

Glen Williams
Community Association
Our Village, Our Voice.

Annual Report - 2016

Preamble

In every casual conversation held, every electronic communication sent and every community meeting organized among Glen Williams neighbours, it is evident that we share a love for our hamlet as our home. Thank you to those Glen residents, who as members in the GWCA, have shown that they value their community, want to keep informed and desire to have a voice in shaping the future of our village. It is the goal of this Annual Report - 2016 to bring members and residents up-to-date on the most recent work of the Glen Williams Community Association, as we chart a new direction for community involvement.

History

The Glen Williams Community Association (GWCA) was formed by local residents in 1999. The purpose of the organization was to promote, enhance and protect the village atmosphere of Glen Williams and to represent members positions on matters pertaining to the hamlet of Glen Williams. These matters included such things as safety, heritage, development, environment, facilities and events.

In the years since, the organization has focused its efforts on creating and monitoring the Glen Williams Secondary Plan 2005 (GWSP), promoting a better understanding of the unique character of Glen Williams, advocating for adherence to GWSP goals and principles through comments to the Town, developers and other stakeholders about proposed subdivision and public infrastructure projects, convincing the Town to commission a Glen Williams Traffic Study 2009, and voicing ongoing safety concerns related to traffic volumes and speeds through the village.

Our work over the years has had a positive impact on the hamlet. The final design for the Meadows in the Glen development was altered to include a saved pine plantation, a destination parkette, and low impact rural roads with ditches/bioswales. Canada Post restored "Glen Williams" as a postal address. Wildwood Road was officially declassified from an "arterial" to "collector" road. Glen roads achieved speed reductions and restricted truck signs. The new Pumping Station received additional landscaping for better visual screening. The first of six hamlet gateway/traffic calming features was installed at Prince St. and Barraclough Blvd. Access to Town staff and Council was established in an attempt to establish meaningful relationships with Glen residents.

Initially the GWCA was structured as a more formal organization with paid memberships, Annual General Meetings, an elected Executive, and volunteer committees. The association kept residents interested and informed by utilizing door-to-door flyers, public meetings, and a first generation email system. However, as the years passed, we struggled like many volunteer organizations to maintain an accurate membership list, recruit and retain executive members and keep up with yearly General Meetings. The maintenance of the association fell to a dedicated core group, many of whom had served as citizen reps for the original drafting of the secondary plan. Adapting to today's mobility of residents, changing forms of communication and constraints on time, the GWCA evolved into a more informally structured organization, while trying to remain true to its founding purpose.

Twenty months ago, the original core group informally sought the advice of a number of actively involved Glen residents. Did the concept of a community association still have validity? If yes, then what would it take to revitalize the concept, and what might a new association look like? The consensus was that although some aspects of life in Glen had evolved since 1999, the original purpose for a community association still stood and the pressures impacting our hamlet's way of life in 2015 were just as great, if not greater. A community association was still needed to represent the issues and interests of today's Glen residents.

Today - 2015 & 2016

Since Spring 2015, volunteers Janet Bailey, Drew Leverette, Kate Murray, Claudia Russell, Bill Shuttleworth and Wayne Van Hinte have served as an interim executive to rejuvenate the organization. Efforts have included establishing a GWCA presence at Glen Canada Day activities, encouraging residents to join or re-join as members, improving communication through the use of the Glen Williams Community eNewsletter and the monthly Neighbours in the Glen magazine, securing the *glenwilliams.org* domain name for a hamlet portal, and hosting two community association Re-Think forums to gather resident input on current Glen issues. In addition, the volunteer group has promoted the use of the Town's portable speed radar board in the Glen, presented a special information meeting to alert residents about the Eden Oak Creditview Hts. subdivision application, obtained Party status for the GWCA at the OMB hearings related to this application. We have encouraged Glen residents to become actively engaged in the OMB Pre-hearings, the public forums for the Town's Mature Neighbourhoods Character Study and the proceedings related to zoning changes and special applications for the two gravel pits located on the edges of the Glen. We also filed an application for the community association to become an Ontario not-for-profit incorporated organization.

Financial Information

In 2009, GWCA funds on hand totalled \$455.00. These monies remained dormant until 2015, when their availability provided seed money for the rejuvenation of the community association.

Since 2015, new individual donations to the Glen Williams Community Association have totalled almost \$1800, of which approximately \$400 were in-kind donations from individuals.

Our funds have been used for a variety of purposes. Banners and signage utilizing the GWCA logo have been created. Three Town Hall rentals and associated meeting fees have been paid for. Architectural renderings regarding the Eden Oak Creditview Heights development have been commissioned. Incorporation of the community association and the legalities associated with that government application have been paid. Additionally, individuals donated specific funds for specific purposes – topographical maps, colour photocopying, incorporation and associated legal services.

Dispersals have totalled approximately \$1400.

There is currently a balance of \$427.00.

Now that incorporation has been accomplished, going forward, there will be full financial auditing, annual Canada Revenue submissions and a special bank account for not-for-profit incorporated bodies. Should the Directors choose, an application to the government for charitable status may be submitted.

In the interim, anyone wishing to view the detailed financial recording may do so by speaking to any of the interim executive members. Copies will also be available at the Nov. 23, 2016 founding meeting of the newly incorporated community association.

Transition to a Not-for-Profit Corporation

Our evolution from a 1999 informal association into a 2016 not-for-profit corporation is to better reflect the realities of today. Legislation, expectations and practices have changed. In our dealings with public bodies and private corporations, our operating identity should be that of an official organization instead of an informal organization identified by individuals. Our new Ontario Corporation number is 001959883 and we have received Letters Patent for The Hamlet of Glen Williams Residents Association Inc. As of October 2016, the current Directors of the incorporated entity are Janet Bailey, Drew Leverette, Kate Murray, and Wayne Van Hinte.

For 2017, we are looking to build an enlarged group of Directors, each with a personal passion for Glen Williams, who will work together to build a community organization that will reflect resident voices on current and future issues. Interests of new Directors will vary, but could include: maintaining our “rural” hamlet look, impacting the design of new public works infrastructure, guiding respect for our built heritage, shaping the impact of 3 new proposed subdivisions, addressing safety and traffic issues, better connecting of our naturalized trail system, improving our parks and green space, supporting our business district, strengthening our arts community, adding a voice to the revision of the Glen Williams Secondary Plan 2005 (GWSP), etc.

Future Workplan

The new Board of Directors chosen on Nov. 23, 2016 will be a working board. In 2017, they will be asked to use the ideas generated at the Spring 2016 Re-Think public forums as they review and prepare recommendations for approval by the association's membership, as needed, concerning refinement of the government's By-Law template for Not-for-Profit corporations: a board of directors, an executive, volunteer committees, membership, financial organization, name, etc. The group will also be involved in preparing for the Ontario Municipal Board Hearings into the Eden Oak subdivision application set for Feb. 27 - March 10, 2017.

A follow-up formation meeting for the newly chosen Board will be held Wed. Nov. 30, 2016 @ 7:00pm in the Parkside Room, Williams Mill.

Conclusion

Glen Williams benefits from having terrific people who are prepared to step forward to advocate for their community. Membership in our community association is a great way to join in advocacy, while getting to know more neighbours from across the Glen. We would encourage you to add your skills and interests to those of your neighbours to help shape our new not-for-profit community organization in 2017.

Respectfully submitted by:

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*presented at the
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