

OLD UNIVERSITY NEIGHBOURHOOD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2019

OUNRA Annual General Meeting for 2019

May 16, 2019 at 7:00 pm

Gymnasium, Harcourt United Church, 87 Dean Avenue
(please use the back door of the Church beside the children's playground)

A G E N D A

GUEST SPEAKER:

Detective Sargent Carrie Gale, Guelph Police Service

TOPIC: The **BEAT** Project (Break, Enter & Auto Theft)

The presentation will focus on this special initiative by the Guelph Police Service to reduce the amount of crime in the City. The BEAT pilot operated from January to the end of April 2019. The presentation will describe the project and offer some insights into early learnings.

OUNRA BUSINESS MATTERS:

President's Report; Treasurer's Report; Election of Executive Committee Members.

COUNCILORS' CORNER:

Leanne Piper and Cathy Downer will bring us up to date on developments in Guelph and will respond to questions from the floor.

Learn About OUNRA



Send an Email:
guelphounra@gmail.com



www.OUNRA.org
(new version, still
under development)



Facebook:
Old University
Neighbourhood Association

Message from the President

On the wall of my office is a map of Guelph and the surrounding area from 1901. While the street pattern in the city centre is familiar, on the southern edge of the map are only the faintest indications of what became Old University.

The evolution of our community continues unabated. Even in the relatively short period of time since joining the OUNRA Executive, I have seen firsthand the subtle and obvious ways the neighbourhood is reinventing itself. Since this is my final missive as OUNRA President, here are some foolhardy predictions for Old University that you can take to the bank:

1. Democratizing our streets: How we move about the city is undergoing a revolution. We will need to take action so the streets in our neighbourhood welcome all forms of road use. Car-first planning needs to make way for roads with sidewalks, crosswalks, bike paths and fewer barriers for those of pushing a stroller or using a wheelchair. A fresh coat of asphalt on our pock marked street would be a welcome start.
2. Welcoming Commerce: The quality of life in our neighbourhood would doubtlessly be improved by the introduction of a fine watering hole. Although some headway has been made, options for a quick bite or quenching beverage still feel too far removed. An enterprising individual will figure this out.
3. Denser density: The infill and subdivision of existing properties is poised to accelerate. As a neighbourhood and as a city we need to ensure that this happens in a way that respects the character and integrity of the neighbourhood. We also need to ensure that as the City undertakes its bylaw reviews, there is a concerted effort to incorporate urban design standards.
4. OUNRA's voice will grow stronger: In times of change, leadership becomes increasingly important. OUNRA has made great strides to understand the changing nature of our neighbourhood. We are launching new ways of engaging you with the sole purpose of ensuring that we more effectively represent your interests and address your concerns. That is true leadership.

I would encourage you to engage with this organization. Give us your email address so we can keep in touch. Join our Facebook page. Attend a general meeting. Ask for some help. I can say without reservation that there is no finer group of people willing to help.

Scott Butler

Councillors Corner

Since the last OUNRA meeting last fall, we hit the ground running on this new term of Council with the completion of the 2019 budget. There are a few items of interest for the neighbourhood in the budget including funds for a Canada Goose management strategy, new and improved trails, and mental health outreach workers for the downtown area. One percent of the increased budget is specifically set aside for infrastructure, as we try to close the gap on our aging municipal assets such as roads, bridges, parks and buildings, as well as preparing for the inevitable impact of climate change.

We have several significant public engagement opportunities happening over the next few months, most notably the Comprehensive Zoning By-Law

Guelph Potters Market

On **May 25 and 26**, come to the Royal City Park to see and shop at the Guelph Potters Market. This year will mark the 16th year of operation and will feature the works of over 60 potters from across Ontario. Visit the Market's website at guelphpottersmarket.ca for information and more detail regarding the sale.

Review, which regulates how and what you can build on your property. To learn more about this Review, and other initiatives that we'd love to hear your feedback on, visit the website at: www.haveyoursay.guelph.ca.

And speaking of staying in touch, we have launched our new Ward 5 website! We will continue to post about upcoming events and issues, as well as a form so that you can share your feedback with us about the things that matter most to you. Check it out at: www.ward5guelph.ca.

We look forward to hearing your questions and listening to your ideas at the upcoming Spring AGM. Of course, if you can't make it you can always reach out to us at: cathy.downer@guelph.ca or leanne.piper@guelph.ca

Cathy and Leanne

OUNRA

Vision, Mission and Values

VISION:

To live in a vibrant, liveable, 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.

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.

