

2016 SPRING NEWSLETTER

TREES FOR GUELPH DAY OF ACTION SET FOR SATURDAY MAY 14

-BY LISA MACTAGGART

Please join Trees for Guelph at a community planting day on Saturday, May 14th from 9:30 am - 1 pm in the Silvercreek Park Hydro One corridor (located at the end of Water Street where it meets Denver Road). Last fall, this area was clear cut to meet Hydro One regulations.

This will mark the first step in implementing a plan for the area that will create in an even better landscape than before. The plan involves planting over 700 native shrubs and 2000 wildflower plugs that will soon become a thriving ecosystem and an asset to our community for all of us to enjoy.

Everyone can help nurture this new landscape. Please stay on the footpaths, so that seedlings will be protected from trampling and root systems will be able to mature, which for some of the plants could take up to three years. Unauthorized gardening is not allowed. The removal of the buckthorn made space for diverse native plants that need time to establish themselves. Now is the time for patience.

Adding some extra rose-of-sharon Seedlings, for example, will compromise this maturing ecology. No one wants Hydro One to be back with their
...(cont'd on pg. 4)

NOTICE OF OUNRA AGM

7 PM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2016

GUELPH COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, 195 COLLEGE AVE W

KEYNOTE BY IAN PANABAKER, CORPORATE MANAGER, DOWNTOWN RENEWAL, CITY OF GUELPH

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

-BY BRUCE RYAN

BUSY YEAR OF BUSINESS DRAWS TO AN END

This past year has been a busy one for the Association. When Hydro One announced that it intended to clear cut the land underneath the hydro lines running through Silvercreek Park, the Executive moved quickly to support the families who live along and near Pacific Place, which is part of the Old University Neighbourhood. The Association contributed \$500 to help defray their not insignificant legal costs. The community group won some concessions and convinced Hydro to donate \$10,000 to cover the costs of new plantings.

A few years ago, the Association Executive decided to comment on every variance application from the neighbourhood that goes to the Committee of Adjustment. OUNRA had a long history of objecting to Committee of Adjustment (C of A) applications that it thought were inappropriate for the neighbourhood. OUNRA is supportive of residents who want to improve their properties. Accordingly, OUNRA supports home owners who ask for acceptable minor variances or severances at the C of A. In this past year, OUNRA intervened in all 15 applications that affected Old University. We were supportive in almost all cases. Where an application was opposed, OUNRA gave reasons based on sound planning and land-use principles. Moreover, OUNRA also intervenes at the OMB and has appeared as a delegate before City Council whenever an issue is relevant to the neighbourhood. We are an active participant in Guelph's Town and Gown Committee.

Our student neighbours are an important part of our community. The Executive Committee spends quite a lot of time talking about students but I am happy to say that the heat they generate today is greatly reduced from several years ago. Hot spots still flare up from time to time but the City, the University and many of the landlords have all initiated measures that help students live more comfortably with the rest of us. OUNRA has tried hard to recruit a student member to help us better understand the student view of off-campus living.

This past year, Dana Stephenson served as the student member on the Executive. She lives on High Park Drive. As part of our own internal continuing education effort, we asked her to tell us about the student perspective. Instead of simply preparing some general remarks for one of our monthly meetings, Dana carried out a survey of about 100 students in which she asked them several questions about living off campus. Here are some of her key findings:

- Students' most preferred neighbours are other students while families with young children are their least preferred neighbours
- The majority of student respondents have never experienced conflict with neighbours.
- When there is conflict, most often the neighbours don't talk to the students; instead they call the police or a by-law officer.
- 75% did not know the City offers free inspections of rental properties.
- 85% did not know the City has a webpage regarding off campus living.
- 93% did not know that the University Off-Campus Living Office provides mediation services for addressing conflict.
- 85% did not know about the Town and Gown Committee that works to improve student-community relationships.

In the coming months, the OUNRA Executive intends to make use of Dana's data to explore ways we can work from within the neighbourhood to further strengthen the increasingly positive relationship with our student residents. We are all in this together for the foreseeable future.

Finally, I would urge you all to come to the Annual General Meeting on May 4 and would also urge you to become a contributing member by paying the modest \$20 membership fee and by completing the membership form found elsewhere in this newsletter.

