



# Your Clair Hills Connection

*“Committed to creating a clean, safe, welcoming, and connected community.”*

Summer Newsletter

June 2007

## Clair Hills Association Meetings

Our Association meets on the first Wednesday of every month. The next Association meeting will be held on **Wednesday, June 6th, at 7pm**, at the Sobeys on Columbia Drive. Representatives from **Block Parent and Neighbourhood Watch** will be there so please, RSVP with Shelly so she knows how many people will be in attendance.

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Dear neighbours and friends,

Several months ago I had the pleasure of being elected president of our Clair Hills Community Association (CHCA) Board of Directors. This role is one I consider a privilege to fulfill because it is an opportunity to serve our wonderful community. In this issue I have chosen to make my first President's Message a public acknowledgment of the people that make it all happen. It is with great pride and immense gratitude that I introduce the Board members who work so hard to serve you behind the scenes, in the hope that I may inspire you to get involved in whatever way compels you. Your CHCA Board is made up of:

**Shelly Reed** our Director of Communications – Shelly in my estimation is a dynamo and all things Clair Hills...If there is ever anything you need to know about what is going on in our community talk to Shelly. She does this by attending every meeting, and making phone calls to everyone imaginable. She also publishes our community newsletter. I often wonder how she does it all.

**Jason Vaid** our Treasurer – I like to call Jason Mr. Meticulous, he is without a doubt exceptionally suited to manage all the Clair Hills funds that we raise, and has a spread sheet to back up everything. He's funny, creative and the height of organization.

**Lisa Gillis** is our Executive Admin – Somehow Lisa manages to contribute meaningfully to all meetings while tirelessly typing all our minutes verbatim so we can stay on course.

**Lisa Norley** is our School Liaison – Lisa keeps the pulse on all things related to education, boundaries for new schools, bus routes, and all the latest with respect to our new Edna Staebler Public School. Lisa spends more time in public meetings than most anything else, so she can effectively advocate for our children's education in our community.

**Lisa Corlett** is our very talented Web Developer – You can see first hand how talented she is by visiting <http://www.clair-hills.ca/dev/>.

**Brenda Bell** is our Social Director – Brenda's focus is on generating fun activities and events that help to create a community spirit, and ultimately bring our community closer together.

These are the people who serve on your Board. I would be remiss if I did not share with you that many of these people are putting hours into their respective roles that would rival a full-time job, and they do so on a volunteer basis. So next time you see these folks in your neighborhood, please say hello, share your ideas and remember their efforts and their commitment to serving you and our community.

Be well,

**David Robinson**, President Clair Hills Community Association, June 2007

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wedding . portrait . maternity . newborn . fashion . lifestyle . commercial . special event . recreation . . .

See page 7 for information on Sara's Family Photo Day

# Clair Hills Annual Spring Clean-Up

**“When you do nothing you feel overwhelmed and powerless. But when you get involved you feel a sense of hope and accomplishment that comes from knowing you are working to make things better.”**  
—Anonymous.



Volunteers at the top of Columbia, ready to divide and conquer!

What a fantastic show of support! Approximately **50 adults and 20 kids participated in this event.** We met at the top of Columbia Drive and kicked off the event with a series of draws for some great prizes! Stacey Hammond won a \$35 gift certificate from John’s Nursery. There were also six lucky winners of Tim Hortons travel mugs and four lucky people won Community Clean-up T-shirts. After the draw, the volunteers divided into teams and worked together to clean up our entire neighbourhood. According to the City of Waterloo, the number of volunteers has doubled this year...isn’t it great that we were a part of that? At the end of the event we collected **100 bags of garbage.** In addition to the bags, we collected **3 tractor tires, some wood skids and metal rods, hundreds of newspaper flyers, and giant pieces of foam.** Garbage we couldn’t collect included **hundreds of yards of wire fencing and a huge metal culvert-type pipe.** All this information was recorded and the City made arrangements to dispose of these items.



Our total amazement and thanks go out to Marjorie Mape, who, on her own, collected 10 bags of garbage! All this before the event even began! Thank you so much Marjorie for your help and support!

Special thanks to our sponsors **Tim Horton’s and Pitch-In Canada** for providing us with garbage bags, gloves, prizes and snacks; **Sobey’s** (Columbia Dr.) for providing the bottled water and **John’s Nursery** for donating the gift certificate for our draw.

