



The mission of the Oakville Lakeside Residents' Association is to protect and preserve the character of the area from an historical, cultural and land use perspective. We are pleased to present this twice-yearly newsletter.

OLRA Spring Newsletter

Oakville Lakeside Residents' Association

Spring 2021

OLRA Annual General Meeting

By Amanda Holden

SAVE THE DATE!

Please join us via Zoom video conferencing on **May 12th at 7pm for our Oakville Lakeside Residents' Association Annual General Meeting (Virtual Edition)**. Joining us will be Mayor Rob Burton, Town Councillor Janet Haslett-Theall and Regional and Town Councillor Dave Gittings. We also be joined by new BIA leader Adrienne Gordon.

Topics to be covered include: standard OLRA board actions, minutes, election of officers, etc., updates from Town leaders regarding Covid-19, vaccines, downtown oakville, Wallace Park, noise concerns and an update from the Business Improvement Association regarding Downtown Oakville retail.

While we would love to see all of you face to face, we will be respecting Covid-19 restrictions and conducting a virtual meeting. **The Zoom conference link will be sent out via email a few days in advance. Please ensure we have your current email address.** You can do that by subscribing to our newsletters at oakvillelra.ca or you can email oakvillelakesidera@gmail.com.

Please remember that the AGM is for current members only. You can join or renew your membership for \$25/year or \$40 for two years.

Details on how to update your membership are on the back of this newsletter and you can check your membership status at oakvillelra.ca/members.

The Centennial Pool

by Tom Pugsley

The Centennial Pool at 120 Navy St, constructed in 1967, is an ageing facility, and has had a variety of maintenance issues over the last five years or so. Consequently, Council decided to close the existing pool and incorporate a new and substantially enhanced swimming facility in the new Oakville Trafalgar Community Centre located on Reynolds Avenue. This complex has recently been opened to the public (subject to Covid-19 restrictions).

The existing, decommissioned pool is to be demolished at some time in the future, although no schedule for this has been decided on by Council. The exterior of the building requires some minor repairs to maintain its integrity. Site studies and evaluations are required for the design of a future use of the space.

Many of our residents may have noticed that the facility is currently being used as a film set for the movie "Slumberland," a children's feature, which will be completed in late May. The filming program may be extended into next year, and possibly thereafter, until the reimagining of the public space has been defined and incorporated into future plans for the Downtown Cultural Hub.

New Docks on the Mighty Sixteen

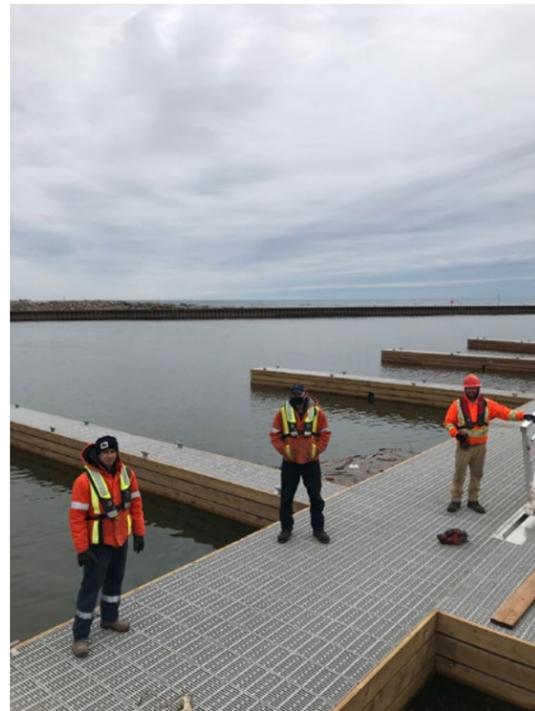
by Geoff Godard



In August 1827, William Chisholm purchased 986 acres centred on the mouth of the Sixteen Mile Creek. That not very picturesque name came from the fact it was sixteen miles from the inlet along the lake to Hamilton Harbour. By 1828, a harbour had been constructed and the settlement was named Oakville, after the great oak forests that stretched northwards.

