

The Lindenleader

Newsletter of the Lindenlea Community Association

September 2022

Summer Memories



We had an amazing summer in Lindenlea! We were able to run our annual pancake breakfast again with the help of some amazing volunteers. We would like to thank the cooking crew, Ralph, LaRayne, Doug and Mike. The steady stream of pancakes was greatly appreciated by hungry community members.

From mixing batter to slicing strawberries, keeping the topping bar well-stocked, and cleaning up – we had a wonderful group helping us. Thanks to Inge, Kim, Maria, Yanina, Ren, Luke, Sandeep, Christopher, Amelia, and Sarah. We are already looking forward to the breakfast next year!

If you have news or notices of local interest, contact our team at lindenleacommunitycentre@gmail.com.



The Lindenlea Community Association gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the City of Ottawa.

We also had other events running this summer. We celebrated National Ice Cream day in Lindenlea Park. The weather was beautiful, and it was so nice to see neighbours come out to enjoy an ice-cold treat and catch up with one another.



We had our first movie night in the park on August 12th and watched the film *Encanto*. Neighbours of all ages came out to watch the movie and enjoy some snacks and beverages.



We also ran drop-in art sessions in Lindenlea Park throughout the summer. We made and decorated some fabulous crafts, such as lanterns, bird houses, painted rocks, and painted butterflies. It was lovely to see so many of our community members attend our summer events. We are looking forward to seeing everyone for more events this fall.

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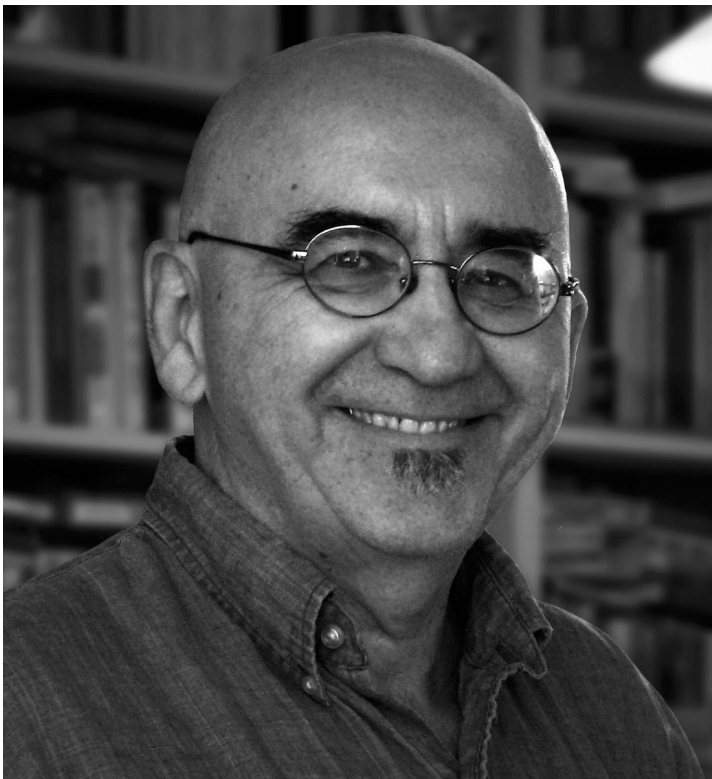
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The Lindenlea Listserv Continues to Thrive

When moving into a new neighbourhood, a lot is learned from new neighbours through the questions they ask and the advice that they offer. In Lindenlea, one of the first questions asked is “Are you on the listserv?”

In the age of Facebook and other social media applications, the idea of a listserv sounds quaint, bringing to mind dial-up modems and answering machines. Yet here in Lindenlea, the listserv continues to bind the community together through e-mails in a way that is as effective as it is improbable. For its administrator, John Verdon, the value of the listserv is as intuitive and obvious as a hockey rink or a Canada Day breakfast event.



Verdon, who has spent two very different stages of his life in Lindenlea, has been running the listserv since its inception in January 2001, roughly a decade after he returned to the neighbourhood. While part of the Lindenlea Community Association’s Board of Directors, Verdon was involved in the discussions about expanding the community centre for several years, but by the late 1990s, these discussions were beginning to migrate

online as more and more residents obtained e-mail addresses. Verdon, having been exposed to electronic communications through his work, eventually collected some 75 e-mail addresses and established the listserv.

