



Bulletin de FALLINGBROOK Newsletter



Fallingbrook Community Association communautaire de Fallingbrook ~ www.fallingbrook.com

The Budget

By Herb Kreling, Councillor Orléans Ward

The focus at City Hall this month is the 2004 budget. This budget has had the most scrutiny of any in recent memory.

“At the centre of this debate is the question should taxes be frozen or increased...”

Having targeted a “no increase bottom line,” the Draft Budget that was tabled one month ago has been the topic of discussion in literally every corner of our community. Literally thousands of comments by letter, phone and e-mail have been pouring into the Councillors’ offices. Each loaded with suggestions to raise taxes or freeze taxes with an equal number of suggested program areas that are either favoured or disliked. On March 24, City

Council will debate the recommendations from residents, staff, and the standing committees.

At the center of this debate is the question should taxes be frozen or increased; what programs should or should not be funded; and, what is the correct balance between competing interests. These issues are normally debated during a budget process, but this year the community is divided between those who would accept a tax increase in order to save the current offering of services and those who want spending restricted to core or essential services. In addition to the tax debate there is also the confusing topic of your homes’ assessed values. Due to the “hot” Ottawa housing market, the assessed values of homes has risen at far faster rate than the commercial and industrial assessments. These rising assessments raise additional questions.

Your home’s assessed value is set by the Province of Ontario and is based on current values of similar properties in your neighbourhood. The municipal budget and the tax rate are set by City Council. In the past two years, the City froze the total tax

“On March 24 the final budget deliberations were started.”

requirement from property taxation. But, the current provincial legislation forced more taxes to be levied on the homeowners, while the business and industrial class paid less. So, even though the City collected the same total amount of taxes in 2003 as in 2002, the taxes paid by homeowners was more than the previous year. This is happening again in 2004, and is causing concern for many residents. City Council has repeatedly asked the Province to amend the legislation so that we can

address this issue and mitigate this negative impact on the homeowner. We hope that prior to the final deliberations of our budget, the Province will provide the needed relief so that we can pass the benefit along to the residents.

During the past few weeks, the Standing Committees have been considering the departmental budgets. As of Friday, March 12, the committees’ recommendations will be asking Council to reinstate programs in the arts, culture, museums, fire stations, recreation, community programs, transit, and a variety of other issues that have been the subject of much debate. For many residents, it is these quality of life issues that make our community and neighbourhood a special place.

Please see Budget, page 3.

Community Garage Sale

To participate, simply put your goods out for sale as if it was a private garage sale. We advertise the event, and because of the large number of “garage sales” going on at the same time, there is always lots of traffic and plenty of customers!

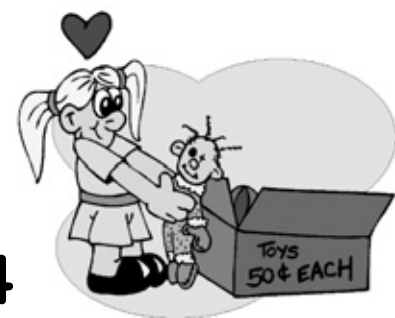


Samedi
le 15 mai 2004

Vente Garage Communautaire

Saturday

May 15, 2004



Pour participer, placer vos bric à brac devant votre maison, comme si vous faisez une vente privée. Laisser nous la tâche de faire les annonces publicitaires. Comme il y a toujours eu une grande participation à cet événement, notre ‘vente’ est devenue très populaire. Il y aura plusieurs acheteurs qui se promèreront durant toute la journée !

L'exécutif de l'Association communautaire
 Fallingbrook pour l'année 2003-04
 Fallingbrook Community Association
 2003-04 Executive List

L'Association communautaire Fallingbrook aimerait vous souhaiter la bienvenue dans notre communauté. Nous invitons toute personne intéressée à une de nos réunions. Les réunions ont habituellement lieu le troisième lundi du mois (septembre à avril) au centre Ray Friel.

The Fallingbrook Community Association would like to welcome you to the neighborhood. If you would like to attend one of our executive meetings, they are normally held the third Monday of the month (Sep to Apr) at the Ray Friel Centre.

