



To promote the exchange of information on issues that impact the quality of life in our neighbourhood, broader community and the Town of Oakville, with a particular focus on preserving and protecting our history, streetscapes, natural environment, heritage districts and homes.

# OLRA Fall Newsletter

Oakville Lakeside Residents' Association

Fall 2022

## Garden Party

by Geoff Godard

### Finally, a long-standing tradition reinstated

The OLRA held its annual garden party, June 18, on a perfect late spring day, at the new Coach House. It was a welcome return to a longstanding tradition dating back to the founding of our association in the 1960s.

This very informal event is usually held in a member's garden. There has never been an agenda. It's always been an opportunity to meet and mingle with fellow members and neighbours, and perhaps meet and talk to members of the OLRA board and maybe give them feedback.

This year, after a hiatus of two years, and with the Coach House having just been formally opened, we thought it would be an interesting venue for several reasons.

The most important was the opportunity to throw off the restrictions of the past months and have a relaxed party for us all, in person, without masks! Another was to see how the Coach House functioned as a venue for such gatherings. Finally, we wanted residents to see the end result of the renovation in all its glory. And glorious it is. The meticulous renovation has returned it to perhaps a higher standard than when it was first constructed in the 1890s.

Tickets sold out very quickly and the ambience was wonderful. Just as at the AGM in May, many guests had

not seen one another for going on two years. A good time was had by all.

We also learned things about hosting an event at a Town-owned property. There are regulations, limitations and costs beyond the usual food and beverages we supply ourselves.

We received a 50% discount for the facility rental as a non-profit organization. However, the room and courtyard capacity is limited to 80, meaning we could not sell enough tickets to cover these expenses at a price that made sense. There were other expenses and regulatory requirements, such as an AGCO permit, Smart Serve certified servers, insurance and the

*continued...*



Garden Party continued...

mandatory paid presence of a Town functionary.

So, we lost money when normally ticket sales modestly cover the cost of refreshments. Accordingly, in our post mortem, we determined to revert next year to our traditional methodology, which it is to hold the get-together in the garden of one of our generous members, as has previously always been the case.

Following is a photo essay of this nevertheless delightful gathering of friends and neighbours.

Any volunteers for June 2023? Let us know. We would certainly appreciate it.



**OLRA  
Garden Party  
The Coach House  
June 2022**

## 2021 Annual General Meeting

by Geoff Godard

### Old Acquaintances, Not Forgotten

The Oakville Lakeside Residents' Association held its annual general meeting for the year ended December 31 on Wednesday, May 11. The cold that persisted through early May had ended the day before, when for the first time this year the high was over 20C. It reached 24C Wednesday afternoon. Many, if not most attendees, walked to the meeting at the Oakville Club in the lingering warmth.

The business conducted that evening is summarized well in the minutes, now posted to the OLRA website. This report will review highlights that did not necessarily make it into the minutes.

What made it most notable of course was that it was our first "in person" meeting since 2019. We counted about 55 attendees in person. There were another 17 via Zoom. This total is about what we experienced pre-Covid. It was gratifying to see so many residents back, and in person.

It was a "hybrid" meeting, using Zoom to satisfy concerns of those who for various reasons found it prudent not to attend in person with so many people gathered together.

Through board member Hazel Cole, we engaged the services of AV Strategies, the largest privately owned national audio-visual company in Canada, to manage the audio/visual part of the meeting and the Zoom links. It was flawless. Our thanks to Adam Hughes and his team.

The meeting was guided by Chris Corderre, formerly our Treasurer, in his usual efficient manner.

George Niblock spoke on the Liveable Oakville plan. Adrienne Gordon, Executive Director of the Oakville Downtown BIA, told us the BIA had welcomed over 50

new businesses since the end of the disruptions caused by COVID and reconstruction. Anita Mackey led us through much-needed bylaw changes (later approved and posted on our website.) The Treasurer's report was presented and approved. We are in good financial shape.



An important presentation was made by Catherine Hurley and Jane Hawkrigg on our Heritage Subcommittee, created to support the Town's recently announced plan to update the 1981 Old Oakville Conservation Plan. Further developments are reported elsewhere in this issue.

