

Marianne Wilkinson

SERVING KANATA NORTH



City Councillor, Kanata North

KANATA'S CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION takes place this Sunday, February 5th, at the Richcraft Recreation Complex Kanata from 10 am to 4 pm. I am sponsoring the Lions Dance (which features dragons) at 2 pm. Cultural displays, entertainment, food fest, family games and lucky draws will all be there. Admission is only \$3 (under 10 is free). There is lots of parking now as you can use the new Park and Ride. Join me in celebrating with our Chinese neighbours.

BUSING ISSUES – Tonight is the public meeting where you can speak directly to the City's Transit team on your concerns about the bus system in Kanata North. I have met with staff and they will be reporting on what can be done immediately and what more can happen at the next route adjustment time (April and year end if more buses are needed). I'll report the results at my Feb 13th Town Hall and in future newsletters and columns. Do not hesitate to contact my office if you have additional issues so we can work on continuing to improve your transportation needs.

COUNCIL MEETING – At each Council Meeting a Councillor arranges for the singing of O Canada at the start of the Meeting. On Wednesday January 25th it was my turn and Council enjoyed a beautiful rendition of the anthem by Diana Sharp, a Kanata North Resident who is an opera singer and vocal music teacher. Mayor Watson followed with his annual "State of the City Address", providing an overview of 2016 and things to come for 2017 (go to Ottawa 2017 to find out what's happening). I was pleased that he included my motion on Autonomous Vehicles and that along with Terry Matthews he will be going to Queen's Park to urge implementation of the Centre of Excellence here.

FAMILY DAY FREE SKATE – Feb 20, 1-3 pm, Mlacak Centre. Join me and MP Karen McCrimmon for an afternoon of free skating and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies courtesy of Chartwell Kanata. To volunteer for this event (you need to be able to skate) please contact my office.

TOWN HALL MEETING - Please join me on February 13, 2017 at the next Town Hall Meeting at 7 pm at the Kanata Seniors Centre (in Mlacak Centre). Included will be tree cutting and construction timetable for KNL Lands, our new Community Policing Officer and changes in policing, new and ongoing development items and upcoming events.

PROMOTING WOMEN IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT- I am honoured to be participating in Equal Voice's upcoming event, Promoting Women in Municipal Government. I'm part of a panel discussion on promoting women in municipal politics. Please join me at City Hall on February 7 from 5-8 pm. You can register at the link on my website.

SAVE THE DATE – KANATA-CARLETON CULTURAL FESTIVAL, Sat May 27, all day. Pick up a copy of the 2017 ARTS IN KANATA-CARLETON at Libraries, Ward Offices and major community facilities west of the Greenbelt for details about this special 2017 event in our community. **We need a volunteer for our website – please contact my office if you can help.**

DEVELOPMENT UNDER REVIEW – includes Timberwalk Senior's Residence on Maritime Way, a Tire Centre and Orthodontic Clinic near the Outlet Mall, a 4 storey apartment off Battersea and a new separate school off Terry Fox on the Goulbourn Forced Road. Summaries of developments underway are available on my website.

NOTE: March Valley Road will be closed from Klondike Road to Riddell Drive from Thursday Feb 9 to Wed Feb 15th for replacement of a culvert.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FAMILY DAY FREE SKATE– Feb 20, 1-3 pm, Mlacak Centre.

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS – Feb 5 10-4 pm. RRCK

PROMOTING WOMEN IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT – FEB 7 – 5-7PM Ottawa City Hall

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED -2017 KANATA- CARLETON CULTURAL FESTIVAL – May 27, 2017 We need a volunteer to help with our website – if you can do it or know someone who can please contact my office.

Contact me at **613-580-2474**,
email Marianne.Wilkinson@ottawa.ca
Follow me on Twitter [@KanataNorth](https://twitter.com/KanataNorth)
to keep up to date on community matters.

LETTERS

City cherry-picking wildlife protocol measures

To the editor,

Re: "Petition calls for halt to KNL tree cutting," Ottawa-CommunityNews.com, Jan. 23.

The wildlife mitigation measures the city says it's following have been carefully cherry picked from its "Protocol for Wildlife Protection during Construction." Missing are those, and I quote directly from the protocol, that recommend the "installation of appropriate nesting boxes around the periphery of the site, to compensate for nesting sites (e.g., cavity

trees, squirrel dreys) that will be removed."

