



GUELPH'S TOWN AND GOWN COMMITTEE

Since its inception several years ago, the Town and Gown Committee (<https://studentlife.uoguelph.ca/community/town-and-gown>) in Guelph has included a representative from the OUNRA. A member of the OUNRA Executive Committee sits at the table with representatives from several City departments, the University, Guelph Police Services and Fire Services. Other neighbourhoods represented are from the Ward and from the more recently created McElderry Community group.

The Town and Gown Committee meets several times each year and develops strategies and policies that enhance and smooth interactions between students and Guelph's neighbourhoods and communities. In association with the Town and Gown Committee, a number of special task forces have been created to focus on particular issues. For example, a task force was created to work out ways to manage popular student events in the downtown where, some years ago, crowds emerging from the many bars in downtown Guelph led to dangerous and troublesome behaviour. As a result of the task force recommendations, the downtown has seen a drop in incidents requiring police intervention.

Since the disaster of Homecoming 2017, the University and the City established a Homecoming working group that involves many of the same players as the Town and Gown Committee including neighbourhood representatives. The remit of this working group is to develop particular strategies for managing the disruptive effects flowing from events like Homecoming and St Patrick's Day. Time will tell if these efforts make a difference but the experience of St Patrick's Day, 2018 was a positive one.

FALL NEWSLETTER 2018

O U N R A G e n e r a l F a l l M e e t i n g : T u e s d a y O c t o b e r 1 6 7 p m

In the Sanctuary, Harcourt Memorial United Church, 87 Dean Ave

Please use the main front doors of the Church

CANDIDATES MEETING FOR MAYOR AND WARD 5 COUNCILLORS

Come and hear from the Mayoral candidates: Cam Guthrie, Aggie Mlynarz; and Ward 5 Council candidates: Cathy Downer, Alex Green, Leanne Piper.

SOCIALIZING IN THE OLD UNIVERSITY NEIGHBOURHOOD

In the years since its incorporation (1991), OUNRA has been primarily concerned with matters of policy and bylaw enforcement as we tried to deal with the conversion of family homes into student houses. In the last 24 months or so, the drift toward what many OUN residents felt was too many student houses seems to have stopped and, in a minor degree, might even be reversing. Our best estimate is that there are now about 225 student houses in the OUN. The price of houses has risen and investors are finding it harder to justify spending their money on income properties in the OUN.

For several years, the OUN community group, O.U.R. 3 Bridges, has focused on the social events for the OUN. At the present time, O.U.R. 3 Bridges exists primarily as a Facebook page where information about events is posted for those signed up for the page.

With the reducing concern over student house conversion in the OUN, the OUNRA Executive is looking for ways to support and encourage social events without encroaching on the work of O.U.R. 3 Bridges. One way to do this is to use the OUNRA Newsletter to tell all 1500 OUN households about some of the major socializing activities put on by residents in the OUN. Our hope is that more parts of the OUN will take up similar activities that will strengthen a sense of community.

continued on page 3

Contact OUNRA

Website:

ounra.wordpress.com

Facebook:

*Old University
Neighbourhood
Association*

Email:

guelphounra@gmail.com

OUNRA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2017-2018

Scott Butler, President	scott@ogra.org
Bruce Ryan, Past President	bryan102@gmail.com
Lisa Alberico, Treasurer	liskaschuster@gmail.com
Sylvia Watson, Secretary	sylviarwatson@gmail.com
Dorothe Fair	dorothefair@gmail.com
Roger Garriock	garriockroger@gmail.com
John Gruzleski	j.gruzleski@sympatico.ca
John Lawson	revjohnlawson@gmail.com
Rick Thompson	rick@dartmanagement.com
John Van Buskirk	jvanbuskirk@royalpage.ca
Herman Vanderkooy	hpvanderkooy@gmail.com

Since 2005, the residents of **Lower Forest Hill Drive** have annually organized a themed street party held in late June. This is a community wide event and all neighbours and residents are encouraged to join the festivities. While it is typically directed toward the neighbourhood children but all ages are encouraged to attend. The organizers obtain a street-closing permit so that activities can safely expand as needed. The theme this past June was science focused and advertised as the *Quantum Hill Fling*. Families were invited to “bring your own science experiment (serious or silly)”. There was an egg dropping competition and experiments with water balloons, among other things. As usual, there was live music. The street residents share the cost of the permit and the food. Look on the O.U.R. 3 Bridges Facebook page for event announcements.