Intermission was followed by a panel mainly comprised of Mayor Burton and our Ward 3 councillors, Dave Gittings and Janet Haslett-Thiel. They answered a number of questions, including some that hadn't even been asked!

Mayor Burton, in his usual garrulous fashion, made some interesting and welcome announcements. The most significant was that the 2013 plans for a Downtown Cultural Hub had been "dusted off" and that planning had commenced.

And indeed, in September, Council directed staff to begin capital planning for 2023 and to plan for cultural facilities distributed throughout the downtown area. Key components include a new library, gallery and performing arts centre, as well as major open space areas including a Navy Street Plaza and a new Riverfront Park. More detail is on the Town website Downtown Cultural Hub Update (oakville.ca).

The Hub will not be funded by taxpayers' dollars, rather from dividends paid by Oakville Enterprise Corporation, our Town-owned holding company that owns Oakville Hydro and other profitable enterprises.

Some components of the Hub should be completed



by 2027, the first step in creating what Mayor Burton termed a “Dream Downtown.” We can hardly wait.

In response to a question about the Town Square clock, Mayor Burton assured us it had been lovingly



refurbished and was in storage waiting for installation. And indeed, this centrepiece of Town Square has been chiming the hours since late May. He went on to announce the Town Square renovation is in the 2023 budget.

We also learned the TOWARF building will be replaced in the next few years. Intriguingly, Mayor Burton let it be known he would be open to a seasonal refreshment stand as part of the new structure. His tagline was “Worth the Walk!” reflecting that most downtown parking is above Lakeshore. Someone suggested an alternative, “Beer by the Pier.” We see some hurdles, but the concept is nothing if not interesting.

When the meeting adjourned, members lingered, enjoying interacting in person with fellow members, for many the first time in almost 2 ½ years. And those walking home after were treated to a refreshing spring breeze and the sight of an almost full moon shimmering over the lake. Maybe our best AGM ever.



## OLRA Street Captains

by Trish McTavish

In an effort to increase our membership, profile with the Town and to maintain an accurate database of our members, the OLRA is looking for volunteers to be “Street Captains” for their street (or area). The Street Captain’s role is quite simple and not time-consuming: just keep the OLRA updated on new families moving onto your street (or into your area) so that we can welcome them and invite them to join and participate in the OLRA.

If you are interested in becoming an OLRA Street Captain for your street, please contact:

Trish McTavish

[olramembership@gmail.com](mailto:olramembership@gmail.com)

## Downtown Cultural Hub Update

by George Niblock

Following receipt of the Downtown Oakville Cultural Hub work-plan, Council directed staff to begin capital planning in 2023 and to plan for cultural facilities in downtown Oakville. The project still requires budget approval. The Downtown Cultural Hub will include a new library, art gallery and performing arts centre as well as open space areas including a Navy Street plaza and a new riverfront park. The plan is to spread the facilities among the old post office site and the current Library/Gallery/Performing Arts Centre. Apparently, this model will help manage the staging of construction, minimizing construction disruption to the greatest extent possible. A detailed parking needs study will also be required at an early stage to determine future parking needs and how to effectively use municipally-owned parking facilities.

## Pizzeria 4 Stelle

by Geoff Godard

### A stellar pizza experience

Have you wondered why there was a piano in the new Pizza restaurant on the Lakeshore? Read this article, our third highlighting a downtown business, and you will find out.

Pizzeria 4 Stelle, on the north side of Lakeshore just past Lululemon, opened in February 2021. It was downtown’s first new pizza restaurant since Pizzaiola opened almost 10 years ago. The owners, the Kaci family, are recent immigrants from Albania. Their story is intriguing.

Albanian pizza? Not so far-fetched. Albania, which straddles the Adriatic and Ionian Seas, is less than 50 miles east of the heel of the boot of Italy. The Kaci family had, in 2010, established a successful Italian restaurant of the same name in Shkodër, a city that can trace its origins back to the Bronze Age. It was a secondary business, the main one being a successful car rental service established by Mr. Kaci Senior.

Pizzeria 4 Stelle refers not just to the quality of the food, but is also a nod to the Kaci’s four children.

