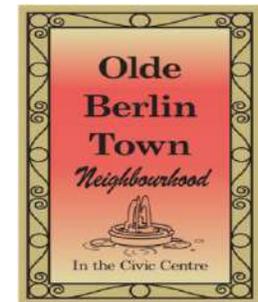


# Olde Berlin Town Neighbourhood Association

Summer & Fall 2018 Newsletter [www.oldeberlintown.ca](http://www.oldeberlintown.ca)



## Olde Berlin Town Neighbourhood **Picnic in the Park**

Saturday, August 25, 2018

Bring a salad, snack or appetizer



**Hibner Park**  
2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Meet your neighbours  
Games for kids & adults  
Don't forget a lawn chair  
'Dogs' & Cold drinks available

## Hi Neighbour

Enjoy the lazy, hazy days of summer whenever you can. A big thank you goes out to all the volunteers who came forward to help deliver recent meeting announcements, and to our regular newsletter helpers.

We had several meetings in June and July regarding the potential Safe Injection Site on Water Street, and I expect the minds of OBT residents and businesses nearby are swirling with the potential for change and disruption in our immediate community; and also with the increasing concerns about crimes/break-ins. Be a good neighbour and watch out for each other.

Olde Berlin Town is not a 'sleepy' residential area basking in the glow of older homes and older times; change seems to come faster these days. Is it just our neighbourhood? No, of course not, but it may feel like that for some.

The "Pop-Up Popsicle Party" in July was very popular on a hot summer day and delicious too – thanks Jennifer. I hope you were able to attend Neighbours Day at the Downtown Community Centre in June; we had neighbourhood reps operating a display table and made some new connections. You can make more connections at our summer picnic on Aug 25<sup>th</sup>. See you there.

Donna Kuehl, Chair

It's almost that time of year again when the kids go back to school. When summer comes to an end and back-to-school season begins, it can be hard to get back into a regular schedule — both for kids and adults!



## **WANTED** **PICNIC HELPERS**

games for kids &  
adults, set-up, food

Email/Phone:  
[writeus@oldeberlintown.ca](mailto:writeus@oldeberlintown.ca)  
519-744-3146.

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OldeBerlinTown>

Summer 2018

## **Supervised Consumption Services Proposed for 115 Water Street**

When the OBT Neighbourhood Association Board learned about the proposed Safe Injection Site at 115 Water Street in late June, we provided residents with information about the feasibility study presented June 19<sup>th</sup> to the Region's Community Services Committee. Subsequently two neighbourhood meetings were held for residents to discuss their feelings, concerns and questions. A meeting with the Public Health Department was initiated.

At the July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting over 75 separate questions came forward. The main concerns were: Safety issues (clients, vulnerable people, parks, pets), interactions between SCS clients and OBT residents, daily operation of the site, client behaviour pre/post visits, the police action plan, increased criminal activity, site selection criteria and alternate options, resources required to successfully operate a SCS, neighbourhood impact study needed, criteria for an objective evaluation of results from a SCS, property values, types of residential support, and how the Region is communicating with residents.

We forwarded the questions to the Region of Waterloo Public Health and Emergency Services Department prior to the information session with the Region on July 18<sup>th</sup> at the Kitchener Public Library. We sent notices of the meeting via email, Facebook and door-to-door delivery. Over 150 people attended, overflowing the room. Grace Bermingham of Public Health delivered a presentation, and panelists Dr. Chris Steingart, Executive Director of Sanguen Health Centre, Karen Quigley-Hobbs of Region of Waterloo Public Health and Emergency Services, and Police Chief Bryan Larkin answered questions.

Steingart said that public spaces are already unsupervised injection sites and the feared impacts of an SCS are already present. He maintained that a SCS would make things better for clients and neighbours alike. Larkin denied that there would be a "safe zone" around the site in which police would not make arrests but noted that a visible police presence would deter clients from using the site.

The Region's announced period for suggesting additional SCS locations ended July 27<sup>th</sup>. Kitchener Post reported "the online survey recorded 117 responses" with 45 of them from Kitchener. If suggested locations are available "they will be reviewed based on criteria and considerations used for the previous sites."

Many questions remain, and we will continue to post information from the Region on the OBTNA website and Facebook page, as we receive it. We note that at least two concerned neighbourhood groups have started Facebook sites related to the topic. The Region plans to hold its formal community consultation around proposed locations in late August – early September. Residents and business owners in close proximity to proposed locations will be contacted directly.

We thank neighbours for sharing information and delivering meeting notices, the Downtown Community Centre, Councillor Sarah Marsh for her support and the Regional Public Health and Emergency Services for organizing this extra information session.

More information about Supervised Consumption Services – feasibility study, recommendations and a link to frequently asked questions – is available at the Region of Waterloo's website page: <https://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/health-and-wellness/supervised-consumption-services.aspx>

### **What is a Supervised Consumption Service (SCS)?**

Supervised consumption services are part of a health care service that allows people to use their own drugs under the supervision of medically trained workers. Individuals are also provided with sterile consumption supplies, education on safer consumption, overdose prevention and intervention, medical and counselling services, and referrals to drug treatment, housing, income support and other services.

Source: [www.regionofwaterloo.ca](http://www.regionofwaterloo.ca)



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## Civic Governance:

### Land-Use – Why should we care?

The rules governing our land-use are being re-drawn as you read this article. A new **Official Plan**, which defines goals, objectives and policies to manage and direct land use in Kitchener was adopted in 2014. The **Planning Around Rapid Transit Stations (PARTS) Central Plan** which provides direction for future development around the rapid transit stations was adopted in 2016.