While other services had been considered, including the National Capital FreeNet, Verdon says the decision essentially boiled down to being able to “push” messages to people’s inboxes rather than having to “pull” them to a website. As social media expanded, opportunities existed to migrate the listserv to any number of social media websites, however Verdon was mindful of how the listserv was owned by its community, versus having it owned by a private company. Verdon says he started using Facebook back in 2006, and while initially positive about its usefulness in connecting people, he says he noticed it become more focused on harvesting and selling its users’ information, leading him to delete his account in 2011.

Indeed, Verdon, who spent many years working as a futurist with the Department of National Defence, believes that information should be a public good and sees merit in the City of Ottawa setting up the digital infrastructure necessary to allow individual neighbourhoods and communities to set up and run their own digital community centers and marketplaces. This, he argues, helps build up citizens who identify with their community rather than as individuals.

For many newcomers to the listserv, the volume of messages that arrive in their inbox can be a bit intimidating; as one resident described it, it’s a lot of buying and selling messages, with a random heated exchange to change the pace from time to time. Verdon gets those complaints but sees those kinds of messages as helping to maximize the reach of the listserv, pointing to messages about lost keys or a found dog. He initially questioned the value of people posting a “for sale” message with a follow-up “sold” message, given how that adds to the volume of messages, but ultimately decided that those “sold” messages help to demonstrate the value of the listserv to the community (as evidenced by the

happy sellers who marvel how quickly they sold their art supplies or found recommendations for pest removal).

“Deletion is a 21st century skill”, he adds, referring back to the Jane Jacobs quote about low-level interactions that is affixed to every message on the listserv. Verdon believes that these kinds of interactions, whether on the sidewalk or on the listserv, add value by increasing the social capital of a community, through increased trust in neighbours, that ultimately leads to gains in tangible capital, such as a community fundraising event or welcoming refugees.

As for the heated exchanges that flare up on the listserv from time to time, such as the trucks in Ottawa this past winter, Verdon has to carefully balance his role as moderator of the listserv with his own personal views. Verdon says the listserv has taught him about the role of, as he calls it, the “dispassionate gardener”, by putting his opinions aside to make his role as moderator work. Using moderation as a tool is necessary for the listserv’s continued success, though Verdon admits this work is “not fun”. That said, he says the number of people who have been banned outright can be counted on one hand, with a small percentage of users being subjected to some form of moderation, which is impressive on a listserv running over 1100 e-mail addresses.

Even in the age of social media, Verdon is optimistic about the future of the listserv, partly because it belongs to the local community rather than a distant corporation. Furthermore, Verdon thinks e-mail won’t go away, as there will always be a stream of information in some shape or form.

Ultimately, personal contacts have no substitute. The pandemic kept us all away from our family, our friends and our neighbours, making sidewalk chats and physically-distant exchanges at the park appear less lowly and unpurposeful. With the return of the Canada Day pancake breakfast, ice cream in the park and welcoming our Ukrainian neighbours to our community, the listserv’s importance seems less random than ever.

Sandeep Mukerji



Fall programs begin!

Our fall fitness session has started. We have programs for kids, adults, and families. You can sign up anytime during the session. For program details, visit www.lindenlea.ca.



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From Councillor King's Desk

Before Council paused for the summer months, I worked with colleagues to successfully pass a motion to propose several solutions so that extended power outages do not negatively impact the City at scale again. As we know, large portions of the ward were affected by power outages after the severe derecho storm (equivalent to a category EF2 tornado with winds of up to 190 km/h) impacted the City over Victoria Day long weekend, extensively damaging the electricity infrastructure of overhead wires, particularly in areas with dense tree canopy. While Hydro Ottawa should be commended for undertaking the equivalent of one year's worth of capital work in six days to restore power across the City, with the replacement of 400 downed poles, the utility's communication effort with its customers and its sole shareholder, City Council, about power restoration and prioritization was extremely poor. As a consequence, I requested the Mayor ask the CEO of Hydro Ottawa to provide an action plan to improve communication with the community during prolonged power outages, including neighbourhood-specific information. The motion asks Hydro Ottawa how future power outages of an extended period will be addressed and asks for grid modernization.