Although successful in Albania, relatives who had emigrated to Canada were beckoning the family to Canada. When a daughter, who had captured attention playing for the Albanian National Basketball Team, was offered a scholarship at a basketball academy in Canada, the lure became more compelling. A son had already succumbed and was enrolled at Ryerson University (now called Toronto Metropolitan University) in engineering. The other son, the youngest, had also gained attention as having an exceptional talent on the piano. Taught first by Alexander Jakova, a noted Albanian pianist and teacher, he was offered further tutoring here in Canada. The lure of Canada was by then irresistible. Mr. Kaci sold both businesses and the whole family was reunited in Canada in 2020.

The family was very well grounded in restaurant operations and management, but above all, knew how to create great food and excellent pizzas. These skills easily transferred to Oakville. When 4 Stelle opened, it was staffed by family. Mrs. Kaci is the chef. Mr. Kaci and Kleidio focus on the business side and operations (Mr. Kaci has a degree in mechanical engineering). The whole family pitches in, helping in whatever capacity is needed; even young Kevin, who delights customers by

practicing on the piano.

The restaurant was immediately successful despite the Covid headwinds. Additional servers have been hired. This summer, an outdoor patio on Lakeshore opened and the tables were mostly full, which speaks to the quality of the food.

For this winter, indoor seating capacity has been added and a sit-down bar installed. Plans are being made for a second location, maybe in Port Credit. After that? The sky appears to be the limit for this accomplished family.



## Dinner Jazz in the Town Square

by George Niblock

The John Canham Jazz Band delighted our residents every Friday night this summer in the Town Square. John, an ex-urban planner and musician, has a love for downtown Oakville and in particular for the Town Square. He is keen to maintain the small town character of the square when the revitalization eventually happens (no word on timing yet). John successfully raised funds to pay the Dinner Jazz band members with sponsors Niblock Real Estate, Mayor Burton and Councillors Dave Gittings and Janet Haslett-Theall. Looking forward to more in the summer of 2023!

## Walkabout

by Geoff Godard

### A report on the OLRA Heritage Working Group's activities to date and the current status of the project by the Town to update the 1981 Old Oakville Heritage Conservation Plan (HCP)

#### Background

In our spring 2022 newsletter, we reported on the work plan developed by our Heritage Working Group, following the Town's announcement last fall, that the HCP required updating to ensure it complies with current heritage "best practices" and incorporates the latest revisions to Ontario's Heritage Act.

The Working Group had identified opportunities for input to this project. Generally, the focus is on the area's overall character, which will be supported by a block analysis, a review and update of built inventory (shared with property owners for additional input), a review of land use, streetscapes and natural heritage.

We expect to provide guidance and advice as the Town's process unfolds. The block analysis is underway, and an initial draft is complete. It draws on the 1981 plan, the Group's own walkabouts, together with input from the Oakville Historical Society and the archivists at St. Andrews and St. Jude's Churches.

#### Recent Developments

As many know, the Ontario government has issued a discussion paper calling for increased densification in municipalities, and suggested that current zoning and other bylaws designed to protect heritage areas like ours against densification may be overridden. Details available online: <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-6196>

This increases the importance of the project. It will provide the Town Planning Department with current information on the cultural significance for the Town of Oakville of preserving the character and appearance of this very important part of its and the province's early history.



Our input is important. After all, we live here. We know our neighbourhood better than anyone. We are the ones impacted by change, whether for the better or otherwise. In other words, we have a lot of skin in this game.

#### Guided Tour

Susan Schappert, manager of the HCD project for the Town, organized a walking tour for us to show the results of our work to date to members of the Town Planning Department and representatives of the Town's heritage consultant, Archaeological Research Associates Ltd. We were joined by our Ward 3 councillors.

The tour took place the morning of October 3, a beautiful cool, sunlit early fall day. Catherine Hurley, chair of the Group, led the tour, identifying areas of importance. Amplified variously by Jane Hawkrigg, George Niblock and Anita Mackey, they included

streetscapes, setbacks, views, rooflines, and garage placements. They pointed out homes that were largely or completely new build that conform to this character, as well as the occasional one that in our view doesn't and explained why.