**100 bags of garbage.** The dumping of garbage in our wooded areas and ponds is unacceptable and has to stop. We all live here and must take responsibility for our own actions. Please, dispose of garbage properly. Store it in your garage until garbage collection day. Tie down your recyclables so they don’t blow away on windy days. If you take beverages or snacks with you on a walk then take a bag too so you can properly dispose of the garbage when you get home. Don’t throw things out your car window as you’re driving through the city. And don’t take your garbage to construction sites in the hope that the builder will take it away.

Take responsibility.

**Help keep our neighbourhood clean.**



Rolls and rolls of barbed wire found in the woodlot behind the park on Lausanne Cres.



Even the kids helped out! Cameron Reed on the left and Riya Vaid on the right.



Tractor tires, pipes and garbage left at Brandenburg Court for pick-up.

## Spring Events Update

### Clair Hills Poker Tournament

What a turn-out! Our goal was to have 30 people attend the event and we ended up with 35! The winners were as follows:

**1st place:** Flavio Menegazzo    **2nd place:** Chris Brissette    **3rd place:** Steve Diemert

**4th place:** John Pappas    **5th place:** Rob Weinburg

Everybody had such a great time! And best of all, **we raised \$675** for the playground at our new school! Thanks to everyone who came out! Special thanks to **East Side Mario's** for hosting such a great event!



Disbelief at the Clair Hills Poker Tournament

### Pampered Chef Cooking Show

14 lovely ladies came out to the cooking show, hosted by our very own neighbour **Robin Witt**. And what a fantastic show it was! Garlic bites, ranch pizza, salad, pie, wine, and best of all, great friends! After all was said, done, eaten and purchased, the Clair Hills Playground Fund received **\$107.59!** Many thanks to everyone who came out, and special thanks to Robin Witt who donated a percentage of her commission to the Playground Fund.

### Canadian Tire Fundraising BBQ


Our friend **Justin Young**, owner of the new Canadian Tire at the roundabout, gave us the opportunity during his Grand Opening to have a Fundraising BBQ. While the weather wasn't exactly what we hoped for, we had plenty of fun and support. Special thanks to all the volunteers from our neighbourhood who came out to help serve the masses, and a big thanks to **Brandon Moffat and his employer Conestoga-Rover & Associates** for lending us their BBQ. HUGE thanks to the following sponsors for making the weekend a success: **Pillers** for giving us a great discount on the sausages, **Weston Bakery** for giving us a great discount on the buns, **Shoppers Drug Mart** (Beechwood Plaza) for donating free pop, **Sobey's** (Columbia Dr.) for the free water and **Zehrs** (Beechwood Plaza) for providing the napkins and condiments. At the end of the two-day event, our Association raised **\$1375.71** for the playground!



Serving up sausages with a light dusting of rain at the Canadian Tire Grand Opening.

### Clair Hills Neighbourhood Garage Sale

Our first annual neighbourhood garage sale was held on Saturday, May 26th and it was a great success. We had 60 families participate, each donating \$5 to raise a total of \$320 for the playground! Thanks to Jerry Chappell for creating the very helpful maps, thanks to Pat Tristram for letting us use the sandwich boards and thanks to the Chronicle for advertising our event for free. Hopefully we'll have even more participants next year!



**Children are the stars of our classes**

Pre-Keyboard classes for ages infant – age 3  
Keyboard Based classes (as follows):

- ♪ Sunshine - for beginners ages 3 1/2 - 4
- ♪ Sunbeams - for beginners age 5-6
- ♪ Moonbeams - for beginners age 7-9

Contact: Lori Snider (519) 747-4015 [myc.com/teacher/LSnider](http://myc.com/teacher/LSnider)

Want to advertise your business in our newsletter? Contact Shelly Reed at [shells23@rogers.com](mailto:shells23@rogers.com) for more information.

**Edna Staebler**

(January 15, 1906—September 12, 2006) was a Canadian author, best known for a series of cookbooks, *Food That Really Schmecks*, based on Mennonite home cooking as practiced in the Waterloo Region. She was born in Berlin, Ontario (later Kitchener) in 1906 and grew up there. Staebler received a BA from the University of Toronto and a Teacher's Certificate from the Ontario College of Education. Staebler married in 1933 but divorced in 1962. She wrote articles for *Maclean's*, *Chatelaine*, *Saturday Night*, *Reader's Digest*, *Star Weekly* and other newspapers and magazines; she has also written non-fiction with Canadian themes. In 1991, she established an award for creative non-fiction, awarded annually by Wilfred Laurier University. Staebler was awarded the Order of Canada in 1996. She died of a stroke in Waterloo, Ontario in 2006 at the age of 100.

