



## THE GLEN WILLIAMS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION 2022 AGM ANNUAL REPORT

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### GWCA MISSION STATEMENT

To maintain the hamlet character of Glen Williams by  
engaging and communicating with its residents and other stakeholders.

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The GWCA is committed to helping maintain the hamlet character of the Glen including our sense of shared community, quality of life, cultural and natural environment. Board members and committee leads continued their work primarily in the areas of communication, development, community engagement, traffic, parks and trails and beautification. The following are key activities and accomplishments since the November 2021 AGM.

### COMMUNICATION

Accomplishments have included creating additional channels of communication to provide more options for members and to reach broader audiences as well as providing consistent communication, using the most appropriate channel at the right time for the right message. Revamping our website to ensure up-to-date content and access to more resources for the community has been a major focus.

Increasing transparency of ongoing GWCA activities has spanned across our 3 primary communication channels including our newsletter, our resurrected Facebook page and our website, with a goal to keep residents informed about key issues impacting the hamlet and residents, and share community news and events and the ongoing activities of the GWCA.

**GWCA Newsletter:** Published monthly, this popular platform keeps residents informed about key issues that impact the hamlet including community news, events, and the annual activities of the GWCA. Since the last AGM the newsletter has continued to grow in content and publication. 25 newsletters have been sent to almost 1,000 subscribers.

**GWCA Facebook Page:** Our page has been resurrected and is being used to complement the information shared in newsletters and for more time sensitive communications. The page has now reached 854 followers.

**GWCA Website:** The website has continued to grow in its content and is now a robust and up to date place for community information and resources with helpful links. Updated GWCA information including “About Us”, a definition of, and importance of becoming a member and GWCA accomplishments was also added to defined tabs profiling key GWCA documents including board meeting minutes, by-laws and key reports on GWCA activities.

## **DEVELOPMENT**

This has been a period of unprecedented potential negative impact to the Glen and quality of life for hamlet residents given the extent of changes in municipal and provincial regulations. The development committee has actively continued to serve as stewards of the Glen Williams Secondary Plan (GWSP), ensuring to the extent possible that any proposed changes to the hamlet align with the requirements of the Plan. The reviews have a specific focus to help protect and preserve the natural and cultural heritage features of the Hamlet; and to guide change that maintains the unique character and natural environment of the Hamlet as well as the quality of life for residents.

This required priority ongoing activity with Town and Regional Staff, Credit Valley Conservation, Town Legal Counsel, Developers and the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) as noted below:

### **Glen Williams Secondary Plan (GWSP) Appeal**

- In July, 2022 the Region officially approved the updated the GWSP. Within a month the owners of McMaster-Meagan, 102 Confederation and Bishops Court-Phase 2 submitted an appeal to the OLT to challenge details in the updated GWSP.
- GWCA hosted an open meeting and presentation for residents to raise awareness of the appeals filed by the developers. This action by the developers represented a potentially precedent-setting event for the future of the GWSP. If the Tribunal sides with the developers, changes could be made that weaken the plan, to allow more development in a way that could destroy the hamlet character.
- GWCA submitted an application to the OLT for Party Status for this appeal and was granted that status.
- GWCA Participated in the preliminary OLT hearings in Nov. 2022.
- As an approved party, participated in first OLT Tribunal hearing in Jan. 2023.
- Continued to work with Town Staff, Town Legal Counsel and Developers to address issues list items.

### **102 Confederation St. Development – (GWE – Glen Williams Estate the Developer)**

- GWCA submitted issues lists identifying where the developers Draft Plans submitted were not in alignment with the GWSP and posed potential negative impacts to current residents.
- In July, 2022, GWCA met with the Town's Director of Parks and Open Space to discuss developer's proposal for a trail system in the development. Some alternative ideas were assessed and left for Town staff to pursue.
- Early Oct. 2022, developer filed an appeal with the OLT. In communication to GWCA, the owner expressed an intent to continue discussions with parties in an effort to resolve issues.
- On Oct. 14, 2022, GWCA submitted an application to OLT for Participant Status in this appeal process.
- On Oct. 22, 2022, developer submitted updates to its Draft Plan addressing various issues raised by Town, Region and GWCA.
- GWCA attended first OLT Case Management Conference Nov. 2022 and was granted participant status.
- On Nov. 22, 2022, developer submitted responses to a number of issues raised by GWCA, CVCA and Town staff and since that date the GWCA has continued to work with Town Staff and developer in an effort to reduce the issues list.