The tour commenced in the parking lot at Erchless Estate, proceeded north on Navy to William, east to St. Andrews Church, south on Reynolds, west

on King to Dunn, south to Front, west to Navy, ending at the newly renovated Coach House for a Q&A.

The tour was designed as a reminder to the politicians (as if they needed reminding!) and show the consultants the character of the area they will be analyzing.

For the politicians who continue to support the current HCD, this was old news. But for the new faces, the abstract of their engagement was made real. Conversations and their responses to what we highlighted made it clear they completely understood what they heard and were shown.

The Q&A in the Coach House was productive and useful to all parties, judging by the quality of the conversation.

A necessary step in this collaborative process, we came away from this exercise very pleased with the outcome and look forward to the next steps, which will be posted on our website as they happen and then summarized in

## Heritage Information on the OLRA Website

by Catherine Hurley

Established in 1981, the Old Oakville Heritage Conservation District is Oakville's first heritage district and one of the first in Ontario. The District, which sits within our OLRA catchment extends south of Robinson Street to the lake and Sixteen Mile Creek on the west to Allan Street on the east.

It is recognized by residents and visitors alike as having significant and distinct cultural heritage value given the area's historical association with the founding of Oakville and its subsequent evolution into a small and prosperous town. The collective character of the area is defined by the combination of its historical context, its pattern of development, built architecture, streetscape, topography and other natural features.

OLRA played a significant leadership role in the creation of the 1981 plan and is now working actively with the Town as a key stakeholder to update the District Plan. Your input and involvement is imperative. To support communications and engagement across our OLRA members, we have recently published new pages at [oakvilleira.ca/heritage](http://oakvilleira.ca/heritage). We invite you to review the information posted and reach out to [olraheritage@gmail.com](mailto:olraheritage@gmail.com) with your input and questions.

our Spring 2023 newsletter

Our group of volunteers is comprised of knowledgeable, interested and well qualified individuals who live in our HCD. However the work, organization and commitment of this committee is ongoing and more assistance is welcome. Anyone who would like to contribute and be part of this team in any capacity should contact the OLRA through its email address, [olraheritage@gmail.com](mailto:olraheritage@gmail.com).

### Honouring the Land and Territories

As we work to support the development of a new Heritage District Plan we are reminded that our homes reside on treaty land. November 6-12 is Treaties Recognition Week. You can find out more about Oakville's plans here: <https://www.oakville.ca/culturerec/indigenous-community.html>.

We recognize that Oakville, as we know it today, is rich in the history and modern traditions of many First Nations and the Métis. From the lands of the Anishinabe to the Attawandaron, the Haudenosaunee, and the Métis, these lands surrounding the Great Lakes are steeped in First Nations history. Our neighborhood is within the sacred lands of Treaties 14 & 22. We are in solidarity with Indigenous brothers and sisters to honour and respect the four directions, lands, waters, plants, animals and ancestors that walked before us, and all of the wonderful elements of creation that existancestors that walked before us.

### Take Action for Heritage

by Jane Hawkrigg

Heritage matters and your input is important. Our Heritage Working Group has completed a block analysis, which identifies some of the key elements of character for the area –read it and offer your input. Our built inventory analysis begins to tell the story of each individual property. We encourage your involvement. Start by reading the new information on [Oakvilleira.ca/heritage](http://Oakvilleira.ca/heritage).



## Our Good Samaritan

by Geoff Godard

Cleanup Day. Usually in spring. A community of civic-minded people is organized, or self organizes, to clean our parks and byways of litter accumulated in the winter months, hidden under snowdrifts or frozen to the ground until the warmth of spring reveals and releases all.

What about the rest of the year? The Town of Oakville Parks and Open Spaces crews empty the many bins along our main streets and parks at least weekly and more often if there is a need, and they police our area generally for litter. Along Robinson, an early sign of spring is the noisy return of the street sweeper Friday mornings before dawn.

Our neighbourhood is well served by Town services, by volunteers organizing to augment that work, and



generally by the diligence and respect we all have for the appearance of our streets and open spaces.

But some things slip through the cracks. Ever wonder what happens on a day-to-day basis? Cigarette butts (still!) are thrown onto the ground. The occasional Tim Horton cup and lid don't make it to a bin, along with McDonald's wrappers and the like between the organized cleanups. And more.