I am also gratified that Council adopted my motion that could facilitate sustainable community gardening in the City-owned portion of front yards. The motion supports a comprehensive review of by-laws that eventually could support the development of gardening and naturalization in the City-owned right-of-way by local residents and community groups. By providing residents and community associations with the option to soft landscape in the right-of-way, otherwise referred to as "boulevard gardening", the City can better support biodiversity and improve the livability of communities, while strengthening its environmental policies and objectives. Because the City of Ottawa declared a climate emergency in 2019, it is important that the municipality take substantive action to support native plant species, encourage pollinators and aid in controlling rainwater runoff. The motion was made possible by the support and research of many individuals and community groups in

our Ward who worked collaboratively to advance front yard beautification while enhancing the City's green spaces and biodiversity.

For more information and updates about Ward initiatives, please go to www.rideau-rockcliffe.ca and sign up for my weekly newsletter.

Rawlson King

City Councillor, Rideau-Rockcliffe Ward 13



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Celebrating Ukrainian Independence Day

On Wednesday August 24th, we hosted an event to recognize Ukrainian Independence Day and welcome newcomers to our neighbourhood. This event was organized by Yanina Rusenchyk and was well-attended by the community. We watched a presentation and learned about Ukrainian culture, while trying some delicious perogies and Palianytcia bread. We also heard stories from three Ukrainians about their journey to Canada and how the war has affected their lives.

It was lovely to hear how so many people in our community have offered help to those arriving here. If you are interested in helping, please check out these websites for more information:

- Maidan Market: <https://www.maidanmarket.ca/>
- Ukrainian Settlement Helpers Ottawa: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1116392522489521>
- United Settlement Helpers Ottawa: [usho.ca](https://www.usho.ca)

You can also send an email to the community centre to get connected with Yanina: lindenleacommunitycentre@gmail.com



Annual General Meeting

The Lindenlea Community Association's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held virtually on Thursday October 20th, 2022, at 7:30 pm. This meeting is open to all community members and we hope you will join us. Please send an email to lindenleacommunitycentre@gmail.com to request the the Zoom link.

We invite interested community members to consider joining the board. Directors on our board are responsible for acting in the best long-term interests of the association and the community. They are expected to attend one meeting each month and attend the AGM. They are also encouraged to participate in some of our events and activities. Becoming a board member is a great way to learn about community issues and to have a voice in what happens in Lindenlea. If you are interested in becoming a board member, please send us an email!

We would like to thank our current board of directors for volunteering their time to make our community a better place to live. They have provided guidance, given feedback, and have participated in community forums to keep us informed and connected. They do a wonderful job and the time they spend volunteering is appreciated by our entire community.





FALL EVENTS

DROP IN TEA/COFFEE FOR SENIORS
SEPTEMBER 21TH - 2:30PM-3:30PM

MOVIE IN THE PARK
SEPTEMBER 23RD AT DUSK
EVERYONE IS WELCOME

FOOD DRIVE FOR THE RRCRC
OCTOBER 1ST - 7TH

THANKSGIVING DROP IN CRAFT FOR KIDS
OCTOBER 7TH - 11:00AM-12:00PM

BOOK EXCHANGE
TAKE A BOOK/LEAVE A BOOK
OCTOBER 12TH - 3:00PM-5:00PM

HALLOWEEN AFTER SCHOOL PUMPKIN CARVING
OCTOBER 28TH - 4:00PM-6:00PM

HALLOWEEN HAUNTED HOUSE
OCTOBER 30TH - 5:00PM-7:00PM

Lindenlea Community Association Board

Tanya Allem	<i>President</i>
Kim Haaland	<i>Vice President</i>
James Patsula	<i>Treasurer</i>
Inge Vander Horst	<i>Secretary</i>
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Angela Christiano	<i>Director</i>
Renaude Bender	<i>Director</i>
Seanna Kreager	<i>General Manager</i>

LCA Board meetings take place virtually on the second Thursday of every month and are open to all residents. Please contact lindenleacommunitycentre@gmail.com to receive a meeting link if you would like to join us.

Upcoming meeting dates:

Oct 13 • Oct 20 (AGM) • Nov 10 • Dec 08



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Donna Kemp	<i>Editor</i>
Mike Kreager	<i>Layout</i>
BCT Ottawa	<i>Printing</i>

If you would like to join the Lindenlea listserv (an email service which goes out to over 900 people in our community) please contact John Verdon at johnverdon@gmail.com and ask to be put on the list.



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