

Westboro Beach Community Association Annual General Meeting November 17, 2015



Welcome

Mari Wellman, chair of the WBCA board, welcomed the audience of approximated 35 people to the AGM held at the Churchill Seniors Centre. Councillor Leiper highlighted some key issues for the ward such as the new Western LRT line which will have a stop at Dominion Avenue, the draft city budget and the City of Ottawa tree policy. Established neighbourhoods like Westboro Beach have seen their trees disappear when infill houses are developed. Fines are so low that there is no incentive to save these trees. Councillor Leiper also reported on plans for 250 Lanark. He said that although the land is up for sale by the federal government, it has not yet been transferred to the Canada Lands Corporation.

Presentation by Safe Road Ottawa

Don Stewart welcomed guest speaker Rob Wilkinson, coordinator, Safe Roads Ottawa Program, City of Ottawa. Mr. Wilkinson described some of the programs coordinated by his office that are aimed at making Ottawa streets safer such as the Ottawa Bike School, Leave the Phone Alone and Be Safe, Be Seen. One of the most popular programs in the city has been the Slow Down for us sign campaign. At present, all 5000 signs have been given out but there will be a new print ready for Spring, 2016. There are several signs in the Westboro Beach neighbourhood. Either the WBCA or individuals can request these signs for the spring season. A new technology called the shrinking road has been installed on Roosevelt near the Dovercourt Recreation Centre where there are no sidewalks. The cost to install is \$1200.

The audience was given the opportunity to indicate the areas of Westboro Beach that are considered the most dangerous for pedestrians and drivers. A copy of these problem areas will be passed on to Safe Road Ottawa for consideration. The areas are:

- Atlantis and Lanark Avenue
- Beechgrove and Lanark (speed)
- Latchford and Lanark (speeding on curve, people going over median as a shortcut and excessive speed)
- Lanark and Churchill (two accidents this summer)
- Royal and Lanark (yield is dangerous compounded by heavy traffic to beach)
- Selby and Atlantis where construction vehicles block the roads and have done so for months
- Westboro Station where parking cars and trucks along Scott Street hinder visibility for walkers trying to cross the street

WBCA Financial Report

The WBCA Financial Statement for November 1, 2014 to October 31 2015 was presented and distributed. The total revenue was \$1401.75 with expenses of \$1312.53. The revenue sources this past year were

Westfest, sale of trees and shrubs and donations from residents. The association has a major debt of \$2900 owing as the result of legal bills for an OMB hearing. There is only a small balance in the bank and there will be problems with future operations unless another fundraiser is held. The cancellation of Westfest is a concern. Acceptance of the financial report was moved, seconded and approved by unanimous vote.

President's Report

Mari Wellman presented a summary of events which the WBCA has been involved in the past year and what is expected in the coming year.

A. Fundraising

Because of our OMB debt of \$2,900, fundraising continues to play a big part in planning activities. The WBCA had a successful fundraiser with our tree/shrub sale. The other fundraiser was a plant sale and a bake sale held both days at Westfest. Thanks to Westboro Beach residents who baked and donated plants.

B. Planning and Zoning

Many neighbourhood meetings were held with neighbours and developers for new developments in Westboro Beach. WBCA appeared before the Committee of Adjustment board on behalf of the affected residents.

C. Infill 1 and 2 Proposals

Infill I guidelines went before Committee and Council and passed. WBCA was heavily involved with the City-led infill study throughout the past two years. The intent of the study was to have well-designed residential infill projects integrate harmoniously into the local landscape.

The WBCA is monitoring discussion on Infill 2. The intent of the study is to provide additional clarity on what is permitted when developing within an existing neighbourhood.

D. Jules Leger Green Pathway

After 15 years of pressure by the WBCA, the Jules Leger pathway connecting the CBC pathway to Ferndale and to the Ottawa River Parkway was officially opened (September 19). The path was funded under the City of Ottawa Master Transportation Plan. Thank you to MPP Yasir Naqvi who worked with the Ministry of Education to get an easement near the Jules Leger School.

E. Green Gateway to Westboro Beach

The new parkette established at the corner of Churchill and Workman serves as a green gateway to our community. For many years, the area was brown, unkempt and full of debris. As a result of the work of board member Cindy Parker, there are now trees, a small garden and landscaping of large rocks donated by Tomlinson Construction. Work will continue next summer with more plantings and the WBCA has applied for funding for a bench. We can always use gardening help and garden plants.

