

THE GLEN WILLIAMS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

GWCA MISSION STATEMENT

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

The GWCA is committed to helping maintain the hamlet character of the Glen including our sense of shared community, quality of life and cultural and natural environment. Board members continued their work primarily in the areas of community engagement, parks & trails, communication, development, traffic and beautification in alignment with the 2023 Annual Plan. The following are key accomplishments since the last AGM - February 2023.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement efforts focused on a variety of initiatives and open public events that provided residents with the opportunity to learn more about their community, the work of the GWCA and meet fellow residents.

Spring Open Meeting – April 30/23

- Updated residents on GWCA activities and initiatives carried over from 2022, presented a draft 2023 Annual Plan based on member input and sought resident feedback with a goal to finalize the plan.
- Residents also heard from our newly elected officials Mayor, Ann Lawlor, Ward 2 Councillors Joseph Racinsky and Jason Brass and Regional Councillor Clark Somerville who facilitated an interactive session. An overview of key municipal and regional initiatives impacting the Glen was provided and feedback was gathered on resident priorities.
- In addition, a successful Silent Auction was held with proceeds directly supporting the Shelagh Law Parkette Transformation Project.

Fall Open House – Oct. 25/23

- Hosted a Fall Open House providing residents with the opportunity to learn about important projects and initiatives impacting the Glen. Residents visited subject-matter tables and had the opportunity to speak with community representatives (staff from the Town of Halton Hills, Transportation and Public Works, Halton Police from the Traffic and Crimes Unit, Bird Friendly Halton, Credit Valley Trails and Halton Climate Action Group) on issues including traffic, resident safety, new subdivision developments in the Glen, climate change and parks and trails including the Shelagh Law Parkette Transformation Project. Ward 2 Councillor Joseph Racinsky and Regional Councillor Clark Somerville also attended.

Community Events

With a goal to create a shared sense of community, the GWCA hosted or participated in several community events:

- **Photo Contests:** Coordinated contest and awarded prizes for three best decorated home contests including Canada Day Most Patriotic, Spooktacular Halloween and Holly Jolly Christmas.
- **Canada Day:** Hosted a booth in the park with a focus on sharing information on current GWCA activities and initiatives, signing up new members and fundraising.
- **Glen Pumpkin Walk:** Organized event which saw residents bring their carved pumpkin creations to the Glen Williams Public School where they were relit providing the community with the opportunity to explore a pathway of over 250 lit pumpkins while mingling with neighbors over some hot cider and treats.

Other Community Engagement Initiatives

- Continued to collaborate with other Glen community groups, including quarterly meetings with executive of the Town Hall Board.
- Conducted the “What's Important To You” survey; asking residents what’s important to them and what they wanted the GWCA Board to focus on. This feedback helped shape the draft 2023 Annual Plan.

PARKS & TRAILS

Focus continued to be on the protection and enhancement of green spaces in the Glen and to educate residents about parks and trails issues.

Transformation of Shelagh Law Parkette

- Submitted proposal to Town of Halton Hills to become Stewards of the Shelagh Law Parkette. Stewardship role approved early 2023. Completed Phase 1 of a multi-year plan to create a bird, butterfly and bee friendly pollinator habitat and a place where residents can sit and enjoy the beauty of the Credit River.
- Phase 1 included:
 - Creation of garden design and planting strategy
 - Fundraising to purchase native plants, trees, shrubs

- Creation of 4 new garden beds and refurbishing of all existing beds
- Purchase/planting of 52 native trees / shrubs and 75 herbaceous native plants
- Funding to support the purchase of a new park bench to replace bare concrete pad.
- Phase 2 included:
 - Submitted proposal for Town of Halton Hills Legacy Projects Grant (\$2,500). GWCA successful; awarded grant. Funding will support implementation of an information kiosk and interpretive signage in the Parkette.
 - Actively fundraising to purchasing remaining native plants and shrubs for hill in Parkette.

Parks

- Met regularly with Town's Parks & Recreation Department and Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) to discuss potential improvements to the Glen's parks.
- Finalized plans to partner with CVC to plant 95 new native shrubs and trees in the Glen Park in May 2024, along the river behind second ball diamond.
- Submitted to Town of Halton Hills Outdoor Ice Rink Survey advocating for a town built/maintained ice rink in the Glen Park given this is the only park that serves the entire Glen Williams community. Town of Halton Hills memo to Council Sept. 2023 cites Parks Department's recommendation to include request for funding in 2025 Budget to construct and maintain a Town operated natural ice rink at Glen Williams Park for 2025 season.