September 3 of this year saw the **9th So Long Summer Wishboat Party** at Royal City Park. Residents on Fairview Cres originally organized it but in recent years it has become open to anyone in the OUN who wants to join in the fun. Those wishing to come are invited to build a Wishboat made of a small piece of natural wood (no plywood or preservatives) or a small bag with sand for ballast and a tea light. The boats and bags are decorated in imaginative ways. Around 6:30 the BBQ meal gets going and food is served in between all sorts of activities including paddling on the river, games and blowing bubbles. At sunset the boats are launched “with wishes for the year to come”. It is all over by about 8:30 pm. Information about the event is announced on the O.U.R. 3 Bridges Facebook page.

In another part of the OUN on August 30th this year, some residents on Heather Ave invited their neighbours, via a flyer dropped in mailboxes, on Floral, Rodney and Young to the first **Annual**

Heather Ave Block Party. It was billed as “a family friendly event with fun for all ages”. It was held on the lawn of one of the houses in the Heather Ave cul-de-sac, which gave more space for games and activities. As with the other events, costs were shared and those attending were invited to bring food.

In yet another event, the residents of **Talbot Street** have marked the beginning of the new Fall Season with a Labour Day BBQ in each of the past 3 years. In the words of one of the residents, “very simple, just hot dogs and hamburgers with a pot-luck of salads and desserts (way more desserts this year!). Simple but a great way for neighbours to connect and get to know each other. This year we met some new neighbours and their kids plus some students as well. Everyone looks forward to the re-connection. A great way to start a new season.” The event is held on the lawn of one of the Talbot street houses.

There are similar events held elsewhere in the OUN and at different times of the year where neighbours gather. Some of these will be family/child focused while others are evening gatherings of neighbours without children. We don't know of them all and space does not permit a longer list. The point is that, while it might be hard to create a social event for all of the 1500 houses in the OUN, there is much that neighbours can do and plan with their more immediate neighbours. We would hope that between OUNRA's Facebook page (Old University Neighbourhood Association) and the O.U.R.3 Bridges Facebook page we can promote even more of these neighbourhood strengthening events in the future.

Thanks to all our volunteers who brave the elements to hand-deliver the thousands of copies of the OUNRA Newsletter so that all our neighbours can be kept informed of local issues and OUNRA's activities to address them. Your efforts are much appreciated! - Herman Vanderkooy

MORE ON DEMOLITION POLICY: WHEN A DEMOLITION IS JUST A RENOVATION

*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.*

In the last issue of the Newsletter we described the City of Guelph's policies regarding building demolitions. The number of demolitions and rebuilds in the OUN continues apace. Just when we thought we understood the process, we learn of a wrinkle in the policy fabric that we also should understand as residents in the OUN.

When a person wishes to replace an older house with a newer one, the usual way to go is to obtain permission to demolish the old house from City Council. But this past summer we became aware of a policy subtlety. We saw a house being 'demolished' On checking the public search website (<https://gpas.guelph.ca/Guelph/sfjsp>), we noticed that a permit had been issued for a renovation (no mention of demolition). What gives, we thought. It turns out that nothing nefarious was going on. It was all perfectly legal and in line with City policies.

If the 'demolition' does not include the removal of the basement/foundation, then the action is deemed a renovation. The applicant does not require permission from City Council to proceed. The matter is all handled routinely at the staff level. The only time non-staff involvement is required is if the application also requires a minor variance from the Committee of Adjustment. If what replaces the old house stays within the limits placed by the Zoning Bylaw, then the replacement house can be larger and more elaborate than the old one.

So, what looks like a demolition may, in fact, not be one at all.

OUNRA CONTRIBUTING MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____ PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

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

Annual contributing membership fee is \$20 per household.
Make cheques payable to OUNRA. Pay at the General Meeting
or mail to Lisa Alberico, 28 Dean Ave, Guelph, ON N1G 1K7.