



Your Clair Hills Connection

Spring Newsletter

March 2007

We want to hear from you!

If you have any feedback or want to submit an article for our next newsletter, please contact Shelly Reed, our Communications Director at shells23@rogers.com. She'd love to work with you!

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Poker Anyone?

Clair Hills is getting a new public elementary school in September 2008. Because the public school board does not allocate funds in its budget for a playground, the school will open without one. This is of course, unless we take action!!

You've seen it on TV, you've watched it played in the movies, now you too can try your luck at our first ever....

Clair Hills Poker Tournament!!

That's right folks! Let's get together for a little Texas Hold'em and raise money for our new school's playground! Here are the details:

Date: Saturday, March 31st, 2007

Time: 7pm

Place: Lower East Side's, King St., Waterloo

Cost: \$50, with half the money going to the poker pot. Pizza and nachos will be provided!

A special thanks to our friends at East Side's, who, in honour of this fundraising event, have graciously waived the room fee for us.

Please **RSVP** to Shelly Reed at shells23@rogers.com or 519.747.1604 **no later than March 24th** to pay in advance and secure your spot in the tournament..

Let's play for money to raise some money!!!

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Community Association Meetings

The Association currently meets every month, at 7pm, in the upstairs community room at Sobey's, on Columbia Drive.

Next Meeting:
Wednesday, March 7th at 7pm

Your Community Association Board Members

President:	Vacant	
Executive Assistant:	Lisa Gillis	
Communications Director	Shelly Reed	747.1604
Social Director	Brenda Bell	880.9181
Fundraising Director	Sue Cummings	886.6042
School Liaison	Lisa Norley	886.8028
Treasurer	Robert Temple	886.3909

Want to get involved?

The role of President is currently vacant and we are always looking for help with special projects!! Please contact any of the Board members for more information.



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Want to advertise your business in our next newsletter?

Contact Shelly Reed at shells23@rogers.com for information.

Our New Public School

Due to open Sept. 2008 will be the new, two-storey Public Elementary School, located on Bernay Drive (at Chablis). While it is currently being referred to as Clair Meadows, the name has not actually been confirmed. The new Principal of this school will begin his/her term and will work out of the Waterloo Region District School Board Office as of January 2008. It will open with approximately 350 students to start, from JK to Grade 7, with room to grow. By 2012, they anticipate the school will house approximately 650 students from JK to Grade 8. The school will have full-time daycare available. It will have specific areas off the main street for drop-off and pick-up of children. There will be soccer fields on school grounds, and there will be a city park beside the school, which may or may not include a playground. There was much talk of the new school boundaries, transportation eligibility, etc., specifically regarding children living in the Erbsville triangle and our own Salzburg and Munich Circle area who may or may not attend this school. The next public meeting will be held in early April 2007, where more of the boundary issues will be discussed. In the meantime, we will notify you if updates should become available.

NOTE: Contrary to what may have been heard at the school meeting on Feb.20, 2007, the Waterloo Catholic District School Board has confirmed that they have no immediate plans to build a school in our neighbourhood. Land has been reserved for them, however it has not been purchased and construction will not be starting anytime soon. Please visit their website at www.wcdsb.edu.on.ca for more information.

West-Side Recreation Facility

By now you have all heard about the new YMCA / Library facility being built on the parcel of land to the right of Erbsville Road and Bearinger Road. At this stage of the development, the major components being contemplated for the recreational component include a 4-lane lap pool, a swirl pool/recreational pool, a sauna, a fitness area, a dance studio and multi-purpose exercise space, change rooms, a gymnasium, and a community/multi-purpose meeting room. While these plans sound great, the region of Waterloo has not yet committed to providing new bus routes to get people to the facility. In addition, user fees are at the top of the list of concerns, as residents question the affordability of the recreation facility, especially since the pool will not be of Olympic size. In addition, there is now a debate over the soccer fields that are planned, as cost is increasing to accommodate the size and amenities required. It has been indicated that the site is not suitable for soccer fields, or enhanced amenities such as field and parking lighting, a storage facility and bathroom facilities, as the land has been designated an environmental reserve. Please stay tuned for more updates!