**Our New School Has a Name!**

On April 4th, 2007, an email was sent to residents of the Clair Hills email distribution list, inviting them to submit names for our new school. 68 different suggestions from 128 people were accepted via the School Board website ([www.wrdsb.on.ca](http://www.wrdsb.on.ca)) and on Tuesday, May 1st, our new school was officially named.....**Edna Staebler Public School!** A second public meeting was held on May 16th at Mary Johnston School, whereby the boundaries for the new school were discussed. There are seven different scenarios, but it appears as though the School Board is leaning towards scenario # 7. This boundary would include all of the Erbsville Triangle and all the JK to Grade 6's from Columbia Forest. There would also be kids from the beginning stages of the Vista Hills development coming to our school, while children from subsequent stages would go to a holding school; either Elizabeth Ziegler or another holding school. This would mean that approximately 160 kids would get bussed to our new school. It also means that St. Moritz will be extended to Sauve Cres by the start of the 2008 school year. It is very important that you provide your feedback so please, visit the School Board website at [www.wrdsb.on.ca/estaebler\\_news.php](http://www.wrdsb.on.ca/estaebler_news.php) to review the boundary information. You can also contact our very own School Liaison, Lisa Norley at [norley@rogers.com](mailto:norley@rogers.com) for more information.

**The West-Side Shopping Centre**

At the April CHCA Meeting, our special guest speaker was the developer of the shopping centre at the Erb & Erbsville roundabout. We were shown blue-prints for the area and received some details about the landscaping plans, irrigation efforts to keep trees and shrubs hydrated, and perhaps a pergola that we might benefit from as a means to advertise our events. Most importantly are the plans to develop a grocery store in the centre. While he has already been approved to allocate 15,000sq.ft to this project, he has recently applied for re-zoning so he can increase that space to 35,000sq.ft. While he is very keen on expanding the size of the grocery store, he is quite conscious of the fact that this plaza is in our backyard and he is very willing to work with us to accommodate our needs. In fact, he has asked us, the residents who will be shopping at this plaza on a regular basis, to actually compile a list of things we'd like to see in that plaza. So now we ask you: **What do YOU want in that shopping centre?** Do you want a grocery store? Or would you prefer perhaps a beer store, or a movie theatre, or maybe a medical building? Maybe you want a bowling alley or a scrap booking store. What about children's playcentre? **This is a call to action. Your opinion matters so think about what you'd like to see and contact Shelly Reed ([shells23@rogers.com](mailto:shells23@rogers.com)) to have your feedback recorded.** All the feedback will be compiled and forwarded to the developer so he knows exactly what we'd like to see in that shopping plaza.

**Our New Set of Lights**

A conversation with the City on May 1st confirmed that we are still getting a set of traffic lights at the corner of Keats Way and Erbsville Rd., however the exact date of installation is unknown. Suffice it to say that the City has confirmed that the lights will be installed by this September, prior to the start of the new school year. Stay tuned for more updates!



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## To Serve and Protect

**Neighbourhood Safety:** There have been a series of incidents recently that warrant some concern for our neighbourhood; some of which include seeing a gentleman loitering around school bus stops, seeing perhaps the same gentleman looking through people's blue boxes, garage break-ins and the dumping of garbage. We applaud those folks who took the time to file police reports and share the information about the incident to the rest of our community. At our next Association meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, June 6th, representatives from both Neighbourhood Watch and Block Parent will be present to discuss the set-up and maintenance of these programs in our community. In the meantime, feel free to report any suspicious activity to Shelly Reed and she'll do her best to keep the neighbourhood informed.

**By-law Enforcement:** The main number to call to report by-law infractions is 519.747.8785. The top 5 by-law infractions are:

**Parking:** On the street, on the lawn, in the front yard, etc.

**Lot Maintenance:** Derelict vehicles in the driveway, unsealed garbage on the lot, lack of lawn maintenance, etc. The City does conduct routine property checks and distributes fines where necessary.

