



Fall Newsletter October 2014

Edited by John Campbell

PRESIDENT'S LETTER, OCTOBER 2014

John Gruzleski

Greetings to all Old University residents, old and new. The Old University Neighbourhood Residents' Association has been busy over the summer with matters involving City Council, the Committee of Adjustment and the Ontario Municipal Board.

At the time of our May AGM, the City Council had just referred back to city staff a report on licensing of shared rental housing. Staff had recommended an alternative to licensing based on enhanced enforcement of existing by-laws, coupled with the use of search warrants to gain access to properties where the landlord refused access for inspection. The staff report did not present arguments to strongly support their view that enhanced enforcement would be effective. A revised report presented in early August contained some impressive statistics to show that investment by Council in extra enforcement since 2012 has paid off with increased registration of accessory apartments, removal of several illegal lodging houses that were too close to other legal lodging houses, and improvement in safety of rentals. (The report, PBEE 14-29, is on the City site under Shared Rental Housing.)

The executive committee of OUNRA has always favoured a strict licensing program. However, after considerable discussion it decided to support the alternative approach presented at the meeting on August 5 of the Planning, Building, Engineering and Environmental Committee, which then recommended its acceptance by City Council. Implementation of the program depends on approval of funds for extra enforcement personnel in the 2015 budget exercise. Under the adopted recommendation, staff will be required to report annually on progress to demonstrate whether enhanced enforcement works. If it does not improve the health and safety of shared rental housing, the door to licensing will have to be reopened.

NOTICE OF FALL GENERAL MEETING

**Wednesday, October 8
7 pm**

Harcourt Memorial Church

President's Report

**Meet Ward 5 Candidates for Council
and Public School Board**

By early September when I wrote this report, we had made five representations to the Committee of Adjustment (C of A) regarding applications for severance and variances from by-law requirements in our neighbourhood. Some of these were simple; others not. Perhaps the most significant was an application for a severance that would have endangered one of the oldest and largest trees in the City. The proposed construction would most likely have killed this huge, healthy bur oak. Happily, the C of A deferred a decision sine die until the proponents can submit an application that does not put the tree at risk. When making a representation to the C of A, members of your executive committee consult neighbours and try to propose solutions that will enhance the neighbourhood. Sometimes we are successful; often we are not, but at least the democratic process allows our views to be heard.

OUNRA was a participant in a hearing before the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) last May in which the applicant was attempting to legalize two existing lodging houses that were located much less than 100 metres from existing legal lodging houses that the by-law stipulates. Although the properties are in Ward 6 and not within OUNRA boundaries, a successful application could have set a precedent that would threaten the current by-law that controls lodging house saturation by stipulating a minimum 100 metre separation between lodging

houses. The decision of the OMB was made in July and went against the applicant.

In early September, OUNRA launched an appeal to the OMB regarding a recent decision of the C of A in our neighbourhood. The appeal is based on the procedural grounds that the applicant failed to post for 10 days before the hearing a sign that informs the neighbours of their right to attend the hearing and give opinions.

OUNRA is a completely volunteer organization, and is always looking for new blood on the executive committee. There are openings for members at large, and if you are interested in working for the betterment of your neighbourhood, please contact me or anyone on our committee. In particular, the committee lacks a student member living in Old University. We did not have one last year, but have had some excellent student representation in the past.

Our fall meeting on October 8 is an all candidates meeting where you will be able to meet candidates for councillor and school board trustee in Ward 5. Mayoral candidates have also been invited but I do not know at this time how many, if any, will be present. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find some questions of concern that the executive compiled based on discussion with various residents. Perhaps you have the same or other concerns. So feel free to ask questions and hope for an answer.

Finally, please vote on October 27. If you are going to be away on that day, note that on-line advance voting takes place October 7 – 24. If you do not vote you have no right to complain about municipal politicians who will have a major impact on your life for the next four years.

I hope to see all of you on October 8.

Bios of Election Candidates

These are necessarily brief but some candidates have websites with more detail. Check "Guelph Votes 2014" on guelph.ca. Bios are listed here in filing date order. At press time I did not have bios for everybody.