Over the years, Oakville Harbour has seen many things. Initially it was a port from which timber, especially oak, was exported to the US and Great Britain. Oak was prized for making barrel staves, and pine for construction, and as masts for the mighty sailing ships of the Royal Navy.

When the trees were gone, the hinterland upriver was planted with grain, which was transported by wagon to the harbour for export to the growing US market and elsewhere. What is now the Oakville Club and the Granary, on the east bank, were two of the warehouses where grain was loaded onto ships.



Many of the ships that transported the timber, then the grain, were built in shipyards established on the harbour banks. A tannery thrived for a time on the west bank south of Lakeshore, a foundry on the north side, and further upstream on the east side near Lawson Street there was even an oil refinery!

Times changed. Industry faded away and sailing, boating and canoeing, always part of Oakville Harbour in summer, eventually took over completely as the now Town became a summer destination for visitors from Toronto and Hamilton.

Sailboats are moored along the banks south of the Rebecca bridge, since most masts do not fit under it. The docks are maintained by the Oakville Club, Oakville Yacht Squadron and the Town. Power boats are docked north of the bridge at the Oakville Power Boat Club, and canoes and the like, further upstream at the Burloak Canoe Club.

A 2011 study commissioned by the Town was the basis for a master plan that has guided the many improvements in Oakville Harbour ever since. The Tannery Park renovation was completed in 2019. This year the Town docks to the south of Oakville Yacht Squadron are being replaced. They have a warranted life of 30 to 35 years, and are a handsome addition to the harbour, considerably sturdier than those they replace. Completion will be by April, well in advance of the annual boat launch that transforms our harbour

from a winter waterbird sanctuary to the picturesque marina, so much a part of the fabric of our Town.

Another change to the harbour is that the major dredging operation, which used to occur every 10 years, will be no more. Changing environmental regulations mean dredging will be conducted once a year or as needed, and will be on a much smaller scale than in the past.

The sailboat slips owned by Oakville Yacht Squadron and those of the Oakville Club on the east side are not part of the project.

Join us for the 2021

OLRA Virtual Annual General Meeting

May 12th, 7pm via Zoom Video Conference

Board of Directors

A special thank you to the members of the OLRA Board for their contributions and support:

President: George Niblock

Vice President: Anya Dunning

Treasurer: Chris Coderre

Communications: Amanda Holden

Greenspace: Bob Laughlin

Planning & Heritage: Tom Pugsley

Director: Geoff Godard

Director: Hazel Cole

Meeting Agenda

This year's meeting will include: an OLRA annual update, presentations on current Town including Covid-19, vaccinations, town improvements, etc. Attending and participating will be Ward 3 Council members Dave Gittings and Janet Haslett-Theall, Mayor Burton and BIA leader Adrienne Gordon

Please note that the AGM is for current members only.

Please check your membership status at oakvillelra.ca/members

This is an opportunity for you to join the OLRA or renew your membership at \$25 for one year, \$40 for two years. Please see the back of this newsletters for payment options. Also visit oakvillelra.ca to submit your current email address.

The AGM will be via Zoom Video and the conference link will be sent out a few days in advance. Please ensure you are a registered member and we have your current email address.

Glen Abbey Update

by Bob Laughlin

All of the various lawsuits filed by both proponents and opponents of the proposed conversion of the Club Link Glenn Abbey golf course into a massive urban development have been dealt with. The next step is to proceed with a hearing before the Land Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT), formerly the Ontario Municipal Board OMB. The hearing has now been set to commence on August 3rd and 20 weeks have been set aside for completion.

Members of the public who wish to provide a written statement may do so on or before Monday, April 26th 2021, by electronically filing their statement with the LPAT case coordinator Jason Kwan at: Jason.C.Kwan@ontario.ca. The submission must address the participant's particular concerns citing the specific issues in contention. The participant will not have the opportunity to present an oral submission at the

hearing, unless invited to do so by the LPAT.