**Noise:** Noise infractions can occur 24/7 and incidents should be reported to the Police at 519.653.7700. You can remain anonymous when reporting the incident, but please make sure you request an occurrence report number so you can follow-up later on. Keep this by-law in mind when you hear the builders installing roof shingles at 6am, or when they're busy working on stat holidays.

**Nuisance:** Incidents can include the knocking over of garbage bins, public urination, going through people's blue boxes, etc.

**Garbage/Litter:** The dumping of garbage on our paths and in our woodlots is illegal and when seen, should be reported immediately to the City via **Leslie Roach at 519.747.8645**. With respect to the garbage on housing construction sites, you can contact **Rob Trotter** at Development Services at 519.747.8752.

**Pesticides:** This is the first year for this by-law and as a result, only warnings are being given at this point. The by-law states that no pesticides, including Weed N Feed, etc., will be used/sprayed during the months of July and August. During the months when pesticides can be sprayed, a warning sign indicating pesticide use must be posted **24 hours prior** to the area being sprayed.

Lawn signs are available at: 99 Regina Street, Waterloo  
[www.letscurbpesticides.ca](http://www.letscurbpesticides.ca) (download)  
 Lawn Care companies can use their own signs

**Dog Waste:** Dog owners have a legal responsibility to clean up after their dogs and to **dispose of the waste at home**, not in the garbage cans in the parks. If you see someone breaking this law, there are two things you can do. You can call the Humane Society immediately at 519.745.5615 and they will do their best to come down and educate the offender. You can also call the By-law office to report the incident, but keep in mind that without specific information such as name and/or address of the offender, there won't be much that By-law officials can do. Parks and trash cans will be cleaned by the City as per the park rotation schedule. Again, if you own a pet, do the right thing and properly clean up after your dog.

*"A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm."  
 — Henrik Ibsen*



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## Family Mini-Golf Tournament

### Saturday, June 9th:

Let's grab the kids and get together as a community for a little mini-golf fun! The event is being held at Max's Golf Centre, which is located across from St. Jacob's Market. We're booked in for an 11am start, and the cost to golf 18 holes is \$5.25, including GST. Want to stay for lunch? You can add a hot dog, chips and a soft drink for only \$5.00 more. Please RSVP with Shelly Reed by June 7th to reserve your spot in the tournament. Hope to see you there!

## Family Photo Day

### Sunday, June 24th:

Our very own Sara Geidlinger, of Sara Geidlinger Photography is offering to take family portraits down by the pond on Rheinland Place. For only \$20, you will get a beautiful 8X10 portrait of your family in a lovely, natural surrounding, and in turn, Sara will donate \$2 to our Playground Fund. Family portrait sessions are normally valued at \$200 but for one special day, Sara is reducing her prices and will be charging only \$20 per family portrait! This is an incredible deal! Additional prints can also be purchased at reduced prices. Portraits can be picked up two weeks after this event, from Sara directly. Appointments will begin as early as 9am on the 24th, and will take approximately 15mins to complete. Space is limited so don't miss out on this fabulous opportunity! Book your family portrait session by contacting Sara Geidlinger at 519.886.1501.

## The Clair Hills Classic

### Sunday, July 8th:

Get your foursome together and come out to Foxwood Golf Course, located in Baden, just 15mins away from our neighbourhood!

#### Our golf tournament offers:

- 4 person scramble format
- Putting contest to win a Broil King BBQ, courtesy of Parkway Lincoln Ford
- First tee off time is at 12:36pm. Registration 1 hour prior to tee off time.
- Non-golfers are welcome to join in the putting contest as well the buffet dinner which is only \$28 per person

**Total cost to play:** \$100 per participant (\$400 per team) and this includes 18 holes of golf, power cart, buffet dinner and prizes. Final numbers must be given by June 25th, so please contact Shelly Reed as soon as possible to register your team.

## Clair Hills Summer Streetfest

### Saturday, August 25th:

Details to follow, but there will be numerous events throughout the day, including a BBQ/corn roast, talent show, demonstrations by fire and police officials, bocce ball, bouncy castles, clowns and other entertainment. Contact Shelly Reed to join the email distribution list so you don't miss out on information for this event. It's sure to be an end of summer blast!!