President/Président	Zybina Richards	837-7623
Vice President/Vice-Président	Ted Macias	837-6181
Treasurer/Trésorier	Don Pottier	834-9650
Secretary/Secrétaire	Brenda Nutting	841-5916
Canada Day/Fête du Canada	David Villeneuve	837-0336
Recreation/Loisirs	George Blake	837-1695
Rinks/Patinoires	Paul Pelletier	824-9992
Members at Large/ Membres général	Debbie Parent	830-5433
	Eric Tousignant	
	Marc Cappelli	834-6636
Newsletter/Bulletin	Don Pottier	834-9650

The *Fallingbrook Newsletter* is published by the Fallingbrook Community Association. The newsletter is printed four times per year and is distributed free of charge to all households in the Fallingbrook neighborhood. Articles and letters submitted for inclusion in the *Fallingbrook Newsletter* reflect the opinion of the author, and not necessarily that of the Editors or of the Fallingbrook Community Association. The Editors reserve the right to edit or reject any articles or letters submitted for publishing.

Le bulletin de *Fallingbrook* est publié par l'Association communautaire de Fallingbrook. Ce bulletin est imprimé quatre fois par année et est distribué à chaque résidence de Fallingbrook. Les articles et lettres soumis ne reflètent nécessairement pas les opinions des rédacteurs ou de l'Association, mais plutôt l'opinion de l'auteur. Les rédacteurs se réservent le droit de corriger ou rejeter les articles et lettres soumis pour publication.

Fallingbrook Volunteer Awards Night

The Fallingbrook Community Association will host its annual volunteer awards night on Saturday, May 15, 2004 at the Ray Friel Centre. This event pays tribute to the dedication of those who give selflessly of their time for the running of our many community programs and activities.

If you know of a deserving volunteer who has made a contribution to Fallingbrook, we would like to hear from you. Nominations for work related to school, recreation, sports, guiding, scouting or any community program can be sent to: president@fallingbrook.com.

Association communautaire de Fallingbrook Community Association
Assemblée générale ~ Annual General Meeting

élection des directeurs de l'ACF

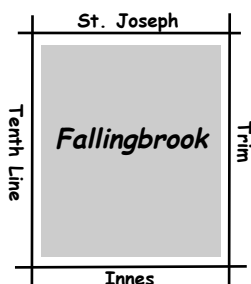
election of FCA directors

lundi, le 17 mai 2004
 Centre Ray Friel

Monday, 17 May 2004
 Ray Friel Centre

Tous les résidents
 de **FALLINGBROOK**
 sont les bienvenus !

Open to all
FALLINGBROOK
 residents !



Questions?
 courriel:
president@fallingbrook.com

Questions?
 e-mail:
president@fallingbrook.com

Save our Outdoor Rinks Program

A letter sent to Fallingbrook Councillors

Dear Councillors Kreling and Jellet,

At our February meeting, the Fallingbrook Community Association (FCA) unanimously endorsed a resolution to communicate with you our deep concern regarding the possible cuts to the city's outdoor ice program. Although cuts to any services that make our community the one we chose to live and grow in are not wished for, the outdoor ice program is

“... a program that provides an extremely healthy pastime ...”

one with few organizations that can defend its needs. We don't collect user fees from the kid's and their parents who just arrive to have a few hours of fun either playing one of the greatest games on the planet or enjoying our “no sticks allowed” pleasure rinks. It is the absence of a well organized group that speaks for these hundreds of skaters that motivated this letter in support of maintaining this vital recreational program. We write to you in support of a program that provides an extremely healthy pastime to skaters of all ages, all incomes and all skill levels. The ice we create does not discriminate.

Just how successful are our outdoor rinks? This year our three rinks have been more popular than ever. Other than on the few extremely cold nights, it was very

supervised operation than the requisite 30 mandated by the city.

One cannot imagine how this service can be delivered in a more highly efficient and effective combination of tax dollars and volunteer effort. Our association receives a little over \$5,000 to manage each of our rinks. We in turn pay our managers an honorarium and hire local students to monitor, scrape and flood the ice. A large volunteer effort supports the work of our managers: they provide over a hundred hours helping not only with ice maintenance but also behind the scenes consolidating attendance statistics, issuing cheques to our student supervisors and preparing and monitoring budgets to provide thorough accounting back to our city sponsors. To quote Jim Kyte from his February 21st article in the *Ottawa Citizen*, “this service could easily cost three or four times the amount if the city tried to do it themselves”.

