



CARLETON HEIGHTS AND AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
(CHARA - <https://ourchara.ca/>)

WINTER NEWSLETTER

Greetings to all the residents of Carleton Heights and Area!

The members of your Board of Directors wish you all the best for a happy and healthy 2025.

Carleton Heights and Area Residents Association is a volunteer-run community association. We work with residents, local business and City officials to grow a healthy, safe and engaged community.

The Board and its committees were buzzing with activity throughout 2024, and we're excited to share all the progress with you! This newsletter is packed with quick updates on our key initiatives and will point you to more details for anyone eager to dive deeper. Stay in the loop and see all the great things happening in our community!

1. Residential and Municipal Affairs

Over the past few years, CHARA elevated resident voices in planning and housing discussions with the City of Ottawa. CHARA worked with you, other community associations, City staff, developers and City Councillors to prioritize housing with parking, stormwater management improvements, and the preservation of trees and greenery. We advocated for higher transit service levels, walkable, accessible neighbourhoods, and water, wastewater, and sewer system upgrades, recognizing the limited and ageing infrastructure in Carleton Heights.

CHARA made strides to work proactively and engage in substantive, policy-based discussions for our community. We worked collaboratively to shape the New Official Plan. With your generous donations, we engaged the services of a legal team to interpret local zoning that has been in flux with the ratification of the New Official Plan, new provincial legislation, and the By-law review underway. We listened and spoke up earlier, meeting with you, developers, City of Ottawa staff, and Councillors to discuss policy and how it is interpreted for new builds, infrastructure management and transit services for our community. We made progress by elevating your points of view in these discussions and our submissions to the Planning and Housing Committee and the Committee of Adjustment. Please take a look at a selection of CHARA letters and presentations [here](#).

2. Carleton Heights Rink Committee

➤ **In Memoriam – Michael Mack**

Michael Mack, past-president and long-time CHARA Board member passed away on July 9th, following a short illness. Mike was the unwavering lead of the Carleton Heights Rink, expertly tending to the surface so families could enjoy ice throughout the season and create lasting memories. He has left some very big shoes to fill!



➤ **Success in keeping ice rink at the community centre**

Our board and puddle rinks at Carleton Heights Community Centre opened as of mid January. There were less-than-favourable weather conditions over the holiday break which caused a delay. CHARA wants to thank Mr. Batson and his team, as well as all other community volunteers in helping to get the rink established. It is open to all to use, and we encourage local schools, children's clubs and other groups to enjoy it! Contact info@ourchara.ca for further information or to volunteer in the future.

3. Community Engagement & Sponsorship Portfolio

We had a very successful BBQ on June 25, 2024!

We more than doubled attendance with over 430 participants this year. It was quite successful with entertainment (Junkyard Symphony, Ottawa Red Blacks), many stands to find out about community organizations and services and lots of fun activities—a big thanks to:

- all the volunteers, including the community centre staff,
- the exhibitors (OSEAN, Girl Guides, face painting & henna artistry, Bytown Fire Brigade and many more!)
- the sponsors (City Councillor Riley Brockington, Franco Ippolito EXP Realty)

We couldn't have done it without you!

SAVE THE DATE: The 2025 community BBQ will be held on June 24, 2025!

4. New! Environment & Community Resilience Portfolio (temporary name)

- Some of the ideas for it: working on tree equity, inventory for emergency preparedness
- Help our watershed by reducing salt on the roads!
https://ottawariverkeeper.ca/sign-the-road-salt-reduction-pledge/?mc_cid=1da5cb03e1

5. How to get involved in CHARA: Are you interested in one of the projects or committees? We are always looking for new ideas and people to help us strengthen our neighbourhood.

- Remember: you don't need to be on the Board to support our activities!

Where we could use help now:

- Join the Board! We especially need representatives from the Towers.
- Volunteer on the BBQ committee: specific areas (sponsorship, communications)
- Website management
- 'Parking lot' projects: contact info@chara.ca for details on our other ideas!
- Outreach: we'd like to make sure as many residents as possible know how to access their community organization (CHARA): reach out to a neighbour and tell them about our association! Encourage them to sign up (<https://ourchara.ca/become-a-member/>) to receive updates and invitations to meetings.

More information can be found on our website (<https://ourchara.ca/>) and Facebook page.