The major issues are that the Town of Oakville has designated the site as a Cultural Heritage Landscape, and as such does not wish to see it developed. The Town is required by the province of Ontario to submit a plan for growth. Its Livable Oakville Plan has already provided for six designated areas in which the majority of new development should occur. The growth afforded by these plans satisfies the province's requirements. The Glen Abbey site was not included in those plans.

Much more detailed information is available on the Glen Abbey page of the Town's web site: <https://www.oakville.ca/business/glen-abbey-information.html>. The organization, Save Glen Abbey, is asking citizens to participate in a petition addressed to Premier Doug Ford, cabinet ministers and our two local MPPs. This can be found at the following link: <https://www.saveglenabbey.ca/help/>

Lower 16 Mile Creek Boardwalk

by George Niblock

Over the winter, many of you will have noticed or experienced the increased activity on the 16 Mile Creek this winter from down by the Canoe Club all the way up to Cornwall Road. Local residents were out skating, cross-country skiing, walking, kick-sledding and generally loving the access to perhaps the largest park space we have in Old Oakville. When the Town looks at park space allotment for the various quadrants of Oakville, the 16 Mile Creek counts toward the total for south-east Oakville. Yet we only really have very limited access to it, and then only when the weather cooperates. There is a marvellous and extensive trail system on the 16 Mile Creek north of the QEW with miles of trails crisscrossing the banks of the 16 Mile but very little access in South Oakville.

There are two long island sections on the west side of the creek generally following Trafalgar Road in the



north-south section and then turning west to follow along beside Randall Street. These parcels of land are owned respectively by the Town of Oakville and the Region of Halton. Our board has been making inquiries as to the feasibility of a raised boardwalk with multiple access points that would traverse these islands from Cornwall Road all the way down to the Canoe Club and Navy Flats Park. Access points with stairs down to the raised boardwalk and bridges to cross the creek could be at four key locations:

- The Old Mill Parkette at Cornwall and Trafalgar Road
- North/South Forster Park Drive/River Side Drive on the west side of the creek
- Dunn Street between Trafalgar Road and Randall Street
- Navy Flats Park by the Burloak Canoe Club

The Lower 16 Mile Creek Boardwalk would create a critical link between the new Midtown development north of Cornwall Road and provide a wonderful pedestrian trail to Downtown Oakville. It would also create a lovely connection between Southeast and Southwest Oakville providing pedestrian access across the creek to Kerr Street Village



from Downtown Oakville and vice versa.

We have had some preliminary discussions with the Mayor, the BIA and the Trafalgar/Chartwell Residents Association with encouraging responses.

In late March, Federal Infrastructure Minister Catherine McKenna announced a \$400 million active transportation fund to invest in new and expanded community pathways, trails and pedestrian bridges so folks can get around on foot. We can't think of a better place for us to invest these funds than the Lower 16 Mile Creek Boardwalk.

In the coming weeks I will be seeking support for this project. If you would like to discuss this further, I would love to hear from you.



Wallace Park Redevelopment

by Bob Laughlin

The Town is moving forward with its plans to redevelop Wallace Park. The plans include a playground, summer basketball court, and refrigerated winter ice rink, as well as the replacement of the existing washroom facility with a new one. In the original design plan, it appeared that, to accommodate the new washroom, a number of the mature trees surrounding the existing washroom would be removed. With the Town's commitment to preserving mature trees, and to increasing Oakville's tree canopy, this appeared to be an inappropriate plan.

Following extensive public consultation, the Town, with its consultants, have further developed the preferred design concept. This was presented at a meeting on March 30th. Immediately following the meeting, the preferred design concept was to be posted on the Town's website for further review or comments by anyone who did not attend the meeting.