We don't see that much litter in our neighbourhood. Ever wonder why?

Peter is a large part of the reason. He lives on Robinson near the constituency office of our Minister of Defense. He is a warm, friendly, engaging (and engaged) individual. With a distinctive stooped frame every morning he patrols the area south of Lakeshore to the lake, from TOWARF to Allen, armed with a litter grabber and a bag. He seeks the stuff that didn't make it to a nearby bin.

The OLRA board and many of our members have long been aware of Peter's quiet contribution to the beauty of our community. We thought this quiet contribution should be better known.

A bit like the old lamplighter of long, long ago who made the nights a little brighter, he sets out most mornings early, and makes our streets a little cleaner. He finds the stuff that the Town people would find during their patrols. But sooner.

Why does he do this? "I have always been interested in our environment. I realized long ago I can't really make any meaningful changes to global warming, plastics in the ocean, carbon emissions, that sort of thing. But I can make a difference. This is how I do it. I enjoy it a lot."

What does he find? "An amazing number of cigarette butts. Down by the lake there are certain benches that attract smokers. Most days I find at least 100, sometimes 150 spent filters."

What else? "The usual detritus of civilization. Coffee cups, food wrappings, half eaten hamburgers, sandwiches. But

sometimes there are things that have been misplaced. Valuable things."

Like what? "Once I came across a sealed envelope with no name on it. I opened it and found \$1,300 cash in it. Another time I found one with two cheques and cash that totalled around \$10,000."

What then? "I turn all that stuff over to the police to find an owner. And, usually they do. The two envelopes found their rightful homes. And very grateful they were!"

What else? "Oh gee whiz! Rings, wallets, books.

You name it. And most of the time they end up reunited with their owners, thanks to our police."

What do you do when snow covers the ground and most of us are at home in front of a cozy fire? "Well, I help keep the driveways and sidewalks at Knox Presbyterian Church down the street from me cleared of snow and ice. With other members of our congregation, of course."

What are your rewards? "Well, to be frank, my reward is a bit selfish. I like seeing our community waken. I feel the promise each new day offers whatever the weather. Sunrises in spring and fall. The early morning chorus of birds in spring. Especially the sound of the waves. Who really needs anything more than that?"

Indeed. Thank you, Peter!

## Lakeside Path

by George Niblock

Lakeside Path between Dunn Street and Reynolds Street will be undergoing an upgrade to include new smooth paving, a less steep pathway at the bottom of Trafalgar Road, as well as easier access to benches. Next year in phase 2, improvements to the path section will be undertaken between Trafalgar Road and Reynolds Street, with some protective railings where there are fall hazards. We are told there will be no lighting added and the park will continue to close at regular hours. There will also be updated signage and a pedestrian only access barrier at Dunn Street.



## Local Dog Sees off Coyotes!

by Hazel Cole

Board member Gail Kaufman can be seen everyday walking her Golden Retriever along the streets of Old Oakville. Boone, as people who know him can attest, is not exactly known as a high energy dog. In fact, he is more likely to be seen sitting on the sidewalk refusing to budge unless lured forward with a treat. However, recently his mistress saw a very different side of her canine friend. Suddenly alerted by the presence of wildlife intruders and taking advantage of a moment of inattention on the part of his mistress, he yanked his leash out of Gail's hand and was off chasing two coyotes down William Street with all the energy he could muster.

The photograph – apologies for the poor quality – was taken when all three animals decided to take a breather before continuing down the street. Boone was only stopped when he reached #307, his normal port of call, where Gail managed to corral him. What's the betting that he collapsed onto the sidewalk a few minutes later after his monumental effort of ridding our neighbourhood of interlopers? But, as Gail points out, better two coyotes than one skunk!

Note: This article was written in a light-hearted fashion. Encounters with coyotes should, however, be treated with respect and caution, especially if you have a small dog. To learn more about Coyote Management Practices visit the Oakville Townhall site at <https://www.oakville.ca/townhall/coyote-education-and-response-procedure.html>

# Oakville Downtown

## Business Improvement Association Update

### Holiday Happy Hour

Holiday Happy hour returns, this year running the first 3 Saturdays in December from 3pm to 7pm. Once again this will feature music at 3 spots along Lakeshore. Santa will also be on hand to visit along the street and in his new cottage in Centennial Square (Navy/Lakeshore).

