

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2026

President's Message - Dorothe Fair

Change is inevitable, but so is our ability to adapt and grow stronger because of it. At OUNRA, we believe respect is the cornerstone of that resilience: respect for family, neighbours, property, and democracy.

As one of Canada's oldest incorporated neighbourhood associations (established 1982), OUNRA has consistently advocated for these values in our neighbourhood:

- Fostering respect for everyone
- Supporting the mixed nature of our community, including a healthy environment for families with children
- Protecting our parklands, trails, tree canopy, and property maintenance
- Listening to our neighbours and conveying their concerns to decision-makers

We strive to make our neighbourhood a place that embodies these principles and encourages community engagement. This requires a determined effort to ask questions and obtain transparent, honest, and accountable answers.

Our advocacy includes engaging with City Councillors, City Staff, the Mayor, community leaders, developers, the Chief of Police, University of Guelph decision-makers, and local business leaders — organizations that employ many of our neighbours and fellow Guelph citizens.



Life seems to be accelerating. We are experiencing a period of readjustment - technological systems that change before we can master the previous ones, threats to trade agreements that impact the daily cost of groceries, utilities, and debt management. But change can also be positive. The future workforce is pivoting to skills taught at trade schools and work that AI cannot perform. Hands-on work is simply harder for a robot to replace.

At our AGM on May 11, we'll hear from two experts on changes coming directly to our neighbourhood: a University of Guelph representative on the planned student residences along College Avenue, and a City of Guelph planner on the new Renoviction and Rental bylaws.

Neighbourhood associations like OUNRA are where democracy begins. Even when we can't control change, we can engage, persist, and hold every level of government accountable. Join us & have your say!



OUNRA Annual General Meeting

Monday May 11, 2026 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Harcourt Memorial United Church
87 Dean Avenue, Guelph
ALL WELCOME!

Join OUNRA's AGM to connect with neighbours, review accomplishments, discuss priorities and elect leadership.

Presentations by the University of Guelph on the vision and 40+ year strategy for lands next to the old university area.

City of Guelph on changes to renoviction and rental bylaws, and what the revised bylaw means for homeowners and renters in our area.

Councillors corner with ward 5 city councillors – always a highlight!

We are delighted to welcome the Guelph Male Choir to open our meeting!





First Annual!

Neighbourhood Bike Rodeo

Saturday May 23, 2026 2:00-4:00 PM
Harcourt United Church parking Lot
87 Dean Ave Guelph

- skills course and practice riding
- learn road safety and bike rules
- basic bike checks and maintenance
- helmet checks and fitting
- meet local community police officer



OUNRA presents a free family-friendly bike event for kids and caregivers. All ages welcome - bring your bike and helmet! In Partnership with Guelph Police Services, Guelph Community for Active Transportation (GCAT) and the John McCrae School Council. Follow @BicycleMayorGuelph.org for details.

Come ride with your neighbourhood!



Get involved with OUNRA

Get involved in your neighbourhood and help shape what happens next. Join the executive, attend or volunteer at the AGM, or lend a hand at our upcoming Bike Rodeo! It's a great way to meet neighbours and make a difference.

Be sure to check out our newly refreshed website and follow us on Facebook for all things local, interesting, and happening.

Email us at guelphounra@gmail.com | www.ounra.org | OUNRA Facebook



Finally, become a contributing member: \$20 annual fee, payable at meeting or at ounra.org

A Stroll Through Neighbourhood History

If you are out for a walk in the old university neighbourhood, you will find some interesting history to explore. Take for example the three 19thC homes of master carver, stone mason and architect, Matthew Bell. Bell immigrated to Guelph in 1850 from Newcastle, England. His three homes are in our neighbourhood:

1. 49 Albert St (early 1850s)
This is the first home built by Bell. Notice the carvings above the door of wreaths and lambs' heads.
2. 96-98 Water St (late 1850s)
Bell's second home is know as the "house of heads" as there are eight carved heads on the left facade. The carvings would have advertised Bell's skill as a carver.
3. 40 Albert St (1867-1872)
This is the last home of Bell's: his workshop was in the rear. There are three carved heads found in the central facade of the house.



40 Albert St