Bike Lanes on Robinson Street

by Geoff Godard

In the Spring 2019 Newsletter we reported on the status of the downtown redevelopment plan. It's now concluded and faithful to the renderings (except for tree size). It is a great success and life on Lakeshore would have returned to normal but for the effect of the pandemic and the current government restrictions we are all familiar with.

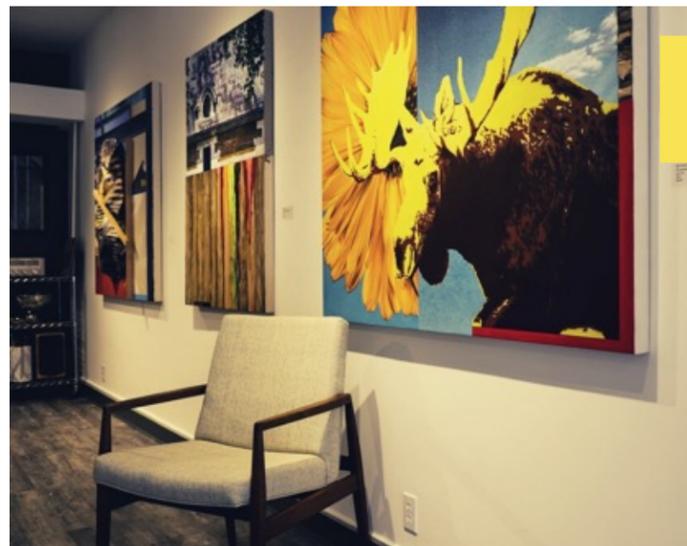
In 2014 the master plan included eliminating the Randall and Church one way street system and removing 32 parking spaces on the south side of Robinson to create a dedicated bike lane. The new two-way system is a great success, making one wonder what they were thinking, way back.

The planned bike lane had remained in the Town's 2019 progress update but did not materialize in the most recent downtown and Lakeshore Rd renovations. Indeed, where is the bike lane? Inquiries were made and the writer was advised, informally, that the bike lane proposal has been postponed indefinitely, subsumed into a larger study of parking availability in the whole Town. We understand that, while biking is an important and growing sport and past time, consideration has been given to prior concerns regarding parking limitations downtown and potential impact to downtown merchants.

So the bike lane idea is now on hold. And, since the redevelopment gave Lakeshore 20 additional spaces, the parking situation for downtown shoppers has actually improved.

Oakville Downtown

Business Improvement Association Update



Success in the Time of Covid

Downtown businesses were able to weather the storm of COVID-19 by growing their distribution channels and relying on digital marketing efforts, thanks in part to Digital Main Street.

Digital Main Street is a government-funded program and service that helps main street businesses achieve digital transformation.

The program is built around an online learning platform, structured training programs, and the Digital Service Squad, a team of highly trained

recent graduates who help Main Street businesses grow and manage their business by adopting digital tools and technology.

Josee Boisvert, the owner of Seek Studio, is one of many downtown businesses that took her art gallery online with the Digital Main Street help. Through one-on-one support, Josee built an e-commerce store for her clients to shop online anytime, anywhere. This is just one example of how a Downtown business changed its operations for the better. No matter when COVID ends, the way small businesses operate has fundamentally changed.

Patio Season Soon to Begin

We are excited to announce that the 2021 patio season kicks off April 1 in Downtown (Covid-19 dependant). It's time to emerge from pandemic-induced hibernation, pull up a chair, and enjoy the sunshine. From patios to pubs, we have an outdoor option to fit any taste or budget. Our patio tour begins at Navy and Lakeshore and, continues east. Stay tuned for upcoming summer promotions as we optimistically look forward to the 2021 spring and summer season.



Welcome to the Neighborhood

The Simple Kitchen

Eat what you want and still live your best life. Meet The Simple Kitchen! This vibrant market-style café joined the Downtown Oakville business community at the end of January. It is 100% Gluten Free, Dairy Free and Paleo and Keto focused. Ultimately, they're keeping it simple.

