



Belltown Neighbours' Association

NEWS

www.belltown.ca
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In the News:

November 2012

- BNA Annual General Meeting
- Renovation Plans for RKLC
- Belltown & the 100-year flood
- Britannia Peeps

NOTICE **of the Annual** **General Meeting** **of the Belltown** **Neighbours' Association** **Thursday Nov. 15 at 7 pm** **in the library at** **Dr. FJ McDonald School** **2860 Ahearn Ave.**

AGENDA

1. Reports on Activities
2. Adoption of Constitution
(for details please go to <http://goo.gl/foQEJ>)
3. 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)
4. Presentation by Larry Hill
Chair of the Board of the Britannia Woods Community House
5. Community Priorities

Belltown and the 100-year flood plain — time for community action?

In the May 2012 edition of the **BNA NEWS** there was a discussion entitled *26 Burland, the OMB and Floodplains*, where a vacant lot at 26 Burland Street was denied by the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) the ability to have a home built on it due to its location on the Ottawa River's 100-year floodplain—an area regulated by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) in accordance with provincial policies and city zoning.

This is not an isolated issue as some 80 homes in Belltown are located on the 100-year floodplain. These homes face restrictions in terms of renovations or rebuilding as a result. For example, for a half-a-dozen cottages on the floodplain, it means no major additions or a second story.

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, but this is not considered a permanent solution sufficient to permit changes in the floodplain regulations for Belltown.

As a result your interim BNA Executive has been discussing the ramifications of the floodplain policy with the RVCA and possible solutions that could provide some relief from the floodplain regulations.

Thank you!

To the over 20 men, women and children who participated in last October 13's Fall-Clean-The-Capital clean-up in Belltown

A public meeting with the RVCA is being organized to review the floodplain policies, its ramifications, and possible next steps—please watch for the notice! And see page 2 to see how you can find out if you are on the floodplain.

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 the City of Ottawa has been conducting 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.

Last June 26 Bay Ward Councillor Mark Taylor held a public meeting at the RKLC on possible plans for the new RKLC—a full second story, exercise rooms, the possibility of an outdoor rink, re-located parking lot, etc. This initial plan can be seen at: <http://www.baywardlive.ca/issues/bay-ward-issues/building-a-new-recreation-centre-in-bay-ward/>.

While community re-action was favourable to the notion of renovating the RKLC, there were concerns raised about the loss of trees to make way for a new parking lot and the loss of the stage facility. City staff undertook to re-draft the plans and bring revised plans back for the public early in 2013. **Stay tuned!**

Britannia Peeps—where the cool neighbours hang out!

We're not saying that you are not cool if you don't know about www.britanniapeeps.com. But, thanks to this new web site created by some very dedicated neighbours, we are in the process of discovering many interesting things about our extended neighbourhood and neighbours.

Did you know that many neighbours run businesses and would love to provide their services to their neighbours? Did you know that people are discussing the proposed changes to the Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre and the renovations at Bayshore Shopping Centre? Did you know people are keeping an eye out for people lurking for unlocked cars and notifying police of issues?

You can find out this and much more at this new site. The site already has 115 members and the owners are working hard to promote the site in the community. Some local businesses are already on board as sponsors and are offering deals to members.

This web site requires registration (*it's easy!*) to make sure conversations remain private for members only. This is a great forum to stay abreast with what is happening in our community.

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.

Is my home on the 100-year floodplain?

The best way to answer this question is to contact the Landowner Resources Centre at the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority directly, at www.lrconline.com, or phone 613 692-3571.

People can also use the City of Ottawa maps to get an idea of the floodplain area—go to apps104.ottawa.ca/emap and on the left side of the map are features people can click on and bring into the map. Click on “air photos 2011” and “Zoning By-law” - the blue-hatched area is the floodplain. People can also search for their address, too.