

CBLCA Annual General Meeting

President's remarks – November 28, 2018

I welcome you to this AGM, noting that we are meeting on the traditional territory of the Algonquin people. Special thanks to Nepean Sailing Club for making the space available to us on a night not normally open.

I especially welcome Theresa Kavanagh our new city councillor and Mark Taylor who we will honour tonight.

There are many special volunteers to thank and of course the outgoing CBLCA executive who I will now ask to stand and be introduced. I know you join me in thanking them all.

Let me say a few more words about the executive. We have been, this past year, a mix of members who have been on the executive for a while and some who just joined and some like me and Carrie and Kevin and Susie who are finishing year 2. That has meant we have learned from our history and experience and also from new ideas. It would be disingenuous of me to say it has all been smooth sailing (members of this club know what that is all about!) but it would be totally true for me to say that each and every one of us offered ideas and took the positions we did because we love the community and were committed to work things through respectfully and honestly.

Continuing with the executive for a minute, I want to single out two members in particular. Nigel and Gerald. Neither of them will be standing for nomination again this year, as, in Nigel's words: You sort of know when the time has come to move on and invite others in. Both Nigel and Gerald have made terrific contributions and will be missed, though I have made sure they will not go far and will continue to stay involved. They leave their positions as zone reps with our deep gratitude and appreciation.

I want to touch very briefly on just a few topics. Our website includes full reports of much of what I will speak about and some will come up later, so my remarks will be brief

The first is the work that Ian McConnachie, a long time Lakeview resident and deeply knowledgeable about systems and processes, and his committee led on first the BRT and then the proposed LRT. You have no idea how many messages, meetings and phone calls and pictures/diagrams went back and forth between Ian, the LRT phase two group and the city and our committee. But you do know the results of those exchanges for now at least, as many of you came to the two meetings we held on the topic, or saw us on FB live and follow updates. Many of you sent ideas, comments and questions and as much as Ian could he responded and passed them on. We know the value of public transit, but we also know it has to be right. I'd like to think that the work Ian and his group did went some way to getting it right! Would that group stand please. It's not over yet, of course and the committee will have a full agenda going forward.

I want to talk a bit about the activities of Parks and Rec. Led by Susie Crowe who juggles family and work and a million other things, I think she would be the first to say that she couldn't have pulled the work of Winter Carnival 2018 off without Grant McMillar. The day was a great day. And a few months later a successful Wheel Day, again led by Susie and a slew of volunteers, was held in Corkstown Park. Could all of you who volunteered at either of those events please stand up.

Along with Parks and Rec activities, so many more things happen in and around Maki House and in Lakeview Park, and Susie makes it possible for many of them to happen. Sports such as soccer and hockey, adult activities such as yoga, quilting, euchre and of course the Tuesday afternoon Friendship Club had an exceptional year, not to speak of scouts and guides and play group. All of you who were part of any organized community event/sport – including ones I didn't mention and if you were an organizer or a participant– please stand up!

This past year we focused on some internal matters too: including a revised constitution. A small group worked with Carrie Elliott (who is a policy wonk in her professional life, she says) to move it forward. You are going to hear about it and vote on it in a few minutes. But for now, I'd like the committee and two of our past presidents who commented on it to stand.

Behind all this is a strong communications plan: A new website, monthly emails, Facebook postings, an all candidates meeting and a community survey were part of it. Sounds easy and simple, but I know how much work the Chair Emma Osgoode put into it, alongside family life and a demanding job. So a shout out to Emma and her team – please stand- and to all of you who somehow responded to the survey – please stand!

What a community. I have lived here about 3 ½ years. I spent my professional life working to build strong communities across Canada and I feel so proud to now live in one. Not one that is only focused on itself, but one that is welcoming to new comers, knows its neighbours such as NSC and Wesley Clover Parks, cares deeply about the natural environment we are privileged to enjoy, and is concerned for others in other parts of the world, such as was shown in the sponsorship of a lovely Syrian family. Communities are about borders and markers (in our case a river and natural beauty as well as highways!) and sometimes we need to focus on what happens inside those boundaries, so we hold our heads down. But sometimes community has little to do with the map – it has to do with how we care for each other and for those who live beyond our small patch and we lift our eyes and our heads up. I am so grateful and honoured to have been the president of a community association in a community that recognizes and lives those possibilities every day. So to all of you, warmest thanks for being here tonight to say how important our community is.