PROJECT LEADS TO COMMUNITY RENEWAL AND JOB SKILLS TRAINING FOR LOCAL STUDENTS

A lot of the Old University Neighbourhood is made up of houses built in the 50s and 60s. Solidly built at the time, many need to be updated to 21st century standards. Plumbing, electrical, heating and cooling systems, insulation, kitchens and baths all need renewal.

With that in mind, the project team behind “The Amazing Makeover, Student Edition” set out to renovate 70 Talbot Street, which had been largely untouched since it was built in the 1950s. With students assisting the trades, under the supervision of the tech

teachers from Bishop Mac, Lourdes and St. James, the house has been completely renovated. The students have learned a unique skillset. Profit from the house sale will be donated to Michael House Pregnancy Care Centre here in Guelph.

If you are interested in learning more about this project give Brian Andres a call. Mr. Andres is the Head of the Tech Department at Bishop Macdonell Catholic High School. He was seen everyday lending a hand and advice to the students learning at the Talbot Street site. He can be reached at 519-835-7327.

THE OUNRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2015-2016

We are your neighbours working together to protect and enhance the quality of life in our community. If you would like more information or would like to participate in neighbourhood organizing, reach out to anyone listed below.

BRUCE RYAN	PRESIDENT	102 FOREST STREET	519-766-9684	BRYAN102@GMAIL.COM
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DAPHNE WAINMAN-WOOD		302 EDINBURGH ROAD SOUTH	519-780-2622	DAPHNE@TALOARCHITECT.CA

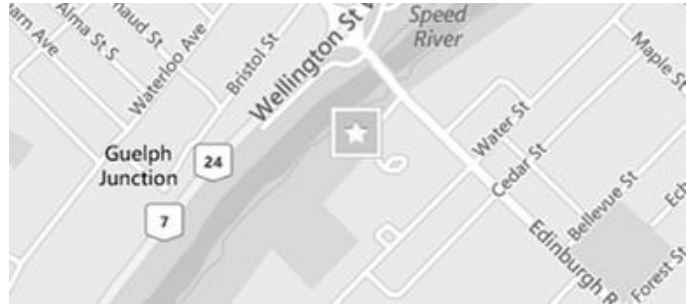
DAY OF ACTION TO REHAB OLD UNIVERSITY HYDRO CORRIDOR

...(cont'd from pg. 1) big machines anytime soon. Returning wildlife will also need some assistance. There is little cover for animals to hide from cats, dogs and us. Please protect these creatures from being chased and caught. It takes a lot of energy for a rabbit to flee, so let them focus their energy on making a home in the park.

The rehabilitation of the Hydro One corridor is one of the most ambitious plans that Trees for Guelph has ever undertaken. This site has immense potential to be transformed into a naturally rich area. Hydro One made this a case study in how not to do a corridor clearing. Let's now make it a case study in how to create

a healthy ecosystem in the heart of a neighbourhood.

Everyone is welcome. For more info, email guelphforest@gmail.com. Many hands make light work!



OUNRA VISION, MISSION AND VALUES STATEMENTS

Vision: To live in a vibrant, livable, healthy and supportive neighbourhood.

Mission: To promote, protect and maintain the viability and well-being of the neighbourhood by participating in community affairs and developments and by keeping the residents informed of important issues.

Values: We value:

- A sense of community that arises from a mixed neighbourhood comprised of, for example, singles, families, seniors and students.
- Institutions and features such as schools, parks, recreation areas and businesses that create and sustain a livable neighbourhood.
- Efforts by homeowners to develop and enhance their properties within the policies outlined in the City of Guelph Official Plan and By-Laws.
- Responsible intensification in keeping with the neighbourhood's current urban design, which is mainly one- and two-story, single-family homes.
- A healthy and vibrant urban forest.
- Open lines of communication with the City of Guelph and the University of Guelph.
- The Brooklyn and College Hill Heritage Conservation District.

OUNRA MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTAL CODE _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Annual membership is \$20 per family. Please make cheques payable to OUNRA. Bring form to AGM or mail to David Josephy, OUNRA Treasurer, 66 Maple Street, Guelph, ON N1G 2G2.