## **Megan/McMaster Development – (Eden Oak the Developer)**

- As an already approved party in the OLT process for Megan/McMaster, GWCA submitted a list of issues identifying aspects where the Draft Plan submitted was not in alignment with GWSP and posed potential negative impacts to current residents.
- Continued working collaboratively with Town Staff, Town Legal Counsel and Developers in an attempt to mitigate issues and to establish a joint Issues list.
- Participated in Jan. 2022 OLT Case Management Conference. Judge encouraged parties to work together to narrow the list of issues.
- On Jan. 12, 2023 the Developer submitted an altered plan. Since that date there have been intense negotiations with the Town and Regional staff, CVCA and GWCA, culminating in a settlement document which has been accepted by all parties and will be presented at the OLT session scheduled for Feb. 23, 2023.

## **Prince St. Improvement Project**

- Participated in resident sponsored meeting as well as Public Information Centre (PIC) PIC#1 Town sponsored meeting.
- Submitted GWCA response to Town supporting resident concerns.
- Shared survey and information on PIC sessions #1 and 2 with residents.

## **The Chase Development**

- Participated in Committee of Adjustment hearings opposing amendments sought by developer that were not aligned to GWSP.

## **Bishops Court Development**

- GWCA continued to liaise with Town staff to keep informed of any new activity on this development application. Town recently confirmed no new activity to report.

## **Other**

- **Bill 109:** In Apr. 2022, the provincial government passed Bill 109. Schedule 5 of the Bill put pressure on municipalities to approve developments in a timely fashion or be prevented from charging development fees. In order to counter this financial pressure, the Town Planning staff drafted changes to Official Plan Amendment (OPA 49) which would enhance the Town's control over development submissions and related charges to developers. The GWCA participated in two Town of Halton Hills Council Meetings in Jan. 2023 as a delegate to support approval of town's Amendment (OPA 49).
- **Bill 23:** Advocated opposition to Greenbelt amendments to Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.
- **Dry Wells:** Advocated for residents with Region, Town and elected officials to address dry well issues with sense of urgency.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement efforts focused on a variety of initiatives and events. Accomplishments included:

**Spring Open Community Meeting:** Hosted at the Town Hall, with the goal to inform members of GWCA activities and initiatives underway and provide an overview of committee plans for the remainder of the year. Members were also invited to meet with each committee lead to ask questions, provide feedback, and/or put their name forward to join a committee.

**Canada Day:** Hosted a booth in the park with a focus on sharing information on current activities and initiatives, signing up new members and fundraising including a silent auction.

**2022 Municipal Election Panels:** Hosted two debate sessions. One for candidates for Ward 2 Councillor and a second for Halton Hills Mayor. Both providing residents the opportunity to learn more about each candidate and their platform for the Glen. Each session brought residents out for a full house. Additionally, over 300 residents accessed Ward 2 all candidates session through livestream and over 500 residents accessed Mayoral session through livestream.

### Community events

With a goal to create a shared sense of community, hosted several community events:

- **Photo Contests:** Awarded prizes for three best decorated home contests including Canada Day, Halloween and Christmas.
- **Glen Pumpkin Walk:** Residents brought their pumpkins to the Glen Williams Public School where they were relit providing residents with the opportunity to explore a pathway of over 200 lit pumpkins while mingling with neighbors over some hot cider and treats.
- **Indigenous Peoples Day:** Partnered with St. Albans for first Indigenous Peoples Day service in the Glen.