Cenotaph Parkette

- Nurtured new tree plantings installed along river in the Cenotaph Park; installed woodchips around all new trees to prevent whipper snipper damage and helped with watering.
- Organized through the Town the replacement of a dead tree on pathway to Cenotaph.

Trails

- Advocated for the development of more trail systems in the Glen; specifically for a robust trail system for the 102 Confederation St. development - enabled by the GWCA's engagement in the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) case management hearings and ongoing meetings with the Town of Halton Hills. This resulted, as part of the OLT Settlement for the 102 Confederation St development, that the developer (GWE) will contribute a total of \$40,000 towards an improved trail in the development.
- Invited a representative from the Credit Valley Trails to Fall Open House to ensure residents are up to date on Credit Valley Trails Walk project and future integration of the Glen in the trail system.
- Connected with Town's Parks & Recreation Department regularly to discuss Glen Park improvement /maintenance and future needs.
- Organized removal of all rusted debris in old homestead area of Glen Park (near staircase to Meadows of the Glen).

COMMUNICATION

Using our 5 communication channels (e-newsletter, email, Facebook page, Instagram and website) our focus continued to be on keeping members and residents informed about key issues impacting the hamlet, sharing community news and events and profiling the ongoing activities of the GWCA.

- **GWCA e-Newsletter:** Continued to be a popular platform keeping residents informed about key issues that impact the hamlet including community news, events, and the activities of the GWCA. Since the last AGM, 22 newsletters were sent to over 800 subscribers. There has been an increase in the number of community groups requesting to be featured in the newsletter. And, Ward 2 Councillors were invited to submit quarterly updates.
- **GWCA Email** (glenwilliamsca@gmail.com): Targeted emails were used to inform members about important initiatives impacting specific areas of the Glen and to provide notice of key meetings and initiatives.
- **GWCA Facebook Page** (@glenwilliamsontario): Used to complement the information shared in newsletters/emails and for more time sensitive information. The page has now reached 908 followers.
- **GWCA Instagram Page** (@glenwilliamscommunityassoc): Activated an Instagram page to reach broader audiences and to provide more options for members to receive information.
- **GWCA Website** (www.glenwilliams.org): Continued to make improvements to the website ensuring ease of navigation for this hub of important information and news for residents including GWCA news and key documents, history of the Glen, a directory of all local businesses and other useful resource links.

Other Communication

- All channels included a purposeful increased focus on content related to the environment including Climate Change information/events, Greenbelt lifting and Highway 413.
- The GWCA was quoted and featured in several Halton Hills Today articles related to GWCA events and initiatives important to the Glen.

DEVELOPMENT

Continued to focus on development in the Glen, active and planned including the continuation of 3 active Ontario Land Tribunal proceedings. The development committee has actively continued to serve as stewards of the Glen Williams Secondary Plan (GWSP) in all proceedings with a focus on advocating that any proposed changes to the hamlet align with the requirements of the Plan. Our goal in reviews is 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.

Note: All key development related documents and full GWCA submissions can be found on our website.

Glen Williams Secondary Plan (GWSP) Appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT)

Background: In July/22 Halton Region officially approved the updated GWSP. Within a month the owners of McMaster-Meagan, 102 Confederation and Bishops Court-Phase 2 developments submitted an appeal to the OLT to challenge details in the updated GWSP. Should the Tribunal side with the developers, changes could be made that weaken the plan and allow further development in a way that could destroy the hamlet character.

As an approved Party in the OLT proceedings the GWCA:

- Continued to work with Town Staff, Town Legal Counsel and Developers to address issues list items.
- Participated in a second OLT Case Management Conference (CMC) in which Eden Oak, developer of The Chase & Megan/McMaster developments withdrew participation. Both remaining developers (102 Confederation St. & Bishops Court Phase 2) had at the time open development applications (102 Confederation St. already appealed for its own OLT hearing).
- Supported the direction of continued discussions of issues and another CMC date of Sept. 25/23.
- Participated in December 7/23 OLT appeal hearing. September date pushed back at request of Town and Developer's Legal Counsel. Developers and Town agreed to delay proceedings until May, /24 in order to try to reach agreement.