Thank you to all our volunteers who brave the elements to hand-deliver the OUNRA Newsletter to each of the 1500 homes in the Old University Neighbourhood so that all OUNRA members can be kept informed of local issues and the OUNRA's activities to address them. Your efforts are much appreciated!

Herman Vanderkooy
OUNRA Newsletter Distribution

Georgian Housing Style in the Heritage District A Feature of the OUN

A stroll around Old University Neighbourhood always offers a chance to enjoy looking at some of the heritage homes that grace our streets. One 19th century style that you may wish to search out is Georgian. In our neighbourhood there are several charming Georgian cottages to discover. The Georgian style is characterized by restraint and symmetry based on 18th century British examples. The central door often has a transom window above and may have side windows, termed sidelights. The facade is flat, usually with no additional porch; symmetrically placed windows complete the street view. Most Georgian cottages have a hip roof and, originally, tall decorative chimneys although these may be missing now. The floor plan of the house is usually based on a square or rectangle.

The Georgian style presents a sturdy facade reinforced by the choice of building material. In the Old University Neighbourhood these homes are built with the local limestone that was quarried west of our neighbourhood. Guelph's limestone has a magnesium base which has a warmth that other stone buildings lack. You can also look for different types of masonry as you explore our architectural heritage: ashlar cut which features finely dressed (smooth) stones; random or quarry cut which is rougher and tied to the next stones with ribbon pointing; and finally, rubble stone which is not laid in regular courses.

There are excellent examples of the Georgian style at 21 Forbes Avenue, 61 Albert Street and the western end of the McCrae House on Water Street. There are also some other good examples on Albert Street. If you look closely you can also find some two-story Georgian style houses in the OUN. Today, many of these homes have undergone renovations but the original house style remains clearly evident.

Enjoy being an architectural detective on your next neighbourhood walk!

Upcoming Neighbourhood Social Events

In the fall issue of the OUNRA Newsletter, we described some of the social events that had taken place within the OUN during the past summer/fall. We are pleased to be able to say that the folks that organized those events are planning repeats for 2019. For some of them, plans are in the early stages and dates are not yet settled. Look for information from the organizers as the spring turns into summer and summer into fall.

Planning for the **Forest Hill Drive Street Party** is well underway.

Their event is set for Saturday, July 8 from 2pm to 7pm. The theme is not yet defined but there will be the usual potluck food to go with a hot BBQ and fixings. There will be live music with the Das Family Band which puts on a great show ensuring plenty of dancing and clapping in the streets. Look for information on the O.U.R. 3 Bridges and the OUNRA Facebook pages. All who want to come will be welcomed regardless of where they live in the OUN.

Organizers of the **Talbot Street Party** are planning another event for Labour Day, 2019. Keep your eyes open for a leaflet in your letterbox.

In early September there will be another **So Long Summer Wishboat Party** at Royal City Park. As was the case last year, there will be plenty of activities and games, a BBQ at about 6:30 and at sunset the boats will be launched. Again, the O.U.R. 3 Bridges and the OUNRA Facebook pages will carry announcements. All who want to come will be welcomed regardless of where they live in the OUN.

Planning for the annual **Heather Avenue Block Party** for the residents of Heather, Floral, Rodney and Young is in the very early stages and the organizers are looking at dates earlier in the summer than was the case last year. As was the case last year, look for a leaflet in your letterbox.

The reports that filter back from all of these events are very positive. Think about getting something going with your immediate neighbours to get something going on your street.

BECOME A CONTRIBUTING OUNRA MEMBER (A PLEA FOR FINANCIAL HELP)

Under the OUNRA By-Law, everyone who lives in the OUN is a Member of the OUNRA and has full voting privileges. But we encourage members to become Contributing Members by paying an annual Contributing Membership Fee of \$20. The money from these fees is used to print the twice-yearly newsletters and to provide some operating money for the Association. Costs are incurred when we pay for our twice-a-year general meetings, for maintaining our website, for our membership in the Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods of Ontario, and for covering expenses associated with legal and other help involved in appeals to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (which has replaced the OMB).

OUNRA Contributing Membership Form

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____

Yes, I would be willing to help deliver the newsletters in the future.

The annual Contributing Member fee is \$20.00 / year. Payment can be made via:

- ✓ PayPal / Credit Card on our website (ounra.org)
- ✓ Cheque made payable to OUNRA (mail to Lisa Alberico, OUNRA Treasurer, 28 Dean Ave, Guelph, ON, N1G 1K7)
- ✓ Cash at the Annual General Meeting