### Light up the Night

Hometown Holiday will official kickoff on 18th November with Oakville's traditional magical holiday lighting displays. To celebrate, a concert will be held in Towne Square starring the CW Caroler Champions The Sugar Plums. Performances will take place on the half hour from 5 pm to 9pm.

### Christmas Eve "Carols in the Square"

A free family event, hosted by Chartwell Church – Saturday, December 24, 2022

Some of you may recall the annual "Christmas Carols in the Square" event, hosted by Chartwell Baptist Church (located on Chartwell Road), which first took place in 2016 and continued through to 2019. It was obviously cancelled during the pandemic. We are pleased to see it coming back this year (more information coming) – if you have any questions, please contact our neighbour Caroline Glasbey at [scglasbey@sympatico.ca](mailto:scglasbey@sympatico.ca). As in previous years, this is an opportunity to come out and sing some holiday songs and Christmas carols and enjoy a hot beverage and treat.



Photo above taken by Caroline Glasbey in 2017 – a little "Charles Dickens-ish!"

### Santa Claus Parade

Mark this in your calendar. This year's Santa Clause parade will take place at 9am on 19th November. For more information, visit: <https://www.oakvillesantaclausparade.ca/index.html>

### Digital Signage

Have you noticed the new digital signage in Downtown Oakville? Do you want to learn more about the project? Read the BIA blog at <https://www.oakvilledowntown.com/post/5-tips-for-easy-parking-in-downtown-oakville>

### Farmer's Market

Do you miss the Saturday morning market which came to an untimely end with the construction works on the Lakeshore? The OLRA board members certainly do. It was a great meeting place for neighbours during the Summer and Fall months. With the permanent closure of Herridges Fresh Farm Market on Southdown Road at Christmas, we feel it will be missed even more. Send me an email to share your opinions and, possibly, ideas on the subject. [hazel.coleegan@gmail.com](mailto:hazel.coleegan@gmail.com)

### Art in My Garden

by George Niblock

The second annual Art in My Garden was a huge success. Many thanks to all who participated in the organization, volunteers, the artists, the homeowners, and the sponsors. The annual, collaborative, one-day art exhibition in the gardens of historic Oakville was held on a beautiful Saturday, September 10th, 2022. Oakville artist, Rachel Williams, came up with the idea for an art show with a difference in the Spring of 2021. As an emerging artist, she wanted to find ways to connect with new people and didn't want to do it alone. She decided to create an opportunity for Oakville-based artists to share their work as a gift: a non-transactional experience to simply enjoy art, create a sense of community, and to celebrate and share the joy of creativity with everyone in an immersive and relaxed way. This year's event was filled with fabulous creations of artists of diverse backgrounds and age groups. We look forward to this as an annual tradition.



# Join the OLRA or Renew

## Membership Information

The Oakville Lakeside Residents' Association is a volunteer non-profit organization. Since 1966, we have been a strong voice for our neighbourhood on issues that impact our community. We are committed to keeping our members informed on what is happening in our neighbourhood and our Town.

We engage our members via: oakvilleira.ca, email, Facebook, newsletters, blogs, meetings, and neighbourhood events.

## JOIN or RENEW TODAY!

The membership fee is \$25 a year (May 01 - April 30) per household or \$40 for two years.

We offer two ways to pay:

**1 Cheque:** Please mail your name, street address, phone number and email along with a cheque payable to "Oakville Lakeside Residents' Association" to:

338 Lakeshore Rd E

P.O. Box 69585,

Oakville, ON

L6J 1G0

**2 INTERAC e-Transfer:** Please send an e-Transfer through your online banking to: [olramembership@gmail.com](mailto:olramembership@gmail.com) - ALSO email us your name, street address and phone number.

**Our success depends on a broad base of support in a well-informed community!**

## Gratitude and appreciation to the following people who contributed to this edition of the OLRA newsletter:

**Authors:** George Niblock, Geoff Godard, Amanda Holden, Jane Hawkrigg, Catherine Hurley, Oakville BIA, Hazel Cole,

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