We have already absorbed an 8% decrease in funding this year and there is another planned decrease next year. Yet we at the FCA, a group of volunteers, are still highly motivated to support this service that so enriches our community. Any further cuts would however most likely destroy the program given the fact, as mentioned in the opening paragraph, there is no one organization that speaks, nor that can be easily mobilized on behalf of the hundreds that enjoy the outdoor ice.

We, the Fallingbrook Community Association, sincerely urge you to continue to support this program.

Paul Pelletier
 Outdoor Rinks Director



common to see over 30 skaters on the ice during each of the hours of operation. This month a Boy Scout group reserved a rink for its annual skating party and over 50 skaters enjoyed the great outdoors! This is not surprising given we are a community of close to 30,000 people with 3 outdoor ice surfaces, only 1 rink per 10,000. In each of our rinks, at the Fallingbrook, Jeanne Sauvé and Maple Ridge schools, the children from these schools and others can enjoy the ice during the day. During the evenings and weekends, we provide more hours of

Rink Operations

Fallingbrook

- Rodd Foley (Manager)
- Jamie Sheldrick
- Adam Comeau
- Rob Pelletier
- Marc Lalonde

Jeanne Sauvé

- Tim Desprey (Manager)
- Kurt Jones
- John Nellan
- Pat Roome
- Nick Roome

Maple Ridge


- Marc Rioux (Manager)
- Alex Montieff
- Andrew Lafosse
- Andrew Lamarche
- Matt McEvoy

Budget: from page 1

On March 24 the final budget deliberations were started. We will decide on the services that the City will provide and the division of scarce resources among them. Not the least of which will also include the plan for how these services will be paid. It will, hopefully, be the beginning of a new deal with senior governments where we will realize the benefits of a new intergovernmental relationship where municipalities are partners with the province and Federal governments.

One program not affected by the outcome of this year's budget debate is the construction of additional ice surfaces at the Ray Friel Centre. We are currently negotiating with Serco the agreements that would see the twin pad ice surface addition proceed. There has been some concern in the community that these plans were on hold. While the negotiations are taking longer than I would have thought, they are ongoing.

The draft budget has been criticized for its broad reaching threats to services. At the conclusion of this process, we want to deliver a budget that is affordable and in keeping with the desires of the community.



Volunteers Needed for Isolated Residents

Did you know that you have two neighbours who feel alone and isolated? Can you imagine being on a waiting list for 3 years hoping to find a friend? Citizen Advocacy, a United Way agency, knows two Fallingbrook residents who each need a good neighbour to be a volunteer. Make your own schedule and pick your own activities. Here's the profile of one Fallingbrook resident waiting for a volunteer.

Marc is a 23 year-old Francophone who lives at home and has a developmental disability. Marc is mobile and enjoys sports, cinema, bicycling, and swimming. He would like to learn new bus routes to increase his mobility. For more information, contact Heather at Citizen Advocacy, 761-9522 x.222, hbadenoch@citizenadvocacy.org, or visit our website www.citizenadvocacy.org.

The Princess Louise Falls Cleanup

by Zachary Langille, age 12, Patrol Leader with 4th Orleans Dragon Troop

On the 15th of November 2003, the 4th Orleans Scout Troop decided to take action against the constant pollution of a local stream that is the namesake of our Scout Group. Our community and Group name, Fallingbrook, came from the beautiful falls named for Princess Louise.

4th Orleans Dragon Troop has been cleaning up the wooded trails surrounding the Falls as an annual outing. The garbage pick-up inspired us to plan a clean-up of the basin at the foot of the Falls. The effort was planned by the Scouts as a community service and environmental activity.

This clean-up proved to be quite an undertaking. Armed with rubber gloves, rubber boots and a lot of determination the Scouts entered the garbage filled hole that once was a popular local tourist attraction, prepared to take on whatever came their way.

