

Westboro Beach COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

February 2009

www.westborobeach.org

It has been quite some time since we last distributed a Westboro Beach Community Association (WBCA) newsletter, however we have not been idle. Please continue to check our website: www.westborobeach.org to keep up-to-date with what is happening in the community. We appreciate the comments, suggestions and questions we receive through the website, in particular suggestions accompanied with offers to help! Please keep them coming!

At the September 2008 Annual General Meeting some new members have been elected to the WBCA Board, always a welcome addition. We welcome Jay, Peter and Lydia. They bring with them lots of great ideas and enthusiasm.

We are excited about the new Board but at the same time a little saddened to see Carol Sage and Don Paskovich leave the Board. They have given much to the community and we are finding it difficult to fill their shoes, but we are encouraged with their assurance that they will continue to help.

The WBCA Board of 2009 is keen, ready to listen and to work to make our community a better place and we hope you will join in.

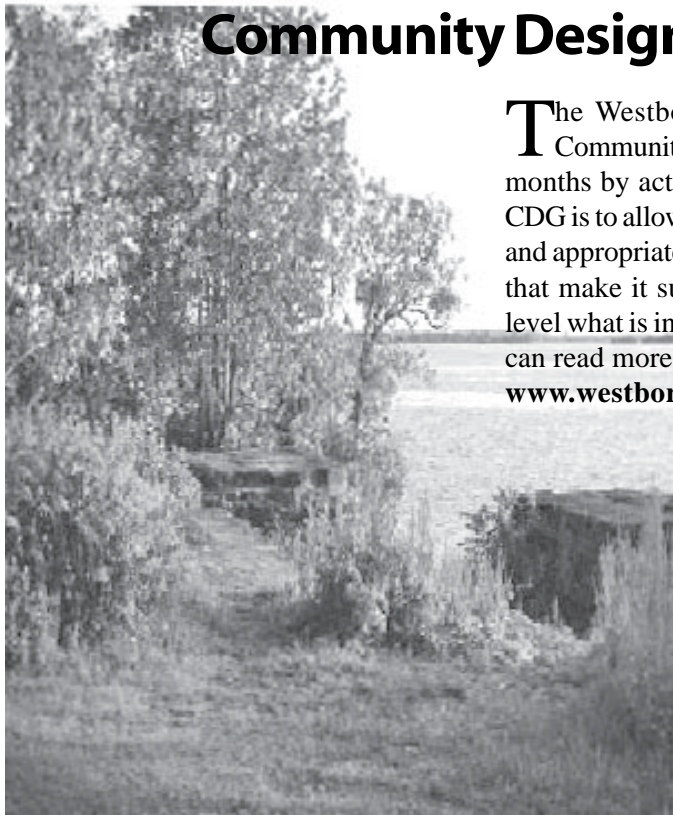
Questions? Comments? Offers to help?

Contact us through the website, www.westborobeach.org, contact form or via info@westborobeach.org. If you prefer to phone or wish to contact someone immediately, any of the Board members would be pleased to receive your call. The executives and their phone numbers in alphabetical order:

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ben Abraham 792-1566 | Catherine Casserly 729-4217 |
| Greg Almond 728-0555 | Jay Johnson 295-2353 |
| Lydia Bocre 761-7739 | Don Stewart 761-5708 |
| Peter Bruton 798-0880 | Mari Wellman 722-5944 |
| Bonnie Campbell 725-9872 | Mark Wirth 729-0329 |



Community Design Guidelines for Westboro Beach



The Westboro Beach Community Association (WBCA) is starting work on Community Design Guidelines (CDG). The CDG will evolve over the next several months by actively seeking input from neighbourhood residents. The intent of the CDG is to allow neighbourhood residents to formally indicate what constitute desirable and appropriate changes to the neighbourhood to keep and enhance the characteristics that make it such a desirable place to live. It further refines at the neighbourhood level what is included in the Richmond Road/Westboro Community Design Plan. You can read more about the Richmond Road/Westboro CDP on our website: www.westborobeach.org

Any characteristic of the neighbourhood identified can be part of the CDG, and could include such things as: green and recreational space; roads, sidewalks and pathways; the beach (of course) and waterfront; size and type of buildings; tree cover; wildlife habitat; etc.

Over the coming months, you will be invited to participate in the development of the CDG. Stay tuned for your opportunity to contribute to this process and help Westboro Beach fulfill its potential as one of the best neighbourhoods in the city. If you wish to become more involved please contact us through the website.

Work on Roy Duncan/Van Lang Park Started Opening Planned for June/July



Work on Roy Duncan/Van Lang Park has started with a grand opening planned for June or July. Located at the entrance to Westboro Beach at the corner of Churchill and Lanark, the park will undergo a number of improvements over the next three years.

The project is a joint effort of the City of Ottawa, the Westboro Beach Community Association, the Dovercourt Recreation Centre, the Carlington Community Health Centre, Councillor Leadman and a number of representatives from residents groups in the community. The changes to the park will mean more greenspace that can be enjoyed by everyone in Westboro Beach.

Last fall, the city has engaged the contractor Exel Corporation to replace the existing play structures, seats around the gazebo, benches as well as a water supply for a community garden. The greenspace area has been levelled resulting in an improved play area for neighbourhood children.

A new low stone fence has been built at the north end of field. Other changes in phase two and three of the projects are improvements to the green area such as pathways, new trees and benches in the section in the northeast corner and a small community field house. The second phase will be a more tasteful fence around the park with an entrance at a corner making it more open and accessible to everyone in the community. The city will put a sign at the entrance indicating the name of the park. The WBCA would like to hold a competition to have art at the new gateway to the park as well as the construction of a community bulletin board.

The Westboro Beach Community has undertaken a fundraising campaign to raise money for phases two and three of the project. These are the extras not covered by the City of Ottawa. To date, the community has received financial support from the Ottawa West Kiwanis and the Westboro Business Improvement Area (WBIA).

The plan for a small ice surface around the gazebo has been dropped from the plans, as city engineers could not accommodate the change around the gazebo structure. The seeding of the field will wait until the spring.

Thanks to the Beach Tree Bucket Brigade!



Last June, seventeen young trees were planted along the beach using funding from the city's Community Tree Planting Program. Many volunteers diligently watered these trees throughout the summer by carrying countless pails of water from the river. Thank you volunteers for keeping the trees healthy!

Two of the trees were relocated in early November to avoid potential interference with tobogganing runs. Paul Smith, a landscaper in our community, kindly provided his expertise and equipment to assist with the relocations.

Another season of regular watering is recommended for the trees so we hope to see our volunteers again this Spring.

Community Garden

The refurbished Van Lang Park will have a community garden, run by members of the community, where neighbours can meet and work together to care for the garden. In addition to helping with food security and nutrition, residents of Van Lang are interested in having container planting on their balcony. A workshop on successful container gardening is being planned and is open to everyone interested. And it's FREE! The workshop will be held on:

Monday March 23, 2009

9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

**All Saints Anglican Westboro
(entrance on Madison)**

And more ...

With spring and summer arriving soon, the WBCA is planning a number of social and fundraising events. Including the ones already mentioned in this newsletter, they are:

- spring clean-up
- beach opening BBQ
- river paddle
- movies at the beach
- beach closing bonfire

and other surprises, so stay tuned. And need we mention, we can always use your help. Give us a call.