Seek Studio

SEEK, and ye shall find. The thrill of the hunt – the joy of discovery! If you're looking for a hip, funky, shopping adventure, check out Downtown Oakville's hottest new gallery! Seek Studio's mantra of "everything is interesting" prepares shoppers for curated consignments of art, décor and so many other cool finds. "Art and Eclectic, the New, the Vintage, the Up-Cycled and the Re-Born." It's all in the Hunt!



Chocolato & Tommy Café

Downtown Oakville, actually ALL of Oakville, be prepared for some yummy goodness!

Introducing... Chocolato + Tommy Café; a chocolate factory, frozen dairy bar and café that fulfills your indulgences for all-things-yummy. Catering to both sweet and savory cravings, Chocolato + Tommy Café offer an unparalleled experience that the people of Oakville will want in every season. Dipped soft serve ice cream, hot chocolate, waffles, dessert pizza, specialty coffee, and baked goods are just some of the items offered.



Eleven and Company

Walking into Sola Salons is like walking into a family home. And it's the exact same feeling walking into the Eleven and Company studio. As many of their clients say, it's like walking into your best friend's house or it's like being on the cast of the classic sitcom, Friends. Wearing a mask prevents us from seeing someone's full face, but with the crinkles at the corners of their eyes, I could tell Elise and Neveen had a smile from ear-to-ear.

These 2 very talented women started their journey 11 years ago while working together at a salon right here in downtown Oakville. From then on, they were inseparable; sharing their love of hair cutting and styling more than ever before.

Chandelier Hair Studio

Look fabulous. Feel safe. That's the experience that owner, Deborah King, offers at Chandelier Hair Studio. Tucked away in the Sola Salons studios, Deborah offers a one-of-kind, relaxing "walk-on-air" experience for her clients. Her goal is to transform, like a before and after picture, so clients leave her salon feeling like the best version of themselves.

BEAUTIFUL · ELEGANT · YOU – this is her slogan.



Spring Promotions

Whether you're in search of some retail therapy or you want to support a local business, Downtown Oakville is buzzing with some amazing sales for March.

10 Spot

Are you down for a doubleheader? Book a mani + pedi in the same service and score big with our limited time combo pricing!

Civello

Healthy Hair is Winter Essential! Choose a FREE winter essential with the purchase of 3 full-size products!

Gyoker Hair

Customer Appreciation...Save 10% off a Scalp Facial Treatment.

Art Lee Menswear

The Big Blowout Sale...Take 20%-70% OFF

Nova Health Club

Get 36 in-person or online personal training sessions for 20% off and save up to \$700 off the regular rate. Complete all 36 workouts in

the 3 months (3x/wk.), and not only do we guarantee your results or money back, and you'll also receive a bonus Free Summer of training (value \$800)!PLUS, be one of the first 5 people to sign up and receive Free nutrition coaching for 3 months to support your training (value \$600).

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We're social, join our community.



Weathering Storms - A Retailer's Story

by Geoff Godard

As spring approaches, COVID-19 continues to hover over our town, our country and much of the world. The arrival of vaccines signals the beginning of the end of an unprecedented peacetime disruption to economies and societies everywhere.

In our fall newsletter, we followed up on an extraordinary endeavour undertaken by OLRA residents, Jim and Dale Egan, to address the local shortage of personal protective gear for front line workers in the fight against the recently arrived disease. Their project shed light on how individuals can make a positive difference in a troubled time. We wondered how a business that would most definitely not be deemed "essential" has faced this era of shutdowns. We discovered that what is formally deemed essential and what is actually essential are not always the same.

Crack Pot Studio is well known. It has been on Robinson Street since 1996. Many of us have fond memories of birthday parties, camps and more held at Crack Pot when we were young or when we took our kids there – or in many cases, both. Wilma Spence owns Crack Pot. She and her staff initially welcomed the March break extension last year since it is one of their busiest times of the year. Then lockdown was announced. Schools and virtually all social and sporting activities were cancelled. We all sheltered in place.