102 Confederation St. Development – (Developer: GWE – Glen Williams Estate)

Background: Early Oct. /22, developer filed an appeal with the OLT.

As an approved Participant in these OLT proceedings the GWCA:

- Continued to work with Town Staff, Town Legal Counsel and the Developer to address issues list items.
- Responded in writing to another round of developer's responses to GWCA issue list and continued to push for satisfactory responses. Asked for a commitment to a co-pay solution between Town and developer to pay for a footpath from Wildwood to Mountain St. along Confederation St. given the high risk to public safety with increased traffic.
- Participated in the Mar. 13/23 OLT Case Management Conference (CMC). Developer requested Tribunal set a hearing date. Town Legal Counsel requested another CMC instead due to Town was still reviewing developers revised application which required Town to hire an engineering expert.
- Continued to meet with the Town to follow their continued discussions with developer on submitted issues lists. Reinforced GWCA concerns centering around a hamlet buffer,

removal of north ridge, density, drainage, surrounding resident wells, traffic and pedestrian safety on Confederation St. and a robust trail system.

- Participated in the third OLT CMC May 24/23. Town required more time to review Developer submissions. New date set of June 29/23 for Town to respond. Parties agreed to continue discussions and work collaboratively on a revised Procedural Order and Issues List to be submitted to OLT by July 19/23.
- Participated in the Dec. 4/23 OLT hearing. Town and Developer indicated an agreement reached Nov. 29/23 which contained changes necessary to Bylaws and an extensive list of 142 conditions that must be satisfied by the developer.
- Although not all GWCA's concerns were addressed in the Settlement, there were a number of important concessions from the Developer (GWE) based on other GWCA inputs. Specifically:
 - A reduction in the number of houses from 34 to 31.
 - Inclusion of a Stormwater Management Block.
 - Developer agrees to contribute \$40,000 for establishment of a connection between the existing trail and Stormwater Management Block.
 - Inclusion of a formal Walkway Block.
 - Agreement to establish a trail linkage between Walkway Block and the existing trail.
 - Inclusion of a formal Hamlet Buffer block dedicated to the Town. Several other dedicated Blocks.
 - Developer will contribute \$200,000 to the establishment of a sidewalk on Confederation St between Main St and Mountain St.

Megan/McMaster Development – (Developer: Eden Oak)

As an approved Party in the OLT proceedings the GWCA:

- Continued to meet with the Town to follow their discussions with the developer.
- Informed the Town that a number of residents along Wildwood Rd. were interested in hooking into sewer line. Requested two options: pay directly at time of construction to developer to hook in or option to hook in later at the homeowner's cost. Town in agreement and supported request in discussions. These options are included in the final settlement.
- Targeted email sent to all GWCA members in the affected area of Megan/McMaster with an update on the status of this appeal.
- Participated in Ontario Land Tribunal hearing Feb./23. All parties indicated an agreement reached. Key wins include agreement for a 6.0-metre-wide Hamlet buffer (Block 35) dedicated to the Town, together with a minimum rear yard setback of 10 metres along the north property line and residents along Wildwood Rd. have two options as to how to hook into sewer line if they so choose.
- Proposed settlement in which the GWCA actively participated with the Town was accepted by all Parties and approved by the OLT. It includes an extensive list of conditions of 123 approval Conditions plus 10 Notes; all of which must be satisfied by the developer in order to get its final building permits

The Chase Development – (Developer: Eden Oak)

- Continued to monitor Committee of Adjustment agendas for any evidence that Developer is continuing to submit individual variance requests for individual lots not in alignment with the Glen Williams Secondary Plan or approved conditions.
- Submitted a letter of concern to the Committee of Adjustment for Mar./23 hearing. Developer had requested a variance for an individual property requesting larger footprint.
- Enquired twice with Town asking when pedestrian path from Credit St. through the new development to the rail trail will be open. First response from Town indicated path would be open Oct./Nov./23. Path is still not open. Town has confirmed path development delayed, anticipate completion spring 2024.

Bishops Court Development – Phase 2 - (Developer: Charleston Developments)

- Continued to liaise with Town staff to keep informed of any new activity on this development application. Town recently confirmed they are currently reviewing submitted application materials and the file may be ready to move to the Recommendation Report stage early this year.

