

April 1, 2019 | West Carleton Client Services Centre | Kinburn

Presentation by the West Carleton Warriors

- The West Carleton Warriors won \$100K for West Carleton Disaster Relief to go towards cleaning up the community and recovery
- Accepted on behalf of WCDR by Greg Patacairk and Alex Lesnick
- Three standing ovations and a lot of tears!!

Financial update

- Presented by Angela Bernhardt
- Red Cross funding announcement
- Last fall Angela Bernhardt and Len Russell worked with the Red Cross on a funding application for various programs run by WCDR
- Examples: soil remediation, funding for the electrical for the Christmas tree at the corner of Thomas Dolan, etc.
- WCDR asked for \$208K - Red Cross is giving us \$207K
- \$671K total has now been raised for disaster relief
- **WCDR has been working to determine how best to allocate these funds**
- **UPDATE: WCDR issued a Needs Assessment survey, first sent out on January 25th, and used the compiled results to guide our financial decisions to date - the survey results were compiled and our major initiatives are based on those priorities. The survey was re-sent out in March so people that did not have a chance the first time, could respond, and those responses were also incorporated into our board decisions on how to prioritize spending.**
- A mix of spending between now and when the last home is finished
- We are aware that there are families struggling with insurance and DRAO, and there will be families who don't have enough to finish their repairs/rebuilds

Major initiatives:

- Woodlots, tree felling and stump removal
- Tree replanting
- Soil contamination
- Septic inspections
- Farmers
- Under insured
- Preparedness reserve (from the Red Cross program funding)
- Dunrobin Community Association (\$25K so they can offer all of their programs for the next year at no charge)

Questions from the room:

- Can we do a survey of homeowners to see what the people in the community need? In their example, their insurance is going to cover the soil remediation but won't cover the tree replanting
- A lot of the families moved in years ago, kids grew up at the same time. Since the kids aren't small anymore, can we look at doing something for youth?
- On our website, would like to see the detail on what's been spent and on what, and then what we plan to spend on which initiatives

Reminder about the website: <https://www.westcarletonrelief.ca/>

- This is a great tool to see available services

Tree replanting

- Presented by Judy Makin
- Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
 - Contact: Scott Danford (613-692-3571 x 1175)
 - Managing the "Green Acres" program with funding from the City
 - This program is for larger properties needing reforestation
 - Minimum 1000 trees on 1.25 acres which they will come and plant
 - Cost for the homeowner is minimal - \$0.15 per tree
 - RVCA will come do a survey of the property, then advise on species and spacing best for the property

- City of Ottawa
 - Contact: call 311 <https://ottawa.ca/en/residents/water-and-environment/trees-and-community-forests/trees-and-forests-after-tornado>
 - Tree replanting on public property and on roadways
 - Majority of trees are 7-8ft tall
 - Easily adapt to new environments, increasing chance of survival
 - Chance of survival with larger trees really decreases
 - "Trees in Trust" program
 - For those who are missing a tree on their front lawn, on City property
 - Geotowata.ca to find out where your specific property line is so you can see where the City-owned area by the road is
 - Forestry inspector will visit the property to determine what type of tree is best
 - A form is left for the homeowner with some options
 - Homeowner just contacts the City with their decision
 - Planting in the fall "In trust" = homeowner agrees to regularly water the tree
 - Streetscapes and parks
 - Planting on the sides of roads, City parks and facilities
 - Reach out and let the City know where trees should be replanted
 - Will be replanting in DCC and Porcupine Park
 - Commemorative tree program
 - For families who have lost a member of their family
 - Work with the City to find a suitable park for a tree
 - Will be planted along with a plaque
 - Family pays for the tree
 - Schools
 - Grant program
 - There is a special page on the City website specific to trees related to the tornado: <https://ottawa.ca/en/residents/water-and-environment/trees-and-community-forests/trees-and-forests-after-tornado>
 - Check back often for updates
- **Tree Canada**
 - Contact: Marie-Paul Gaudin
 - Judy has been working with Tree Canada to ensure that West Carleton gets their share of the funds raised
 - WCDR will use some of our funds (\$25K) to add to that raised in national fundraising - (WCDR has funds allocated to Trees and this allows Tree Canada to take over the management of this program for us)
 - **"Operation ReLeaf"**
 - Any resident that has been affected can apply for up to \$300
 - Online application: <https://treecanada.ca/operationreleaf/ottawa-gatineau/>
 - Grant can be used to purchase trees/shrubs, delivery of the trees/shrubs, hiring a contractor to do the planting, extra materials like mulch and stakes
 - They have a list of recommended nurseries in the area and recommended species of trees
 - Deadline is April 21
 - Question: how do people proceed if they don't have pictures of their stumps or newly planted trees?
 - Answer: skip the questions - not mandatory. Other areas were able to replant last fall.
 - Question: can the deadline be extended? People are dealing with a lot right now.
 - Answer: there will be another application time period in the fall and then probably next spring again. Funding is being evenly distributed among the affected communities for each deadline (except for the special funds provided by WCDR). People can apply for more than one period, but will be placed lower priority
 - Question: delivery can be expensive for a single tree
 - Answer: work with the nursery to have delivery to multiple properties on the same day to reduce cost
 - Question: will all of the nurseries have the same stock?
 - Answer: Tree Canada has worked with the nurseries and all will have stock of the same species. If they do run out of a particular species, likely they can assist with getting the desired tree brought in

