



NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWSWIRE

WEST LANSING HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Spring 2006

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President's Message

As you have noticed our community newsletter has undergone a transformation.

It has a new look and hopefully more relevance. As our association has grown it has become increasingly apparent that what members really like is information about our community and the things that affect it.

Starting with this issue we will attempt to give more coverage of those issues.

Like the association itself this will be a community project, so if you have news, information, or just a tidbit, please submit it to us for publication in the newsletter.

Everyone will benefit from that kind of cooperation.



We have had a change in our executive. After strong service to our

community Paula Fisher has stepped down as Vice-President and will assume a director's role.

Kevin Beattie will move from director to Vice President. Kevin has a variety of business and volunteer experience and is a welcome member of the team.

On behalf of the board and the community we wish both Paula and Kevin well in their new posts.

We are always looking for new volunteers so if you are interested in helping out let us know.

Five Things "The City" wants you to Know

Listed below are five things that the city would like residents to be aware of, helpful phone numbers for your information:

Snow, to report an unploughed street call 416-338-snow. Senior snow clearing assistance call 416-447-5074.

Parking, A three hour limit exists where no signs are posted. To report an illegally parked car call 416-808-2222.

West Nile Virus, to report West Nile concerns call 416-338-7600.

Private tree removal, to report a suspected illegal tree removal call 416-392-0972.

Hydro, with the sale of the city's lighting assets to Toronto Hydro residents should direct all Hydro related calls, including burned out lamp posts to 416-542-3195.

Your Executive

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Policing In Willowdale

On a snowy Monday February 6 Councillor John Filion hosted a "policing in Willowdale" meeting. Among those in attendance were 32 division superintendent Diane Gautier and Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair.

The Chief outlined some of the measures being taken by the force to improve safety on our streets.



Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair

Although there has been no increase in staff over the last seven years; this year 250 additional officers will be added to the force. That means that including officers who are retiring 500 officers in total will be hired this year.

In addition Chief Blair has transferred 200 non-uniformed officers back into uniform.

A 54 officer immediate response unit has been created

for emergency situations.

Chief Blair also indicated that Toronto has entered into an agreement with surrounding municipalities to share/rent helicopter service for those instances where it will be required by the Toronto force.

Those in attendance were relieved to hear that while gun violence is on the increase in the city, gun calls in ward 23 were down.

In addition there has been a significant increase in break & enters city wide.

Town hall meeting on O.M.B. reform

Editorial

By Frank Bruni

On Monday Feb. 27 I attended a meeting hosted by our MPP David Zimmer on Ontario Municipal Board Reform and was, frankly, disgusted. Not only was I stunned by the lack of accurate information, but the very structure of the meeting seemed to be designed to limit public input. Given that it was a town hall meeting it was inappropriate for our hosts to take over one hour of the allotted time "presenting".

The idea was to hear what the public had to say. The people who showed up for this meeting were, on the most part, well informed (and in some cases better informed) on the issues and did not require a lecture.

I felt like I was in a time-share presentation - invited for a free lunch and forced to sit through a sales pitch.

There is much about Bill 51 that requires modification

For an overview of Ontario Municipal Board reform visit www.ombreform.ca

if it is going to meet the government's own goals. I hope that the Government is being truthful in its' commitment in making it better, otherwise I fear that citizens and communities will be in a worse situation after the Bill is passed than we are now.

New Email Policy

Email is an excellent communication tool, well suited to the WLHA's membership needs.

To remain effective, however, the membership distribution list must be used in a manner consistent with the WLHA's mandate. We have; therefore,

developed a policy for email communication between the association and its members. W.L.H.A. Communications will:

1) Include topics that are of community interest.



2) Not be of a purely commercial nature.

3) Not contain personal announcements or solicitations.



WEST LANSING
HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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Goals of the Association

- 1) To provide information to the membership that directly affects their homes, property, safety, or quality of life.
- 2) To represent the membership in its dealings with the municipal, provincial, and federal officials that are of broad community interest.
- 3) To provide community events for fun and community spirit.

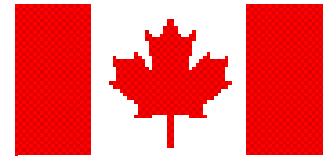
Events and Announcements

Spread the word!
Be a member of the
West Lansing
Homeowners Association.

The Sanfilippo Children's Research Foundation

Annual Gala is being held on
Thursday March 30. Go to
www.alifeforelisa.org
call (416) 223-1911
For more information

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWSWIRE



Canada Day Picnic
is coming July 1st !
If you can help with prizes
of have any ideas or can
volunteer, contact Mike
Capotosto (416) 733-2464
or mike@westlansing.ca

Special thanks to the
volunteers who keep
the public skating
rink at Cameron P.S.
a viable community
rink. Your efforts are
greatly appreciated.

Historic Home Demolished

The home at 21 Cameron Avenue was demolished on February 6 2006.

It was the former residence of Franklin Carmichael, Group of Seven artist .

It appears that the home was demolished legally on Monday Feb 6th 2006 as the owner/builder had a demolition permit.

On Thursday Feb 2 city council passed a motion to declare the home a historic property on the advice of the Toronto Preservation Board . However, this



Autumn Hillside 1920
By Franklin Carmichael

motion was passed as a matter of urgent business. Unfortunately, the Board is suppose to have a hearing to determine the merits of a designation and failed to do so. The motion (offered by our councillor John Filion) at council was passed.

It seems that the builder made an apparent effort to accommodate the preservation of the property. The sticky point seems to be that the builder could not find anyone who could tell him what was to be done with the property/home and so he made a

decision to destroy the property. The home was demolished on Monday evening because the builder would have lost the right to do so if he had waited for the official "Notice of intention to designate" which appeared in the paper the next day.



Franklin
Carmichael
1890-1945