F. Van Lang Field House

Work on the Van Lang Field house was restarted in the spring of 2015. Despite some starts and stops, it is hoped that the field house to be operated by the Dovercourt Recreation Centre will be open in the New Year. The WBCA has partnered with Ottawa Community Housing and the Dovercourt Recreation Centre to make the field house a reality. Special thanks to Jeff Leiper who worked hard to secure fund from the In Lieu of Recreation account. The leads on Van Lang are Bonnie Campbell and Thelma Harding. Special thanks to the late Beth Nolan for her work and vision of what the Van Lang field house could be for the neighbourhood.

G. Roy Duncan Park and Van Lang Activities

After the Bell program sponsored by the Carlington Community Health Centre and the Dovercourt Recreation Centre was held at the park during the summer months. The program continued during the school year as the After the Bell Homework Club at the Churchill Seniors Centre. The Carlington Community Health Centre was successful in receiving a grant from Telus to secure laptops and a printer for the homework club. The WBCA received a \$3000 grant from the United Way to work with Carlington on the community kitchen. Both the homework club and the kitchen will be moved to the field house when it is completed.

H. Social Events at Westboro Beach

A successful winter carnival was held at Westboro Beach in January 24 led by Peter Bruton. Another carnival is planned for this winter. A successful pig roast was held at the beach June 27 led by Peter Bruton. There were a number of children games and activities for both events organized by Ian Dobson. Unfortunately, the bonfire planned for September 12 had to be cancelled due to rain. Thanks to Jay Johnson for all his work preparing for the bonfire such as the lanterns. It is hoped that the lantern making workshop planned for the bonfire will take place at the next bonfire to be held in September 2016.

I. Summer at Westboro Beach with Plans for Winter Ski Trails

The WBCA worked closely with Councillor Jeff Leiper, Mike Muir of the NCC, and Moe Atallah from Newport and the Beach Café. Moe has agreed to continue having live music only on two evenings - Friday and Saturday until 10:00. Thank you to Ian Shaw and Keith Rimstead for spearheading this initiative.

The WBCA will work with Councillor Leiper to extend the swimming season, or rather having flexible opening and closing dates depending on the weather.

The WBCA asked both Mike Muir and Councillor Leiper to look into a ski trail grooming machine to prepare a path along the Ottawa River from the beach to downtown. The lead on this project is Dave Adams who coordinates the ski trails of Nakkertok.

J. Selby Plains

The WBCA has received permission to look into transforming the Beach lands - Atlantis woods, Selby plains and the beach area into a park. Members of the environment committee will explore all options such as the ones looked at several times in the Selby Plains Master Plan report.

K. The Environment

The Environment Committee works to raise environmental awareness through workshops and speakers. Two events planned were cancelled but the committee will reschedule them in 2016. These events are a talk by Citizen bird columnist Bruce di Labio and a bird walk.

L. WBCA Website

Special thanks to Patricia Pollock for all her work on the WBCA web and social media sites. We encourage everyone to like us on Facebook and sign up for the newsletter.

M. Committees

The WBCA are represented in many city wide committee and groups such as the Federation of Citizens (Don Stewart), environment cafes (Mari Wellman), ward council (Catherine Casserly), and READ (Rosemount Library (Bonnie Campbell)).

Future Focus

A. Mahoney Park Renewal

The WBCA will push for the renewal of the Mahoney Park located on Lanark Crescent. The work could not go ahead last year due to a shortage of city staff.

B. 250 Lanark

This is large piece of land formerly occupied by the CBC and now occupied by Health Canada. The WBCA will monitor when and how the lands are sold and make plans with the community for its redevelopment.

C. Newsletter

The WBCA will continue with the printed flyers. A very special thank you go to all the volunteers who deliver the flyer, many of whom have been doing it for years. More volunteer deliverers are always welcome. The social media is being used as well to communicate to the neighbourhood but more people need to sign up electronically through the WBCA web site.

D. Fundraising

Because of our OMB debt of \$2,900, fundraising continues to play a big part. The WBCA will continue with our tree/shrub sale this year and order forms are available now. Place your order early they tend to go fast.

Election of Officers

Elliot Rodger chaired the election of officers to the WBCA Board. The following were nominated and elected to the 2015-16 Board of Directors: Bonnie Campbell, Catherine Casserly, Cindy Parker, Craig Dennis, Don Stewart, Jay Johnson, Julie MacDonald, Katherine Gunn, Keith Rimstad, Mari Wellman.

The following volunteered to serve as Friends of the WBCA: Ben Abraham, Dave Adams (under Nakkertok), Elliot Rodger, Ian Dobson, Patricia Pollock, and Peter Bruton.