Septic inspections

- Wayne Morris from Ottawa Septic Inspections
- A lot of homeowners are concerned about their septic systems
- WCDR will be offering septic inspections for those with concerns where insurance that is not covering it OR has an insurance cap that they may be reaching
 - Timeframe = June/July
- What is involved in a septic inspection:
 - Dig out the tank lids, do a few test holes in the bed and look at the stone and sand in the tile. Do a flow test by dumping 250 gallons of water into the system and see how it handles it.
 - WCDR will supply water trucks as required, in the event properties don't have water at the time of the septic inspection
- Question: will a septic system sitting idle for 6 months have further damage?
 - Answer: No. Shouldn't have concerns about a septic system sitting idle. A leaching bed sitting idle is actually good for it (allows it to regenerate).
- Question: what about heavy things falling on the septic bed, heavy equipment driving across the system, or a tree falling over and the roots disrupted the soil around the system?
 - Answer: have the system looked at in these cases
- Question: what about wells?
 - Answer: There are specific professionals to handle well concerns.
- Question: is there a preferred time to do a septic inspection?
 - Answer: spring can be tough, since there is a lot of water in the ground. Mid-summer and fall are preferred.
 - Note from the audience: you only have a year to claim anything on your insurance, so be sure to get it inspected prior
- Question: what is the life expectancy of a septic system?
 - Answer: probably 20-30 years on average, but it depends on the soil.
- Question: can new houses be hooked up to old septic?
 - Answer: if house size doesn't change, then it should generally be fine. Septic is designed based on square footage and number of bedrooms. It's possible City may request the septic design to make sure it's sized appropriately.
- Question: this homeowner's lid chipped, since it had recently been emptied
 - Answer: only way to know if there is a leak is if the level is lower than the clay. The level in a septic tank should be fairly stable (water in = water out). If water is below the pipe = probably cracked. If water is above the pipe = not leaking out possibly due to the blockage. If it's just a cracked lid, it can be replaced.
- Don't hesitate to reach out to WCDR with questions and we will coordinate with Wayne on your behalf

Update from WOCRC

- Christine Harrison
- Will have more programs coming up - visit the Facebook page for more details (and we will share in our emails): <https://www.facebook.com/WOCRC.CRCCOO/>

Preparedness

- WCDR has been working with the City and other organizations like United Way and After the Storm about what do we do when the next disaster hits
- We need to learn from our experiences and use the voice that WCDR has at the moment
- We are working on doing a preparedness plan in conjunction with the City so the next time there is a disaster, community associations and WCDR are named in the official plan
- WCDR will continue indefinitely, ready to jump into action should anything happen

Canada Day

- Plans are still in the works, but there will be a big event at Eagle Creek Golf Course
- Goal is for WCDR families to attend for free
- Fireworks should be at least double past years at the DCC
- More to come!

Soil remediation

- Plan is still in the works
- Will be for residential areas, not for farm fields
- WCDR will partner with contractors to do multiple properties at once

Wrap up

- Just because we aren't reaching out to you with a phone call does not mean that we are not here
- Community Contacts will remain for those who need it
- Email us, visit our website to contact us
- Open Discussion:
 - One of the residents shared their story about their damage, which involved windows and roof. They have now had their roof replaced 4 times and their contents completely damaged. Stressed that homeowners need to be on-site every few days to monitor contractors.
 - Another resident shared that the costs their insurance with reimburse per square foot is almost \$100/sq ft less than what the bids are now coming in at. Others are having the same issue.
 - Suggestion to have a session with insurance companies, IBC, a lawyer to ask/answer questions
 - Question: Are we doing any lobbying of provincial and federal government for funding programs like energy star, which is no longer available?
 - Answer: Yes - we are doing what we can with the province to advocate.
 - See if there are any outstanding orders on your house with the City. In this example, there was never a soil test done by the City when the house was originally built. They had to pay privately for a hole to be dug to test the soil now.
 - One homeowner brought up the need for special equipment to take out his large trees
 - Suggestion to break the meetings up into topic or audience type

UPDATE: WCDR has heard from several residents about concerns regarding insurance and distribution of funds. Please keep an eye out for future emails from WCDR with more information on those two topics, as well as other initiatives currently underway.