The Planning Department is currently re-drawing the zoning by-laws which state how land can be used and the limits on dimensions of lots, building heights and setbacks from the property lines and parking requirements. The next step will be updating the Secondary Plans which address specific land use issues in an individual neighbourhood – even down to the detail of particular addresses. Why should we care about these land-use discussions? Because they may have significant effects on our community, neighbourhood, homes and property.



There is potential to achieve improvements. What do we want? A safer community? More cohesion between neighbours? More parks and recreational space? Better care for the environment? A more pedestrian and bicycle-friendly community? All these goals have expression in land-use planning. **Engaging in this discussion is your opportunity to promote the values you want in your community.**

Are there aspects of the community and neighbourhood you wish to preserve? Do you value the tree canopy? The architecture? Here's your chance to ensure the required protections are written into our by-laws.

Let's begin this discussion in anticipation of the Secondary Plan review. The OBTNA is planning to hold a meeting to provide an orientation to land-use planning and a review of our existing Secondary Plan. If you have questions you want addressed or wish to help in the organizing of the meeting, please contact us at [writeus@oldeberlintown.ca](mailto:writeus@oldeberlintown.ca) or write OBTNA c/o Downtown Community Centre, 35B Weber St W, Kitchener N2H 3Z1.

## THE FESTIVAL OF NEIGHBOURHOODS (FON)

<http://www.waterlooregion.org/neighbourhoods>

Since 1994, FON has supported and encouraged citizens to host gatherings open to everyone in their neighbourhood in many practical ways. Registered events qualify for prizes and a **chance to win a \$20,000 Neighbourhood Capital Improvement Grant** from the City of Kitchener and accept one of many prestigious awards!

### To host an FON eligible gathering, organizers will:

- decide the geographical boundaries of their neighbourhood - which streets, homes or buildings or street boundaries make up the neighbourhood,
- invite and welcome everyone in the neighbourhood, regardless of age, gender, ethnocultural background, ability, marital status, etc.
- bring neighbours together face-to-face so they can get to know each other better.

This year, FON is once again promoting the theme “Reach!” to focus on their core values of inclusiveness that define the Festival’s identity. The season has already started. Register your gathering using the Online form & Word registration form! You can always call 519-579-3800 and register by phone. Here are some **resources, supports and prizes** that are available through the **Festival of Neighbourhoods:**

- \* [Neighbourhood Activity Trunk](#) - lots of toys and games to use at gatherings
- \* [Useful Contacts and Local Resources](#) - list of tips, information, and phone numbers
- \* [Early Bird Registration Prizes](#) - for neighbourhoods who register early & often
- \* [Neighbourhood Activity Guide](#) - step-by-step guide, tips and ideas



**P.S. ... Our OBT picnic would qualify!**

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Summer 2018

## Sarah Marsh, City Councillor for Ward 10

Kitchener City Hall, 200 King St. W.  
Kitchener, ON N2G 4G7



Hello Old Berlin Towne Neighbours!

The most discussed issue in the neighbourhood is the Region of Waterloo's proposed Supervised Consumption Site at 115 Water St. The Region's consultation on this topic will take place throughout the summer. At time of writing, we have far more questions than answers, so I am thankful we will have opportunities to learn more about what would be involved if this site is selected by the Region.

On another note, access to affordable housing remains an important issue as our city grows. I am glad to say we have some initiatives started on that front, and I will continue to advocate for more partnerships going forward.

To keep up to date on what's happening in your neighbourhood, the OBTNA is reaching out to neighbours to sign up for their mailing list by visiting their web site at: [www.oldeberlintown.ca](http://www.oldeberlintown.ca) or follow them on facebook at: [www.facebook.com/OldeBerlinTown](https://www.facebook.com/OldeBerlinTown).

As always, if you have any questions or ideas for me, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

[sarah.marsh@kitchener.ca](mailto:sarah.marsh@kitchener.ca) Office: (519) 741-2786 Cell: (519) 807-8006. Twitter: @Marsh\_Ward10 Facebook: @sarahmarshward10

## "Safety Alert"

There have been a number of break-ins and attempted break-ins in Olde Berlin Town recently. We are working to arrange a neighbourhood meeting with Waterloo Regional Police. An event notice will be posted shortly. In the meantime, the basis of a community safety sub-committee has been struck. Please contact us at [writeus@oldeberlintown.ca](mailto:writeus@oldeberlintown.ca) if you would like to help.

Some community safety tips can be found here: <https://www.safehome.org/resources/community-safety-guide/>.



### Important Numbers To Know

- ◆ Police (519) 653-7700
- ◆ Gas Leaks (519) 741-2529
- ◆ Property Standards (519) 741-2345  
[www.kitchener.ca/bylawguide](http://www.kitchener.ca/bylawguide)
- ◆ Crime Stoppers 1-800-222-TIPS (8477)
- ◆ Ward Councillor, Sarah Marsh (519) 741-2786
- ◆ City of Kitchener's Corporate Contact Centre  
519-741-2345

### OBTNA Board Members

Donna Kuehl, Rosemary Coleman,  
Hal Jaeger, Laura New, Leslie Stallard  
c/o 35B Weber Street West, Kitchener N2H 3Z1  
[writeus@oldeberlintown.ca](mailto:writeus@oldeberlintown.ca)

## Neighbourhood Programs at the Downtown Community Centre

35B Weber Street West,  
Kitchener

Volunteers from Olde Berlin Town participate on the Board of the Downtown Neighbourhood Alliance with other Neighbourhood Associations in and around downtown Kitchener.

The DNA, coordinates affordable programs in FALL, WINTER, & SPRING for all ages at the Downtown Community Centre.

Neighbourhood volunteers deliver newsletters and the seasonal program booklet. To register, you can phone 519-741-2501, register at the Centre in person, or select programs on-line at: [www.kitchener.ca](http://www.kitchener.ca) then, select WebReg.