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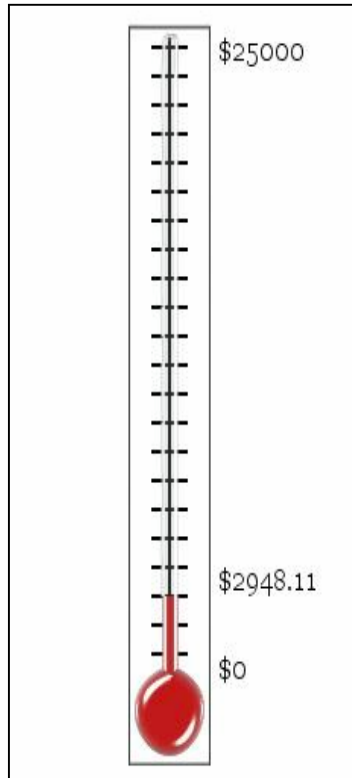
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### Slowly But Surely....

Slowly but surely wins the race....and we will win the race. Our goal is to raise \$25,000 for a playground at the new school, and while we are actively pursuing leads for corporate sponsorship, it is ultimately our responsibility to build this playground. There are numerous ways you can help:

- Contact Shelly Reed for information regarding the gift card program.
- Get a beautiful family portrait taken by our very own neighbourhood photographer, Sara Geidlinger.
- Grab three other people, or seven, or eleven, and come out to play in our golf tournament.
- Make a personal donation.
- Contact any of the Board Members if you have a lead on a corporate donation.
- Contact any of the Board Members if you have any other fundraising ideas.

With your help, our children will have a fantastic place to play when they're outside at school. It will be a great place for people in the neighbourhood to meet for playdates and will over-all just enhance the quality of lives of all those who use the space.



#### We want to hear from you!

What are your thoughts about the Community Association and our neighbourhood in general? Please take a moment and click on this link:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=815413939715>

You'll be asked 10 questions that will help the Board understand how you feel about our neighbourhood and what goes on in and around it.

### Clair Hills Community Crop

Calling all scrapbookers! We'd like to invite you to a series of Friday Night Crops. Every Friday in June, starting June 1, we'll be hosting our fun-filled nights in the community room at Laurelwood Sobeys from 6-11pm. If all goes well, we'll continue on through the summer! This is not a fundraiser, but a community event! We're asking \$2 for snacks, and there will be a swap table to find something you need, and to leave something you don't. Register early as space is limited. We're also looking for volunteers to monitor the evening.

For more information or to register, please contact Carrie Chapell at [thebuginarug@yahoo.ca](mailto:thebuginarug@yahoo.ca).



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## Staying Connected in Clair Hills

### Clair Hills Cares

**Introducing our brand new fundraising initiative.** Ever wanted to help out a needy family in the Waterloo area but weren't sure how to get involved? We have the program for you. Launching September 2007 will be Clair Hills Cares. This program currently exists in other areas of the city and now we bring it to our neighbourhood. In conjunction with other charitable organizations such as The United Way, we will be asking volunteers in our neighbourhood to donate non-perishable items, on a rotating basis, to a needy family in the Waterloo area. While the playground fund is a very worthwhile project, we feel we have the people and the means to help out some very deserving families in our city with a very basic necessity: food. There is no money required. We all have an abundance of food in our pantries; let's share some of that wealth. Stay tuned, more details to follow in the coming months.

*"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."*  
—Anne Frank

### Where Are You Clair Hills?

Not able to attend our monthly association meetings? Then you **MUST** be on our email distribution list! If you're interested in receiving the minutes from our monthly association meetings, information about our new school, about the new Vista Hills development, neighbourhood safety and more, then you **MUST** be on our email distribution list! If you are interested in receiving updates regarding neighbourhood events such as our First Annual Clair Hills Summer Streetfest, then please, do your part to save the environment. Join the other **223 residents** of Clair Hills and save paper by contacting Shelly Reed at [shells23@rogers.com](mailto:shells23@rogers.com) to add your family to our email distribution list. You won't regret it!



#### Parenting Workshops

- Learn loving techniques to calm a fussy baby in *The Happiest Baby on the Block™*
- Enjoy a baby-friendly yoga class, explore wellness options and connect with other parents by joining *The Nesting Network™*
- Participate in one of our Mommy or Daddy groups, build supportive relationships and discover solutions to today's most common parenting challenges

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