The Field – 159 Confederation St. entrance

- Continued to monitor for any activity surrounding this property. Recent observations of limited survey work on Tweedle Lane and some boring and water survey installations on the property were reported to the town asking for any updates the Town may be aware of. Town confirmed to date, no activity they are aware of regarding development application.
- Equipment Installed at Corner of Wildwood/Main and Confederation:
Reached out to Ward 2 Councillors for assistance in confirming what the equipment installed at corner of Wildwood/Main & Confederation in January was for. Response Councillors received from the Town indicates equipment was installed by a third-party operator hired by Eden Oak to conduct a Traffic Impact Study. It appears Eden Oak has indicated to the Town that they “may intend to file some form of application this year”.

Committee of Adjustment

- Submitted letter of concern to the Committee of Adjustment regarding minor variance request from 100 Confederation St. resident which proposed a new lot and a daylight triangle related to entrance/exit of new development at 102 Confederation St.

TRAFFIC

Continued to work with residents and Town staff to address on-going traffic and safety issues from a holistic perspective and their repercussions for residents.

- Submitted a shared evidence-based report of Glen residents traffic concerns to Town of Halton Hills staff.
- Reviewed Town of Halton Hills 2024 approved Traffic Engineering Workplan to ensure solutions included to adequately address Glen resident's traffic and safety concerns.
- Continued to actively engage with Town of Halton Hills staff and in Town scheduled events, advocating for solutions to address Glen specific concerns including: speeding, resident safety, Prince St. reconstruction project, Main St. reconstruction project, speed humps vs bumps, increased traffic on Erin, Beaver and Alexander Streets due to new speed hump on Confederation St. and pedestrian safety along Confederation St. north of Wildwood Rd.
- Obtained and implemented 20 "slow down" signs across the Glen.
- Continued to proactively communicate with residents about all traffic related activities through targeted emails, e-newsletter and Facebook posts.

Prince St. Improvement Project

- Continued to monitor Town progress on this project and proactively shared information for residents.
- Through targeted emails to members who reside on Prince St. and surrounding area, shared information about Town of Halton Hills Public Engagement Session Nov 2023.

GLEN BEAUTIFICATION

- Hosted the 2023 Earth Day Clean Community Clean Up event. Very well attended with volunteers hauling in a lot of full garbage bags.
- Requested Town Works Dept. complete the following improvements in the Shelagh Law Parkette:
 - Remove of graffiti on bridge walls
 - Install Poop & Scoop and Pick up Litter signs
 - Investigate repairs required to failed retaining wall
 - Repaint rusted park benches
 - Add fencing on road facing side of Parkette.

ENGAGEMENT WITH TOWN COUNCIL AND TOWN STAFF

Continued our focus to create a greater awareness of the Glen and 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.
- Invited elected officials (Mayor Ann Lawlor, Regional Councillor Clark Sommerville, Joseph Racinsky and Jason Brass) to attend all GWCA scheduled events this year.
- Invited elected officials to contribute quarterly updates to the GWCA e-newsletter of information relevant to Glen residents.

➤ **Town of Halton Hills/Staff:**

- Continued ongoing communication and meetings with staff across key departments (Planning & Development, Traffic, Parks & Recreation, Climate Change, Culture & Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Community Development) on a broad spectrum of issues impacting the Glen/residents. Discussed mandates, shared information about the GWCA and explored possible opportunities for support and collaboration moving forward.
- Submitted feedback to Town of Halton Hills on Town's 2024 Strategic Plan. Reinforced support for objectives that we know are important to Glen residents and highlighted areas that warranted more focus/information, on areas we know are important to Glen residents.
- Participated in the Town of Halton Hills Cultural Heritage Master Plan (CHMP) Virtual Stakeholder Workshop providing feedback on the draft plan which will provide the tools to identify and protect our diverse cultural heritage resources.

BOARD GOVERNANCE/MEMBERSHIP

Focused on continued governance improvement.

- Ensured Board of Directors met monthly.
- Drafted Bylaws to ensure full compliance with Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act 2024 requirements.
- Created:
 - Board Member Profile
 - Member Principles.
- Documented operating procedures.
- Motion passed; starting each new board term (or mid term if a new board member starting), board members sign existing "Board Code of Conduct".