Candidates for Councillor, Ward 5.

Two to be elected from six candidates.

Cathy Downer

Cathy was first elected as Councillor for Ward 5 in 1994. During her 12 years on Council, she worked on many committees and boards, including Planning, Works and Environment, Heritage Guelph, Family and Children's Services, and the Loretto Convent Task Force. Cathy decided not to seek re-election in 2006. Since then, she has served on the Boards of the Guelph Community Health Centre and the Guelph Youth Music Centre. For the past year, she has been a member of the City's Committee of Adjustment. She currently works in private practice as a mediator

Leanne Piper

Leanne has been a Ward 5 councillor for the last two terms (seven years), lives in the Old University neighbourhood and is a former member of the OUNRA Executive with a keen understanding of issues in our community. She has served on the Upper Grand District School Board, Guelph Police Services Board, Family and Children's Service, Guelph Junction Railway Board, and Heritage Guelph. Her work experience in the private, public and non-profit sectors brings a balanced approach to city leadership.

Jim Galatianos

Born in Greece moved at an early age to Toronto. In 1985, he studied at the U of G where, as the President of the College Of Social Science, he was involved in creating the program known as the "Magic Bus". 25 years later it still gets people home safe after hours. In 2007, attended McMaster University, and earned a Family Mediator Certificate. For the past 4 years he has waged a court case against the City and the "Yard Maintenance By-Law". For details on the case see: www.fightguelphbylaw.com

Old University Neighbourhood Residents' Association Membership Registration Form

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

E-mail: _____

I am willing to deliver some Newsletters

Annual membership is \$20.00 per family. Please make cheques payable to OUNRA. Bring form to the meeting or deliver to Roy Allingham, 18 Mary St., N1G2A7. Thank you for your support.

Alex Green

Alex attended Centennial C.V.I., and earned a BSc in Mathematics from the University of Toronto. During his time at U of T, Alex was active in several organizations that attempted to increase student participation in the political process. Upon graduating, Alex worked in manufacturing and enjoyed a brief stint working for Statistics Canada on the 2011 census before going into business for himself. He currently works as a mobile app developer, creating custom apps for small businesses as well as game and puzzle apps for a broader audience. He also works as search engine analyst.

Scott Butler

Scott and his family have lived in Ward 5 for almost 10 years. His career has been focused on creating collaborative partnerships between public and private sector organizations. He has worked in fields such as immigration policy, agri-food, corporate social responsibility and most recently civic infrastructure.

Currently, Scott is the head of Policy and Research for OGRA (the Ontario Good Roads Association), one of Canada's oldest and largest municipal organizations.

Scott sits on the Board of Guelph Soccer and is on the Fund Development Committee of Hospice Wellington.

Bob Senechal

Ward 5 home owner in Guelph since 1995.

Ordained minister for 38 years. Presently chaplain at a long term care home.

Progressive Conservative, Guelph Candidate in 2007.

Owner of RS Services - Handyman renovations etc.

Candidates for Trustee, Upper Grand District School Board, Wards 1 and 5.

Two to be elected from six candidates

Ralph Edwards

Ralph has been involved in education for well over 30 years. He started his career as a high school teacher in Guelph and retired from education as the Upper Grand District President of OSSTF. After retiring served as trustee for 10 years, chairing the budget committee and serving as Vice-Chair before taking a break to enjoy being a Grandfather. As a trustee, Ralph spearheaded the Boards Green initiative and played a role in having straw-bail portables built in Orangeville and Rockwood.

Juanita Burnett

I moved to Guelph with my son in 1994 to attend the University of Guelph and received a diploma in Horticulture (ADA '96A) and a degree in Sociology (BA 1999), while my son attended public elementary and secondary schools from 1996 to 2009. I've helped fight the attacks on teachers and cuts to our school budgets. I've been a literacy tutor at Action Read. I work part-time at the U of G, and have worked with students against higher tuition fees and funding cuts.

