottawa anniversary. There is a grant program in place.

Question: What about an outdoor movie night?

Charity: The sun sets quite late, which makes it less than ideal for younger children.

Rinks (Alaine Spiwak)

- Rinks presentation
- We are grateful to our wonderful volunteers who keep the rinks available for all community members to enjoy.
- We have a rink at the Alexander Community Center and Meadowvale.
- Friends of Meadowvale runs programs that include hot chocolate and loaned skates.

Greening (Deirdre Furlong)

- In April we will be participating in the City of Ottawa's Cleaning up the Capital. We will be tidying the ACC yard.
- We will be working with W.E. Gowling, through Charity, for the ACC's annual Plant Sale on June 6.
- We are seeking volunteers for the Merivale-Carling triangle garden.
- There will be a meeting in early March for the Greening Committee. Reach out to Deirdre if you wish to join.

New Business

- Deirdre: would like access to the locker at the ACC for supplies; Cathie will connect with Deirdre.

Adjournment: Motion by Annie, seconded by Micheline.