## TRAFFIC

The draft report was completed based on the results of the Resident Survey conducted in 2021, primary and secondary data provided by the Town and a collection of best practices, regarding issues facing the Glen was completed. ***[Final copy will be available on the website within the next month.]***

The four most important issues identified by residents was speeding, noise, lack of enforcement on traffic violations, and parking and congestion in the historic core.

Highlights of the traffic report recommendations include:

- Need better data collection of traffic issues in the Glen
- Create a traffic plan for the entirety of Glen Williams encompassing the primary four issues identified by residents and current data
- Evaluate traffic noise issues using an acoustic consultant
- Revision of Town of Halton Hills bylaws to include traffic noise
- Ensure all actions taken in response to traffic issues are based on evidence, promising practices and not complaints
- Determine to what extent other areas of the Glen are being used as 'cut-through'
- Improve provision and distribution of data collection from various sources i.e., Halton Regional Police, Bylaw Enforcement and community traffic studies
- Evaluate existing signage in Glen Williams for effectiveness and determination of changes and improvements
- Consider traffic calming improvements when new construction or development is planned
- Better consider and promote collective advocacy to the Town and the representatives about the entire Glen issues

## **PARKS AND TRAILS**

Last year's focus was on helping to protect and enhance green spaces in the Glen and to educate GWCA members about trails and park issue and promote trail activities.

- Continued to actively participate with the Credit Valley Trail organization as it develops plans and initiatives to establish a trail from Orangeville to Lake Ontario, encouraging effective integration with the Glen.
- Sought Town agreement to update Glen Trails Map in Pavilion at Shelagh Law Parkette.
- Advocated along side the Town for robust trail system behind 102 Confederation St. development ensuring current residents are not cut off from establish informal trail system.
- GWCA worked with Town staff to have all rusted debris from old homestead on edge of Glen Park removed.

## **BEAUTIFICATION**

With a focus on ways to enhance and showcase the historic and great natural beauty of the Glen through affordable and implementable projects, last year's accomplishments included:

- Applying for the Community Partnership Program Grant through Town of Halton Hills Partnership Program for Shelagh Law Parkette Improvement Project. Project to include:
  - - Re establishing the Community Pavilion Board at the Shelagh Law Parkette to include a map of Glen Williams showing all trails and a Community Bulletin Board
    - Implementation of a historical, educational/interpretive sign/storyboard along the path by the river including Indigenous Land Acknowledgement, importance of Credit River to our Indigenous ancestors and other key historical information about the Glen.

## **ENGAGEMENT WITH TOWN COUNCIL AND TOWN STAFF**

Continued our focus to create a greater community presence for the GWCA and strengthen relationships with elected officials and Town Staff.

**Elected Officials:** Continued ongoing communication with Ward 2 Councillors. Providing ongoing information of GWCA initiatives, issues impacting the Glen/residents and requesting Councillor support at Council meetings where agendas specifically impact the Glen/residents.

**Orientation meeting with newly elected Ward 2 Councilors:** Presentation focused on key issues impacting the Glen and the work of the GWCA underway.

**Town Staff:** Continued ongoing communication and meetings with town staff across key departments on a broad spectrum of issues impacting the Glen/residents. We are very proud of our strong relationships with Town staff, we appreciate their time and efforts. While we don't always agree on each item, by engaging cooperatively we get more done.

**Halton Town Council Meetings:** Participated as delegates in several Council meetings where agenda items/Council decisions could potentially negatively impact the Glen/residents.

**Press Releases:** GWCA quoted and featured in 3 Halton Hills Today articles related to protecting GWSP and quality of life for hamlet residents.

## **BOARD GOVERNANCE/MEMBERSHIP**

Focused on continued governance improvement and transparency for members:

- Ensured Board of Directors met monthly
- Instituted monthly Executive meetings
- Revised mission statement to ensure alignment with non-profit, incorporated Letters of Patent
- Improved clarity of what a GWCA member is as well as definition of resident
- Created annual action plans and posted on GWCA website
- Posted monthly Board Meeting Minutes on GWCA website
- Formalized annual budget process and implemented board accepted spending directions
- Added a “Donate” button to our website, given there is no charge for membership however fixed costs to operate.