

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season

Contest

That's right, we're looking to name this newsletter

Okay, so we named it for now but that's because we didn't want to have a fill-in-the-blank area at the top of this page!

Send your submissions via e-mail to:
corktown_news@yahoo.ca.

Be sure to include your name and phone number.

Entries must be from Corktown residents.

The entry deadline is Noon, January 5, 2007.



The executive and communications committee will review the submissions and select a winner by a majority vote. The winning contributor(s) will be acknowledged in the next issue and will receive a gift certificate from the **Pheasant Plucker**.

In the event that more than one person submits the winning name, a random drawing will be held for the gift certificate.



Neighbours pitch-in to resurrect Park

By Carol Bratina

Photo courtesy Nancy Buschert

In recent years one of downtown's most charming parks, Shamrock (located on Walnut and Augusta), had seen its share of vagrants, late night drinkers and drug dealing. The neighbours had had enough...

Thanks largely to the leadership of Blaine Gillis, a summer clean-up was organized. Forty residents, responding to posters and word-of-mouth notice, showed up, rolled up their sleeves and went to work. They were on a mission.

Graffiti disappeared, thanks to the paint provided by the Undermount Tavern. Weeds were pulled, paths were swept, bags of glass and litter were filled and piled high, and the hillsides were cleared of scrub and dead branches.

This hard-working crew stopped only briefly to enjoy

hamburgers and hot dogs provided by Slainte and the new Corktown Pub and beverages sent over by the Cat n' Fiddle Pub. Special thanks is owed to Steve Davy for providing the barbecue and the music.

With the cooperation of the City and the Parks Department, garbage was quickly removed and the piles of wood turned into chips. Within a month we had a beautiful new play area for the kids. The change was dramatic.

"I've lived in Corktown for 11 years, and I've never seen so much positive activity in the park," said one resident.

As well as dog walkers, there've been family picnics, impromptu football games, a children's birthday party, and, one afternoon, a brief, magical visit by hundreds of Monarch butterflies.

There's more work to be done with plans for communal gardens, and further clean-up and lighting of the north section of the park. Neighbours are being ever vigilant about the activities going on there. As fall and winter set in, however, we can sit back, look at Shamrock Park with pride, and say, "We've only just begun." ♣

Letter from the Editor

Welcome to our *Letter to the Editor* section. As you may expect with this first issue, there are no letters! Hopefully that will change. One goal of this newsletter is to provide residents with a forum to constructively express opinions on just about anything related to our community. Of course, there are some limitations.

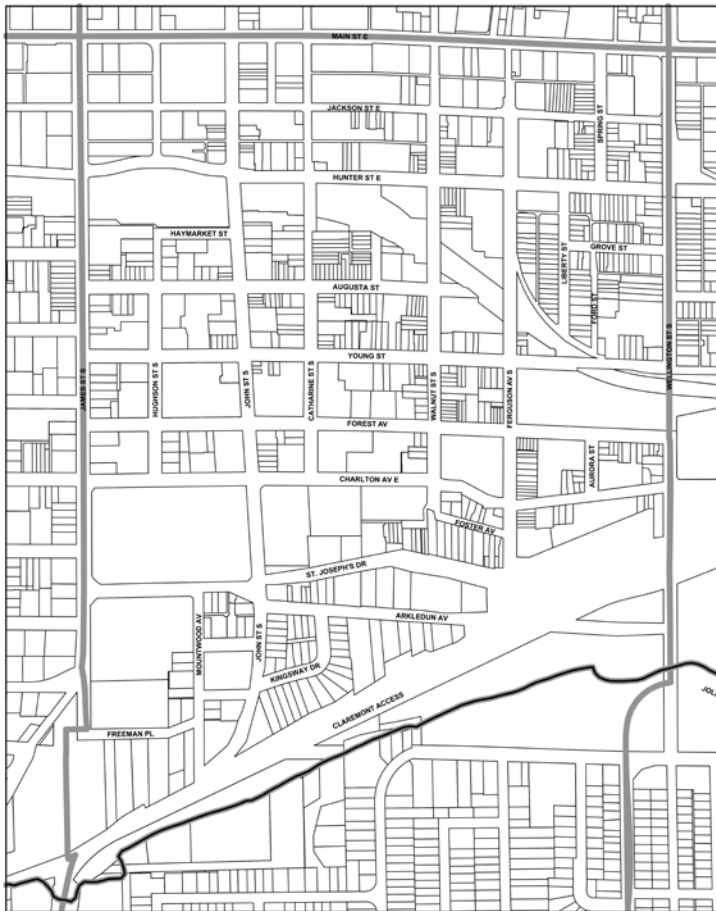
First, this newsletter is financially supported by the advertising and sponsorship of local business. The communications committee anticipates that most issues will be 4 to 8 pages in length. The committee reserves the right to edit the length of submissions.

