



Belltown Neighbours' Association

News

www.belltown.ca
association@belltown.ca

In the News:

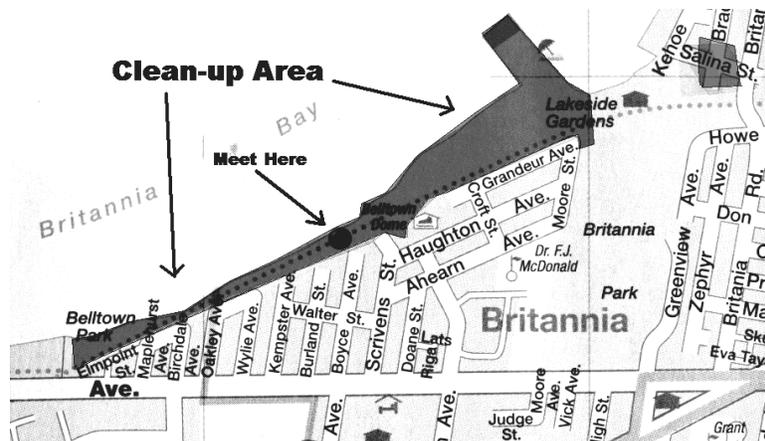
April 2015

- **Spring Clean the Capital Day And Community BBQ!**
- **The Never-Ending Story about the Belltown Floodplain**

Spring Cleaning the Capital in Belltown!

**Saturday April 25, 2015
9 am – 12 noon**

Meet at the Play Structure at the end of Boyce
Garbage bags, rubber gloves, etc. will be provided by the City of Ottawa



Contact: Sinjin at (613) 768-9838 or sinjin@magma.ca
or the BNA at association@belltown.ca

The main objective of this event is to clean up the garbage and debris that accumulates over the winter. Participants are cautioned that City Bylaws and NCC rules do not permit cutting and pruning in the park and on the path without permission.

The BNA will host a BBQ at 12 noon after the Clean Up

Your BNA executive: nosy busybodies or good-hearted volunteers?

FAQ: *Why have a community association?* Hopefully, to monitor events that affect our community (the City, NCC, etc.) and to enable activities that improve our community (Spring Clean-Up, etc.). *And who participates in the community association?* People who are willing to give up some of their time (unpaid) to meet, discuss, and help out.

The Belltown Neighbours Association executive is a small group of 6 people (*room for more!*) elected at a community meeting yearly (yes, we have a constitution). Issues we have been dealing with include the Ottawa River floodplain, infill development policy, speeding on our streets, parking issues around Belltown Dome, use of salt on our streets & run-off to the river, community mailboxes, neighbourhood watch, crime in our area, and more.

To find out more, please check out our web site at www.belltown.ca; or contact us at association@belltown.ca.

Interested in helping organize a
Belltown community event?

Send us an e-mail at association@belltown.ca.

Community mailboxes coming to K2H portion of Belltown

Canada Post's march to replace home mail delivery with community mailboxes has hit Belltown—at least that section within K2H (the rest of us are in K2B). These are the homes on **Maplehurst** and **Birchdale Ave**. They will be seeing their home mail delivery replaced by a community mailbox, expected by the end of this year.

However, experiences on Canada Post's community consultations are not encouraging, so the BNA will be contacting residents on Maplehurst & Birchdale with our own survey to determine the best location—stay tuned!

The Never-Ending Story about the Belltown Floodplain

As folks know, some 80 homes in Belltown are located on the 100-year Ottawa River floodplain, as set by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA). These homes face restrictions for renovations as a result.

Belltown has been exposed to flooding from the Ottawa River in the past, most notably in 1991. Every spring the City puts sandbags at the outlet under the bike path near Maplehurst to prevent flooding.

Last year the RVCA undertook to re-map the 100-year floodplain for both Belltown and Britannia—this has now been completed and is available at the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority web site (www.rvca.ca). The changes to the previous mapping were minor.

The BNA has been exploring what remediation measures could be undertaken to reduce some of the restrictions imposed on homes on the 100-year floodplain. In nearby Britannia the City and the RVCA are building a berm at a cost of \$1.2 million to protect 90 homes there on the 100-year floodplain (these homes are also contributing towards the cost of this berm). Could that model work here?

An initial cost estimate for a berm here in Belltown is \$6 million(!), following the bike path. The bike path itself is a former railway bed with rock ballast built on sand: it is too permeable to qualify as flood protection. Another approach is have these homes designated as flood fringe, which reduces somewhat the restrictions they face. However, this requires a study, including ensuring safe access/egress on the streets during the 100-year flood, and that requires water levels to be less than 0.3 metres of water during flooding. Unfortunately most streets butting the bike path would have water above that during the 100-year flood. Five years ago Britannia Rd. was raised to meet this standard but the City has no plans to do this in Belltown.

So, the story continues. The BNA will keep you updated.

Emerald Ash Borer & Tree Removal

Due to the infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer, many Ash trees are being cut down (marked with red "x"s) - there are a limited number of Ash trees being treated with a natural insecticide, marked with green dots. All trees cut down will be replaced by the City by another tree in the same spot or a spot very close by. There is no need to request a new tree if one has been removed on your property because the plans for replacement will already be in process.

The City says you can expect as much as a seven to 10 month turnaround before a new tree is planted, for two reasons: (1) it is simply faster to remove the dying trees than to plant new ones; (2) there are times in the year that are better suited to planting (i.e. spring and fall).

For more information about the City's Emerald Ash Borer strategy or tree removal program please go to www.ottawa.ca, or e-mail 311@ottawa.ca, or call 3-1-1.