Dan Baker**Mark Bailey**

I have served as a public trustee for the last two terms, having spent all of these seven years involved both locally through the Board, and provincially through various roles at the Ontario Public School Boards' Association.. I have been elected by my fellow trustees for a second term as Chair of the Board. My role as Chair involves being the public spokesperson for the Board, running public meetings effectively, and working with the Director of Education to ensure that the budget and strategic directions determined by the Board are implemented according to Board decision.

Martha MacNeil

My husband and I have two boys attending a wonderful school in the UGDSB. I have worked alongside of parents, teachers, administrators, Board staff, superintendents, the director, and trustees on various committees and councils. I have served as school council co-chair for the past 3 years – and as the Parent Involvement Committee chair for the past 2 years. In addition, I have served as a committee member at the Board level for the Mental Health Steering Committee, the Mental Health Subcommittee, the Learning Choices Committee, the Safe, Equitable, and Inclusive Schools Steering Committee and the Strategic Plan Working Group. I understand the challenges and the rewards of the work of the school board which makes me an excellent choice for trustee.

Malcolm Bell

Questions for the Candidates. These are some of the questions the OUNRA Executive Committee would like answered Add your own.

These questions are mainly directed at candidates for councillor but half of our real estate taxes go to pay for schools. Can anyone think of a good question or two for the school trustee candidates?

- 1.The City always seems to have a financial problem and during the budget debates quibbles about important but relatively inexpensive items such as ploughing the sidewalks in winter. However, shouldn't Council seriously concentrate on costly, and, to some, unnecessary projects such as reconfiguring St. George's Square. What would be your priorities when it comes to spending the taxpayers' money?
- 2.How are tenders for important and costly projects awarded by the City? Is the procedure truly transparent?
- 3.What margins for contingencies are built into budgets for large infrastructure projects in the City? Do you feel these are adequate?

4. What are the most significant and urgent infrastructure challenges facing Guelph over the next 5 to 10 years and how would you deal with them?
5. If the costs of the City Hall lawsuit and renovation of the Police Headquarters are paid from the reserve fund, how would you replenish the reserve fund and over what time period?
6. What actions would you take to improve the walkability of our neighbourhood, particularly in winter? Even in summer many of the sidewalks are uneven and difficult to walk on.
7. How are bus routes determined, particularly those passing through residential streets?
8. Would you support the allocation of the necessary financial resources to implement the recently approved "alternative approach" to the licencing of rental housing in the City of Guelph?
9. Guelph's by-laws provide little protection for our remaining urban tree cover, ravines and habitats for native fauna. What concrete steps would you take to help protect our endangered urban natural habitats?
10. Should it be mandatory to display building permits in a visible place?

Community Events at Harcourt

Information: Harcourt Office 519 824 4177;
www.harcourtuc.ca

Halloween Party: October 24

Coffee House: October 4, 7pm This is an opportunity for you to share your talents. You can recite, perform a skit, play a song or just come and enjoy. Sign up on arrival. All are welcome!

KW Symphony Baroque: October 3, November 14

All Things Christmas Sale: November 29th

Request for Community Feedback.

The congregation of Harcourt Church would like your feedback as to how we can better support children, youth and their families in this neighbourhood. Some parents have suggested cooking classes and an after-school drop-in where sport can be played in the gym, or work done to complete homework assignments. We welcome any ideas you may have. Please contact Merrill Pierce at smpierce@sympatico.ca.

Executive Committee 2014 – 2015

The Executive Committee comprises Old University residents working to protect and enhance the quality of life in our community. For more information or if you want to volunteer to participate in neighbourhood organizing phone or email one of the people below.

Officers

President	John Gruzleski	519-829-3225	j.gruzleski@sympatico.ca
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Past Pres.	Daphne Wainman-Wood	519-780-2622	daphne@taloarchitect.ca
Secretary	Sylvia Watson	519-780-5328	sylviaawatson@gmail.com
Treasurer	Roy Allingham	519-829-2406	roy.allingham@sympatico.ca

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OUNRA Website:- www.OUNRA.wordpress.com