Also, in order to ensure an inclusive and respectful tone, we will not print any letters deemed slanderous or profane. All letters must be signed by the author; anonymous letters will not be printed. In the event that a letter's content is questionable in the eyes of the editor or communications committee, the neighbourhood association executive will be consulted to determine whether or not to print some or all of the submission. Letters should be submitted to the following email address: corktown_news@yahoo.ca.

In addition to letters to the editor, the Corktown Newsletter is always interested in story ideas or full story submissions. Story ideas or written articles can also be submitted to the email address noted above. ♣

Happy Holidays
Nancy Buschert

The Corktown Neighbourhood



The Corktown Neighbourhood is bounded by James Street to the west, Main Street to the north, Wellington Street to the east and the Niagara Escarpment to the south.

New Police Contact Introduced



Beginning in the New Year, the Corktown Neighbourhood Association will work with a new Hamilton Police Service liaison. Angela Abrams brings significant professional and volunteer experience to her new assignment. During her 12 year career with the Hamilton Police, Angela has worked in uniform patrol in the East end and Central areas including specialization with the Criminal Investigation Division. She also serves as a domestic violence investigator, worked with the COAST unit (Crisis Outreach and Support Team) and held supervisory and training roles.

The Corktown Neighbourhood Association looks forward to working with Angela and establishing regular communication opportunities. In the interim Sgt. Brandi Frazier will be covering the Corktown Neighbourhood. Please call Sgt. Frazier with any concerns or questions at 905-540-6074. ♣

Publication information

This newsletter is published by the Corktown Neighbourhood Association's Communication Committee. Advertising and sponsorships from local business make this newsletter possible. For information on advertising, email corktown_news@yahoo.ca. The newsletter will be published quarterly—approximately every three months: December, March, June, and September.

Communication & Newsletter Committee

Nancy Buschert	Editor
Peter Frys	Design
Marla Pilkington	Advertising
Carol Bratina	Contributor
Cathy Emick	Sponsorship
Julie Spicer	Contributor

Editorial Policy

The Communication Committee of the Corktown Neighbourhood Association reserves the right to edit submissions due to space limitation. In order to ensure the newsletter promotes an inclusive and respectful tone, letters deemed slanderous or profane will not be printed. All letters must be signed by the author; anonymous letters will not be printed. In the event that a letter's content is questionable in the eyes of the editor or committee, the neighbourhood association executive will be consulted to determine whether or not to print some or all of the submission. Submit letters to: corktown_news@yahoo.ca.

Corktown Neighbourhood settled in 1840s

By Julie Spicer

For our inaugural issue, we are simply going to provide our readers with a brief history of the origins of the Corktown neighbourhood. The sign which stands at the Walnut Street side of Shamrock Park sets this out succinctly as follows:

"...Corktown is the traditional name of the area, which was settled by a number of Irish immigrants who had left their homeland to seek employment in Canada. Many were fleeing the Potato Famine of the late 1840s, during which time the seaport city of Cork, Ireland, was one of the busiest points of embarkation. Many of Corktown's inhabitants were employed by the T. H. & B. Railway, which was located in the neighbourhood; some would work for Sir Allan MacNab, whose home was Dundurn Castle."

In future issues, we will report on the history and heritage of our neighbourhood and its buildings, businesses and characters. If you have an interesting story or history of your home, business or family within Corktown, we would be very happy to hear from you! See page 2 for details on story submissions. ♣

Message from the President

Welcome neighbours, to the first Corktown Newsletter. It is with pride and enthusiasm that I am writing this. This is my first time as a member of a Neighbourhood Association and I am eager to make a difference.

With much hard work from Carol & Bob Bratina, the neighbourhood clean up of Shamrock Park in August was a great success. There was such a wonderful feeling of cooperative spirit at that event that the idea of the Neighbourhood Committee really began to take shape. Everyone who was there realized that once we all got together, we really could make a positive difference in our neighbourhood. I walk through that park almost every day now, and still smile remembering that day.

An executive committee has been formed, and we are:

Peggy Freeman	President
Marla Pilkington	Vice-President
Doug Pawson	Treasurer
Heather Hosten	Secretary
Barry Bogusat	Beautification Committee Chair
Nancy Buschert	Communications Committee Chair
Lynn Houde	Special Events Committee Chair
Dan Page	Safety & Security Committee Chair
Julie Spicer	Heritage Committee Chair

As you can see, we have formed a number of committees that can focus on the issues we feel are important. We will add new committees as new issues come about. The committees are already hard at work coming up with ideas for the winter and spring. If you have suggestions or if you are interested in joining a committee, please send an e-mail to a member of the executive at corktown_news@yahoo.ca.

Our goal is to provide some leadership and guidance for our neighbourhood. Watch out for more neighbourhood meetings, neighbourhood social events, additional park/area clean-ups and more! We are looking forward to a productive year. ♣

– Peggy Freeman



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Greetings from our MP

As Member of Parliament for Hamilton Centre, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the members of the Corktown Neighbourhood Association for creating this newsletter.