Please join us on March 7th, as school trustees will be present to answer questions regarding the new school, boundaries, safe walking routes, etc. You can then provide feedback to boundaryfeedback@wrdsb.on.ca.

New Traffic Lights!

The proposal for the installation of a traffic light at Keats Way and Erbsville Road has been warranted and is currently in the budgeting phase. Since the budget is set in the spring, this work will not be scheduled until at least April 2007.

West-Side Shopping Centre

You have probably noticed the ongoing construction at the round-about at Erbsville and Erb. Stores/services due to open sometime this spring/summer include Canadian Tire, Canadian Tire Gas Bar, Shoppers Drug Mart, Mark's Work Warehouse, Wendy's Restaurant,Alas, there is still no word on a Tim Horton's.....

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Each time you receive a newsletter, there will be a calendar of events to prepare yourself for.

This quarter, March, April and May, you can look forward to the following Spring activities:

“We were born to unite with our fellow men, and to join in community with the human race.”

-Cicero

Clair Hills Poker Tournament

March 31st:

The first ever **Clair Hills Poker Tournament!** Everybody is invited to try their luck at a game of Texas Hold'em. All donations will go directly to the Clair Hills Playground Fund. Be sure to RSVP with Shelly Reed (shells23@rogers.com) no later than March 24th to pay in advance and secure your spot in the tournament.

Clair Hills Spring Clean-up Day

April 22nd:

The first annual **Clair Hills Spring Clean-up Day!** It is so important on Earth Day and everyday, to keep our community clean. This is your neighbourhood, your community, let's work together to make it a place we can be proud to call home! Areas of most concern include all the pathways, construction sites, and the ravine. Free gloves and garbage bags will be provided by our friends at Sunoco. Please contact Sue Cummings (mikecummins@golden.net) no later than April 15th so we know how many teams we'll have helping out.

Clair Hills Neighbourhood Garage Sale

May 26th:

The first annual **Clair Hills Neighbourhood Garage Sale!** Have your treasures ready because 8am-1pm is going to be a busy time in our little community. Our event will be advertised for free in the Waterloo Chronicle, and free maps listing all garage sale sites will be distributed to folks looking to find something special. All participating families are asked to donate \$5 towards the Clair Hills Playground Fund. Money made at your garage sale is of course, yours to roll in! Please contact Sue Cummings (mikecummins@golden.net) no later than May 19th to get involved.

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Fundraising

As you know, Clair Hills is getting a new public elementary school in Sept.2008. Because the public school board does not allocate funds in its budget for a playground, the school will open without one. This is of course, unless we take action!! As a community, the following options are available so you too, can help make this playground a reality!

Gift Cards

Think of all the places you shop on a regular basis: Zehr's, Esso, Zellers, The Gap, Canadian Tire, etc. Now think of spending money at your favorite stores while at the same time, helping to raise money for the playground! The Gift Card program basically consists of us purchasing gift cards for different retailers, who then kick back a percentage of our purchase towards our cause. If you would like the complete list of retailers and the percentages they donate, or if you would just like more information, please email Shelly at shells23@rogers.com.

Seasonal Fundraisers

Each season we'll have one or two fundraising events that will engage the whole community! This spring we have the Poker Tournament as well as the Neighbourhood Garage Sale. Future fundraising events include Dinner and a Movie, Charity Golf Tournament, and Charity Dinner and Auction.

While the majority of the fundraising will be our responsibility, the Association is currently approaching different companies for a corporate donation. Specifically, an application with the Home Depot/Kaboom (www.kaboom.org) project is currently being filed, and the new Canadian Tire at Erb and Erbsville will be a target once construction is complete.

Special Thanks!!