The idea that animals are able to just move on to other natural habitat and establish new nests in the middle of winter is ridiculous. How can wildlife construct new nests or dreys when there are no leaves on the trees to make these nests? How will they be able to find the limited number of trees with cavities that are not already occupied? How can burrowing animals dig new dens when the ground is frozen?

The protocol also recom-

mends that "pre-arrangements" be made with wildlife rehabilitators and qualified veterinarians to ensure appropriate care of orphaned or injured wildlife."

None of the wildlife rehabilitators in this area has been contacted, so it's not surprising that the list of mitigation measures now only mentions veterinary care. Given that veterinarians are not authorized to provide ongoing care for wildlife, it's likely the only 'care' given would be to euthanize the animal.

If the city wants to reclaim

the trust of the community they should appoint an independent consultant chosen by local wildlife specialists to oversee the tree clearing, ensuring the safety of the animals is taken seriously.

You cannot clear-cut almost 200 acres of prime forest that is home to numerous species in the middle of winter without a deadly impact on wildlife, no matter what type of PR spin the city attempts to put on this travesty.

*Andrea Sedgwick
Stittsville*

KNL's cruel winter clear cut must stop

To the editor,

Re: "Petition calls for halt to KNL tree cutting," Ottawa-CommunityNews.com, Jan. 23.

I signed the petition demanding the immediate halt of winter clear cutting by KNL in the South March Highlands. The fact that this ecologically sensitive area, sacred to the Anishinaabe (Algonquin) and

loved by so many, fell into the hands of developers decades ago is a blight on the city of Ottawa.

In my opinion, all development in the South March Highlands should be stopped.

In the short-term, at the very least, this cruel winter clear cut has to stop. I question the claim made by Jack Stirling, consultant for KNL,

that KNL needs to get work done "within certain windows."

The City of Ottawa issued the permit to cut, violating the city's own wildlife protocol.

It's high time for Mayor Jim Watson to do the right thing and stop this brutal and unnecessary winter clear cut.

*Dr. Julie Comber
Ottawa*

Developer, city miss showcasing best practices

To the editor,

Re: "Petition calls for halt to KNL tree cutting," Kourier-Standard, Jan. 26.

Mayor Jim Watson and the city council agreed to the "Protocol for Wildlife Protection during Construction." The protocol was developed to reduce harm to all wildlife, not just endangered species. In fact, there would have been no need for a protocol as there is already legislation

to protect endangered species. This was an opportunity for KNL, the city and Mayor Watson to showcase the best practices within the protocol rather than a widely condemned failure to do so. As outlined in the protocol, tree clearing should be postponed until the late summer and early fall, the least sensitive time for wildlife.

The city could have stipulated that the clearing not

start until October 2017, as a condition of approval. This would have met the requirement for the protection of Blanding's turtles as well as giving the majority of all other wildlife the best chance of survival.

What was another nine months wait for a development project that has been in the works for decades?

*Anita Utas
Ottawa*

Restorative compensation an excellent idea

To the editor,

Re: "Petition calls for halt to KNL tree cutting," Kourier-Standard, Jan. 26.

As one of the concerned citizens who signed this petition, I want to clarify that the petition did not originate from Greenspace Alliance, but from private citizens across Ottawa who share a concern for the impact on wildlife of clear-cutting in the depths of winter.

It was the city that gave the permit in December for this tree clearing — such bad timing, as it opened the door for KNL to proceed in January, in clear contravention of the city's own wildlife protocol. The need to begin site preparation now is extremely puzzling, given that this developer has not met the required condition of having an approved stormwater plan for phases 7 and 8 of their Kanata Lakes development.

We recall witnessing the clearing of the forest north of the Beaver Pond in January 2011. That land has sat for six years awaiting the same stormwater plan to be approved. So what's the rush? The high level of community response should not come as a surprise, as KNL's development of this area in the South March Highlands has been extremely controversial for more than a decade.

The suggestion that Mayor Jim Watson should arrange for "restorative compensation" elsewhere for the loss of this green space is an excellent idea.

Residents of Ottawa are appalled and sickened by the sight of this kind of destruction of a beautiful forest and wildlife habitat, and this would go a long way to restoring our confidence in the city's planning department.

It's never too late to do the right thing.

*Judy Makin
Carp*

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