Corktown is one of Hamilton's most colourful and historic neighbourhoods. According to historian Michael Quigley, it was founded by poor Irish immigrants in the 1800s (ironically, very few of them from Cork) and first appeared on maps in 1842.

When I was growing up, just a few streets away, Corktown and its namesake Tavern were places for young people like me to have fun, hang out and sometimes get into trouble – no details, please!

Today, Corktown is a warm and inviting family neighbourhood that is proud of its working-class roots, but equally inviting for newcomers to settle down.

I look forward to working with the Corktown Neighbourhood Association and its members, and I wish you all the best with your newsletter.

Regards,
David Christopherson, MP, Hamilton Centre

Greetings from our MPP

Corktown has an emerging new life and I couldn't be more pleased. You, the hardworking residents of Corktown are to be congratulated for reinvigorating your neighbourhood association and starting a newsletter as a way to inform and reach out to neighbours and keep your community strong.

Neighbourhood associations prove to be very effective and have a positive effect on the quality of life in Hamilton. The feedback, news, insights and information you provide to various levels of government and local agencies helps all of us to coordinate our efforts around your issues and concerns.

When I held municipal office, the neighbourhood associations in Ward 2 were a very valuable resource in my role as councillor. Who better than neighbourhood associations to identify concerns, challenges and trends? They are at the grassroots engaging residents in looking at issues and developing solutions. Not only are they a strong voice for residents, neighbourhood associations can be a touchstone for elected officials.

I look forward to meeting with your re-energized Corktown Association in the near future. I'd like to get reconnected with your wonderful and historic neighbourhood. I will be seeking the nomination to be the candidate in next fall's provincial election, October 4, in the newly created provincial riding of Hamilton Centre, which includes the Corktown neighbourhood, and am eager to get back to work for the residents of your great community.

Andrea Horwath, MPP, Hamilton East




**David
Christopherson, MP
Hamilton Centre**

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Important Community Contacts

Keep this contact list and refer to it when you have concerns, see something suspicious, want to report something, or have a question.

Hamilton Police Service

Emergency	911
Non-emergency	905-546-4925
South Town Crime Manager A/Sgt. Angela Abrams or Sgt. Brandi Frazier	905-540.6074

City of Hamilton

General Inquiries	905.546.CITY (2489)
Ward 2 Councillor Bob Bratina	905.546.2711 bbratina@hamilton.ca
By-Law Parking	905.546.4925

Corktown Neighbourhood Association

Any executive member by email corktown_news@yahoo.ca

Message from our Ward 2 Councillor

Congratulations first of all to the new Corktown Neighbourhood Association for coming together for the good of all who live in this beautiful and historic part of the City of Hamilton. Long before many of us arrived here there was a solid core of dedicated residents who worked hard to help maintain the quality of life in Corktown through often difficult times. It's up to all of us to continue to build a safe, clean and beautiful place to live, have fun, and raise children. I know it's within us to achieve those goals.

Corktown has become quite the place for celebrity star-gazing. Following the Hamilton Music Awards the post-show party took place at the Corktown Tavern with music legends such as Kelly Jay of Crowbar fame, Sonny Del Rio, Tom Wilson and many others in attendance. We enjoyed a rare appearance at the same venue of Ian Tyson, and just up the street Queen Victoria School was used as a backdrop for the movie Hairspray. John Travolta, Michelle Pfeiffer and Queen Latifah filmed a number of scenes in the school, which will be demolished after the movie shoot. A brand new school will be built in its place, but the old school will live forever on the DVD!

Gabriel Simon Productions, the Toronto-based company that worked on Hairspray, presented \$500 to the Corktown Neighbourhood Association as a thank you for setting up their base camp in the neighbourhood during the film shoot. The Executive Committee will discuss how to utilize the funds for future neighbourhood initiatives.

On election day I met a lady on her way to the Corktown Co-op polling station who had moved here from Mississauga just over a year ago. She told me how much she absolutely loves living in this neighbourhood, and in Downtown Hamilton, and how she raves about it to her friends and family. It is really an honour to be part of the process that attempts to bring improvements to the City and enjoyment to its residents.

My wife and I would like to extend our sincere thanks to the many people who assisted us in the recent municipal election, and of course those who voted to allow me to continue working for the Corktown neighbourhood, Ward 2, and the City of Hamilton.

Sincerely
Bob Bratina



Bob Bratina
Councillor Ward 2

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Distribution List

Want to hear news, announcements or receive this newsletter via email as a PDF? Join our Corktown Neighbourhood email list. We will maintain a distribution list and send out notices related to community events and even crime alerts (when available). To join the distribution list, send an email to corktown_news@yahoo.ca with "D-List Add" in the subject line.

Save this date!

January 28th. Fun in the Park Day at Corktown Park. More details to follow.



In our next issue

Graffiti 101, Committee Reports and more