



Belltown Neighbours' Association

News

www.belltown.ca
association@belltown.ca

In the News:

November 2013

- BNA Annual General Meeting
- Belltown Floodplain Mapping
- Britannia Project proceeding
- Carling Ave. Improvement

NOTICE of the Annual General Meeting

**of the Belltown
Neighbours' Association**
Thursday Nov. 28 at 7 pm

in the Atrium at the
**Ron Kolbus-Lakeside
Centre**

102 Greenview Ave.

AGENDA

1. Reports on Activities
2. Election of Executive

*President, Vice-President, Secretary,
Treasurer, up to 5 Directors*

*(for more information contact Jerome Nantel
at 613 366-7844 or e-mail association@belltown.ca)*

3. Discussion on Community
Priorities
4. **Draw for 4 free movie tickets!**

Thank you!

***To the over 20 men, women and children
who participated in last October 's Fall-
Clean-The-Capital clean-up in Belltown***

Belltown Floodplain Mapping Project

As folks may 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.

Your BNA Executive has been discussing the ramifications of the floodplain policy with the RVCA and possible solutions that could provide some relief from the regulations. As a result the RVCA has undertaken to re-map the 100-year floodplain for both Belltown and Britannia—this is expected to be completed by January. The BNA will host a public meeting to review the results when they become available.

Britannia Floodcontrol Project proceeding

Last October 23, 2013 a meeting was held by the City of Ottawa & the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) to bring Britannia Village residents up-to-date on the status of their floodcontrol project. Some 90 homes there are on the Ottawa River 100-year floodplain, and in 2006 the majority of affected homeowners agreed to a \$390,000 cost-shared floodcontrol project (shared 50-50 with the City) through a special 10-year levy, to construct a 1 to 3 foot berm for flood protection.

Issues with obtaining easements and berm design delayed the project, leading to higher costs. However the residents share of the costs were capped at 2006 levels, with the City assuming all the cost increases. The project is now expected to cost \$1.1 million and is expected to be completed in 2014.

Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre Renovation Project Update:

The Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre (RKLC), located in Britannia Park, was built in the 1950's and many of its components are coming to the end of their lifecycle. As a result last year the City of Ottawa conducted public consultations on how to renovate the RKLC—what services and facilities it should provide, not only for our community and surrounding neighbourhoods, but as a City-wide facility.

A public meeting on a first draft plan was held last June 2012. While community reaction was favourable to the notion of renovating the RKLC, concerns were raised about the impact of some of the proposals i.e. loss of trees to make way for a new parking lot, the possible loss of the stage facility. City staff undertook to re-draft the plans and bring revised plans back in 2013, but that hasn't happened yet.

In the meantime a group of area residents has formed the **Friends of the Ron Kolbus-Lakeside Centre** to monitor developments here. For more information on this contact Matilde Hahn at matilde.hahn@gmail.com.

Carling Ave. Community Improvement Plan a go

Recently Ottawa City Council adopted the Carling Avenue Community Improvement Plan (CIP) in order to stimulate business investment, urban renewal and property upgrades along the stretch of Carling Avenue from Grenon Avenue to Bayshore Drive.

The CIP provides incentives for property owners to encourage investment in redevelopment of lands and/or buildings that are underutilized, idle, or in need of repair or renovation. Besides promoting urban renewal through property improvements, the program is expected to generate new commercial activity in the area.

For eligible projects, the CIP offers *Tax Incentive Equivalent Grants* (TIEG), which are based on the value of the increased property taxes from higher values as a result of the property improvement through redevelopment. After property taxes are paid, the City then reimburses 75% of the increment, for a period of 10 years. The CIP, however, does not apply to greenfield development.

For more information about this program, please go to www.ottawa.ca.

A letter from our City Councillor, Mark Taylor

We asked Bay Ward Councillor Mark Taylor to provide for us an update on on-going projects in and around Belltown, and he was happy to provide to us details on several projects that we have covered in this newsletter. Unfortunately, however, his letter didn't fit our 2-page newsletter, but you can read it on our web site at:

www.belltown.ca/files/MTaylorLtrNov2013.pdf

ASK NOT WHAT YOUR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION CAN DO FOR YOU, ASK WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR COMMUNITY!

The Belltown Neighbourhood Association is under a new direction—to inform and serve the community. To be effective, though, requires input and participation by people living here. We are interested (and hope you are) in making progress on these issues: neighbourhood security and good neighbour relations; the future and use of the Belltown Dome; the floodplain along the Ottawa River and how it affects us; understanding the City and NCC rules on the Views & Vistas along the bikepath; economic development on Carling Avenue; traffic and parking.

If you are interested in participating in any of these activities, please drop us a line! E-mail us at association@belltown.ca.

And get your news by e-mail by joining our Google Group! Send us an e-mail to belltown+subscribe@googlegroups.com.