The clean-up proceeded as planned on a cool, clear Saturday. The Scouts, aided by their Leaders, attacked the piles of trash carelessly thrown into the stream and the forest surrounding the Falls basin. The Troop had removed several bicycle frames, shopping



CHARITY AUCTION

Thursday, April 1, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.
(Public Viewing 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.)

at **THE ORLEANS CLIENT SERVICE CENTRE**
255 Centrum Blvd., Orléans
The Cumberland Community Resource Centre
All proceeds will be used to support programs such as
The Emergency Food Program and
Counselling and Support Groups for Children




VENTE DE CHARITÉ

le jeudi 1^{er} avril 2004 à 19h00
(Exposition des articles à encanter de 18h00 à 19h00)

au **CENTRE DU SERVICE À LA CLIENTÈLE D'ORLÉANS**
255, boul. Centrum, Orléans
Le Centre de ressources communautaires de Cumberland
Tous les profits de la vente serviront au maintien de programmes tels le
Programme de nourriture et les
Services de counseling et groupes de soutien pour les enfants

carts, discarded televisions and even a motorcycle frame from the pool and stream. Many bags of garbage were collected from the woods surrounding the basin and from the stream banks themselves. It was obvious that the effort had paid off; the area had not looked this good in years. Unfortunately, the clean-up was halted prematurely when the water turned milky white with soap suds. Our effort had fallen victim to a thoughtless prank.

"It looked like someone threw a bar of soap into the stream," said one Scout, "The water turned completely white with suds and though some of the Scouters and Scouts tried to keep working, we had to pack it in." The Scouts were trying to help the community and were rather disappointed by this person's actions. Despite this, the Scouts agreed that they had made a pretty good dent in the mess and vowed to come back in the Spring to continue the clean-up.

The Falls are more than a popular natural feature to the 4th Orleans Scouts. They have been the backdrop for many Investitures and the scene of many Cub and Scout evening hikes. But more importantly, the Falls and its feeder stream collect several other streams and make their way into the Ottawa River about a half kilometre away. The Ottawa River is the major supply of drinking water for the cities of Ottawa and Gatineau.

Neighbourhood Watch Week 2004: Slogan Contest

Neighbourhood Watch Week 2004 will take place this year in September. Among the activities to be planned is the launch of a Neighbourhood Watch slogan and poster! Please submit your Neighbourhood Watch "slogan" or catch phrase by April 23 to: neighbourhoodwatch@ottawapolice.ca

Guidelines: - The slogan must be short, so it can be applied on a number of different promotional products including a poster. - The slogan should have a long life (ie. it should not refer to a specific date) - The slogan must be catchy and make a statement about Neighbourhood Watch! Be creative! The contest is being conducted by the Ottawa Neighbourhood Watch Executive Committee.

Learn about the Ottawa Neighbourhood Watch program at www.ottawapolice.ca



Citizenship judge Mme. Pinel with Piper and RCMP escort



Pony Rides

photos by Frank Dugal



The Cow Guys



The Kids' Fair

Decorated Bike Contest



photo by Frank Dugal



Fête du Canada Fallingbrook Canada Day

The Fallingbrook Community Association has been hosting a Canada Day celebration every July 1 since 1987. It is not clear if we can do so this year, because of the uncertainty of development at the Ray Friel Centre.

The City is negotiating with Serco, the management company that operates Ray Friel, to construct two new ice surfaces. If the rinks are under construction on July 1, we will be unable to hold any Canada Day event on the Ray Friel and Sir Wilfrid

Laurier sites.

We are making contingency plans. If construction has not yet started, we can still do the fireworks over the Sir Wilfrid Laurier football fields, as before. We are also looking into a new site over the artificial lake south of the Home Depot mall. This has been a very popular event, right in the middle of our community. We hope that it can continue, but if we lose our site, perhaps we can pass the event to the new community south of Innes Road.



photo by Frank Dugal

Committee

(Left to right) **Front:** Brenda Spearman, Jocelyn Holmes; **Mid:** Debbie Parent, Zybina Richards, George Blake, David Villeneuve, Don Pottier; **Back:** Marc Cappelli, Eric Tousignant, Phil Chaput; **Missing:** Ted Macias, Jim Desprey



Thanks to our sponsors ~ Merci à nos commanditaires



Trinity Development Group, M&M Meats Tompkins, Valecraft Homes, Woodfield Homes, SEACOM Technologies Inc., Kumon Math and Reading, Ottawa 67s, Dugal Imaging, Herb Kreling, Phil McNeely, Brian Coburn