This is when ingenuity and innovation took over. Wilma thought parents would need (maybe even be desperate for) something to entertain their shut-in offspring. "Right from the beginning we knew there would be great demand, but with the lockdown, we had no way of supplying it; at least the way we had always done it, in person, at our studio."

As with the Egan's, adversity can mother invention.

After some thought, she developed a concept she calls "paint and pottery to go." Crack Pot pirouetted from its traditional, in-studio business model, letting it be known on its website and through Instagram that "Paint at Home" pottery kits were available. Word of mouth took over and orders began to flood in. Kits contained everything needed to prepare the raw pottery for firing. Wilma and her staff delivered the kits. Their cars were affixed with magnetic signs so that anyone wary of answering the door could see who it was through the window. Strict safety protocols were adhered to.



Virtual birthday parties began to happen. Kits would be delivered to all invitees, who would join on Zoom and proceed under the supervision of the birthday mother and/or father and/or older sibling. The finished products would be dropped off at the studio and be available for pick-up after firing.

In early March, with the relaxation of quarantine regulations, Crack Pot was open for in-studio classes and parties with the now familiar restrictions. The studio aspect of business was approaching normal. But, interestingly, the Paint at Home kits continue to be in great demand.

This is a fine example of adapting to change, even in our small part of the world. The supply and demand model that had sustained Crack Pot's success for over a quarter century was suddenly disrupted. But neither the supply nor, particularly, the demand had disappeared. Wilma, faced with adversity, found a way to serve the market she had developed that not only preserved her enterprise, but allowed her to uncover another offering that, without the ingenuity born of necessity, would have remained unknown.

Pottery artifacts have been found that are almost 30,000 years old. It is the first synthetic material created by humans, and ceramics is probably the most ancient industry on the planet. Once our distant ancestors discovered that clay could be dug up and formed into objects by mixing with water and subjected to heat, an industry was born that survives to this day.

Wilma and her staff add a very twenty first century twist to a craft that began well back in the mists of time predating even what we think of as the dawn of civilization, the agricultural revolution, by a very considerable margin.

Additional Tree on Lakeshore

by George Niblock

Back in November, we noticed that a tree seemed to be missing from the newly completed Streetscape in Downtown Oakville. Along with Royal LePage, we requested a tree be added in front of the historic building that houses the Royal LePage office at the southeast corner of Lakeshore and Reynolds Street. Mayor Burton, our Councillors and Park staff were very responsive and helpful in quickly providing a tree to



add much needed shade and beauty to this corner. We had a lovely socially distanced tree planting ceremony on a sunny day in early November.



Rob Burton @Ma... · 2020-11-04 ...

Today was a perfect (and sunny) day to plant an Oak tree in downtown Oakville! Special thanks to @georgeniblock, @StefaniKonidis and the team at Royal LePage Oakville for working with @townfoakville to enhance our downtown streetscape #Oakville



Downtown Cultural Hub

by Tom Pugsley

The Downtown Plan and Cultural Hub remain as key initiatives in the Livable Oakville Plan and the Town continues to explore facility definition and financial options that can be implemented. Studies are continuing for the definition of a new Performing Arts Centre, new Library and possibly an Art Gallery with collateral shops and restaurants. During the implementation, the Town will explore the impact of the pandemic on the design of these facilities, to support the cultural aspects of the Downtown.

A critical priority for the whole Cultural Hub complex, and for the Downtown as a whole, is the construction of substantial additional public parking facilities close to the area. In the interim, the former fire hall is being repurposed for additional parking on Water Street. In addition, the Town is planning to implement a digital solution to make it easier for the public to find available parking in the downtown area.