As of Feb.20, 2007, our Community has helped to raise a total of \$292.05!! Isn't that amazing?! What a great feeling knowing that we are helping to raise money for a playground that will benefit the well-being and physical fitness of our children! Many thanks to all our neighbours who helped us raise \$132.05 by purchasing gift cards, and many thanks to our neighbours who advertised in this newsletter. They raised \$160.00!!

Interested in contributing to our Playground Fund? Contact Sue Cummings for more information!



Waterloo Entertainment Coupon Books.....

The book sells for \$12 and the Clair Hills Playground Fund keeps \$6.

In the book you will find coupons for golf courses, restaurants throughout the city, drycleaners, bowling alleys, etc.

Place your order fast as the expiry date on each coupon is Oct.31, 2007.

If anyone is interested in either buying or selling these coupon books, please contact Sue Cummings.

If you have any fundraising ideas you'd like to share, or if you or your company would like to donate items, prizes, etc., for future events, please contact our Fundraising Director, Sue Cummings.

Safety Issues

If you live on a court, please be advised that according to the City By-law office, parking your car against the island in the court is illegal.

Due to the ongoing construction on some streets, school buses are arriving sometimes as much as an hour late, because they can't maneuver through the parked construction vehicles. Apparently there are contract workers who refuse to stop their vehicles when buses are dropping kids off. Another issue we face is excessive speed. People are just driving too fast down our streets. Furthermore, many of the streets in our community are very narrow and yet parking is allowed on both sides. This causes problems in navigating these streets, especially during the winter months. As you can imagine, these issues pose a real danger to ourselves and our children. Please be assured that we are speaking to the City of Waterloo, specifically the By-Law office, the builders in these specific areas, and the Fire Department, to ensure the safety of our community. We will pass along updates on these matters as they become available.

Water Restrictions

As of January 2007, the City's By-law office reminds us of the following water restrictions:

Time restrictions for ALL watering: 7am—10am and 7pm—11pm.

Residents are permitted to irrigate gardens, trees, shrubs and other outdoor plants on alternate days. Addresses ending in even numbers are permitted to water gardens, etc. on even-numbered dates. Addresses ending in odd numbers may water gardens on odd-numbered dates. The washing of cars with a controlled hose (with a shutoff valve attached) will be permitted on alternate days within the time restrictions. Topping-up of permanent residential pools is allowed on alternate days within the time restrictions.

In the event of a Stage 2 Water Supply Emergency, residents will be restricted to watering once per week only, during the above-mentioned time restrictions.

If you have a boulevard tree, it is your responsibility to water it. When water restrictions are in effect, the City advises that you water your property in this order: your boulevard tree, then your lawn, and last, your flowerbeds. Your lawn will always bounce back from a drought, your boulevard tree will not.

If your address ends in:
0 or 1
2 or 3
4 or 5
6 or 7
8 or 9

Your lawn watering day is:
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

Please contact the Region at 519.575.4495 for more information.

Helpful Backyard Tips

For a list of native plants that conserve water and provide low maintenance landscaping, visit www.wildflower.ca. This site is Ladybird Johnson's project, and you'll also discover which native plants attract birds and butterflies!

Looking for a fun project to share with a child or grandchild? Visit www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat for information on how to attract butterflies, birds and even frogs to your backyard.

Both articles, Water Restrictions and Helpful Backyard Tips, were submitted by our neighbour Pat Tristram.

Babysitter Required

Robbyn and Jeff Weiler
519.886.3980

Robbyn and Jeff are looking for a teen to babysit their two children, ages 6 & 8, for an evening or full day on Saturdays.

Jeff & Elaine Rankine
519.725.0966

Jeff and Elaine have two girls, turning nine and six this summer. They are looking for occasional evening coverage on any day of the week, and occasional daytime coverage on the weekend.

Christine and Dave Robinson
cdrobinson@rogers.com

Christine and Dave have a 2 ½ year old and they require a babysitter. If you're interested, please feel free to email Christine!

Daycare Wanted:

Janine Wendling
jpilles@sympatico.ca

As of May 2007, Janine will require full-time home daycare for her daughter who will be 13 months old. If you have a home daycare business and have a spot available in May, please feel free to contact Janine!

Babysitters Available

Tammy Steckly
519.886.3563

Tammy's daughter Brittany is a 14 year old high school student with many years experience. She will be taking her babysitting and CPR courses this summer.

Robin Witt
519.886.9192

Robin has two twin boys, Jonathan and Jordan who are 13 years old. They have no trouble putting little ones to bed as the longest they have sat so far was from 6pm-2am. They are available weekends and after school.

Lisa Norley
519.886.8028

Lisa's daughter Melissa will be 14 years old in March. She really enjoys babysitting. She has her babysitting course, and has no trouble putting little ones to bed.

Co-op Babysitting:

This involves parents agreeing to babysit children on a trade basis. For example, I'd be willing to babysit Sally's children for two hours this Friday night if Sally agrees to babysit my children for two hours next Thursday.

The following parents are willing to participate in this co-op babysitting program:

Peter Cui & Ping Huo
746-1603

Merlene & Jeff Austen
747-7159

If you would like to participate in this co-op babysitting program, feel free to contact either of these families!

Playdates Wanted

Peter Cui & Ping Huo
519.746.1603

Peter and Ping have a son named Jack who just turned 5 years old in December. They are looking to organize a playdate with other families with similar aged children.

Marny St. Pierre
paulmarn@sympatico.ca

Marny has two little girls. Aimee is 4 years old and Isabelle will be 3 in May. Come June there will be another addition to the family. If you would like to meet and play with Marny and her girls, feel free to email her!

Merlene Austen
519.747.7159

Merlene has two little girls; one is 2 years old and the other is 4 months old. If you have children of the same age group and would like to schedule a playdate, please give Merlene a call!

Want to get on our resource list? Need a babysitter, looking to learn a new hobby, want to teach someone a skill in trade? Contact Shelly Reed at shells23@rogers.com to be included in the next newsletter.

Your Clair Hills Connection is published four times a year (March, June, September & December). The Clair Hills Community Association makes no representations or warranties concerning any person or business listed in this Newsletter, and it is the individual's responsibility, not the Clair Hills Community Association's, to obtain references, interview or otherwise satisfy themselves prior to hiring or retaining a person/business/service listed or advertised in this newsletter.



Staying Connected in Clair Hills

<http://groups.google.ca/group/clair-hills-waterloo> This is a website that allows members of the Clair Hills Community Association to talk to each other via message board. You can ask questions, make suggestions, plan an outing, etc. As Communications Director for the Association, Shelly will visit the site regularly to provide feedback, responses, etc.

<http://www.communitywalk.com/map/7261> Want a map of our great neighbourhood? Visit this site and you'll get an overview of the streets, trails, parks, etc.

Both sites were forwarded by Jerry Chappell, so if you'd like more information, please contact him at jerry.chappell@gmail.com.

www.ehow.com A step-by-step 'how to' information guide for thousands of common projects ranging from how to replace a leaky faucet to how to plan a dinner party.

www.internettrafficreport.com When it seems like the internet is running slow, this is an excellent site to get more information.

These two sites were provided by Pat Tristram, so if you'd like more information, please contact her at pjtristram@rogers.com.

Newsletter Distribution

While our email distribution list is currently at 81 folks, we still have 1160 houses that require delivery. We would like to thank all our volunteers for braving the cold weather and distributing our newsletter to these families. This has been a difficult task as not all houses have door latches or mailboxes to tuck the newsletter in. The City of Waterloo, in conjunction with the Community Development Program, has graciously provided us with a budget of \$500 for 2007, however this budget covers the printing only. Let's save our City some money and save some trees at the same time! Please join our email distribution list! Not only will you receive our quarterly newsletter but you'll also get the minutes from our monthly meetings, as well as important updates regarding our new schools, fundraising updates and other information that concerns our neighbourhood.

Want to save paper? Contact Shelly Reed at shells23@rogers.com to get on our email distribution list today!!!



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