Covid-19 Information

By George Niblock

With information being updated all the time, we would like to remind residents that the best source of accurate local information on the Covid-19 pandemic, framework restrictions and booking vaccines is the Halton.ca website:

www.halton.ca/For-Residents/New-Coronavirus/COVID-19-Vaccines

Town of Oakville Water Air Rescue Force

by Kris Gordon, Search Master/Captain

“Volunteers saving lives on Western Lake Ontario since 1954”

History

The death of three community members in 1954 put into action a chain of events that would change the safety of boaters on Lake Ontario forever. On Saturday August 7th, 1954, the Oakville Sea Scouts and their leaders set sail from Oakville Harbour for a week long trip. A few hours after the group set out, the weather turned, and it quickly became apparent the small crafts could not handle the turbulent waters.

After some combined efforts from other community members including Police Chief Fred Oliver, all but one boat and three people were recovered that night. The remaining boat and the two boys bodies were found a few days later. The Scout leaders body was never recovered.

The drowning of the two Sea Scouts and their leader greatly affected the communities of Oakville and Trafalgar, as well as Police Chief Fred Oliver. After witnessing the grief and despair of the boys parents and the Scout leaders widowed wife, he knew something had to be done immediately to protect lives on the lake. Such was the beginning of the Town of Oakville Water Air Rescue Force.



TOWARF Today

Today, TOWARF is a Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary Unit that provides marine search and rescue (SAR) services with the primary goal of saving lives at risk in Western Lake Ontario.

With approximately fifty highly-trained search and

rescue volunteer crew members TOWARF patrols the Oakville shoreline out to a distance of ten miles.

TOWARF is on the water 32 hours a week and on call 24/7 to the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC) and the Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) during the boating season, from April to October.

“TOWARF annually responds to about 50 Search and Rescue taskings. While most are for routine equipment or fuel problems, several each year involve lives being at risk”

Once they get a call from either JRCC or HRPS they can be on the water in a matter of 10-15 minutes and on their way to a life saving mission.



Some sample missions TOWARF is regularly assigned are:

- Shoreline search for a swimmer in the water
- Vessel taking on water
- Disabled vessel drifting toward shore
- Search for overdue vessels

In each of these instances, lives are at risk of being lost. We all know how quickly conditions on the water can change and become treacherous leaving stranded boaters fearing for their lives, or a family member fearing for a lost loved one.

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about how you can help support TOWARF: 905 845 8931

Visit us on the web at www.TOWARF.com

Or email us at e-commander@towarf.com or vicecommander@towarf.com

Join the OLRA or Renew

Membership Information

The membership year begins May 1 at a low cost of \$25 per year or \$40 for two years. We offer two ways to pay...

Stay Informed!

In addition to our newsletters and the occasional flyer, we keep you informed via email with information about relevant Town and community issues. If you are not on our email list and would like to receive these updates, please send your email address to oakvillelakesidera@gmail.com or check out our website at www.oakvillelra.ca.

Please be assured that your personal information will not be published nor used in any way other than for the dissemination of OLRA updates.

1 Cheque: Mail your name, address and email plus a cheque payable to "Oakville Lakeside Residents' Association" to
109 Thomas Street,
P.O. Box 69585
Oakville, ON, L6J 7R4

2 INTERAC e-Transfer: Please send an e-Transfer through your online banking to oakvillelakesidera@gmail.com, then ALSO email us at the same address with your name and address.

Check your current membership status at oakvillelra.ca/members

We'll Miss the Summer Garden Party!

By Amanda Holden

Sadly we will have to postpone the summer garden party again this year – likely until spring 2022. If Covid-19 restrictions lift over the summer we will re-evaluate a late summer or fall event.

In the meantime we encourage you to wave to your neighbors as you walk our beautiful community. Say hello, stay in touch and stay well.



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

Authors: George Niblock, Geoff Godard, Oakville BIA, Kris Gordon, Tom Pugsley, Bob Laughline
Editing: Hazel Cole, Amanda Holden, Caroline Glasbey **Publishing & Creative:** Amanda Holden
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