



Happy New Year!

We hope that all of you are enjoying the start of 2013! Drive safely and stay warm as you enjoy all that Ottawa has to offer this season.

How lucky we are to live in a city with so many winter events! The Rideau Canal and the rink outside Ben Franklin Place are both open for skating. Winterlude, Ottawa's own winter festival, runs from Feb 1-18. Don't forget to check out the cross-country ski trails at the Mooney's Bay Ski Centre and in Gatineau Park, and right in our neighborhood, Centrepointe Park is the perfect place for snowshoeing.

If you'd rather stay indoors during the colder months, the Ottawa Winter Jazz Festival runs from Jan 31-Feb 2, and the Cracking Up the Capital Comedy Festival runs from Feb 6-9. Find more information on these and the many other Ottawa Festivals at www.ottawafestivals.ca.

Annual General Meeting

Thanks to all those who participated, either in person or by proxy, in the last AGM held in November. The board of directors for 2012-2013 is: Julia Ringma (President), Ken Morin, Sneha Madhavan-Reese, Michael Lam, and Matthew Schultz. Thanks to outgoing directors Ian Watson and Robert Friedman for their years of service to the condominium.

Among the items discussed at the meeting were the audited financial statements for the last fiscal year, the health of the trees in our community, and the current roofing project.

Upcoming Shifts to Garbage Collection Day

Please note that due to Family Day and the Easter holidays, our usual garbage and recycling pick-up shifts to Thursday in the week following the holiday. So remember to set out your garbage, green bin, and blue bin on Thursday, Feb 21 and Thursday, April 4.

Snow Removal

According to the contract with Grandview Maintenance, snow will be cleared when there is at least 5 cm of snow. If you want your driveway cleared, please make sure you move your car from your driveway when the snow plowing trucks are in your area. Also, when you do park your car in your driveway, please leave 3-4 feet of space between your car and your garage door to allow access for the salt sprinkler.

Ice Dams

This year, we have had a large snowfall followed by milder temperatures, leading to roof leaks in some units due to ice dams. If you notice any leaking in your unit, contact our property manager immediately to arrange for repairs.

Fluorescent Bulbs are Hazardous Waste!

Just a reminder that fluorescent bulbs (both compact bulbs and tubes) contain mercury and are hazardous waste. They cannot be put out with your regular trash and need to be disposed of properly. Compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) can be dropped off, free of charge, at Home Depot, Rona, and IKEA. IKEA accepts fluorescent tubes as well.

Green Your Cleaners

Did you know that you can clean your house with safe, inexpensive cleaning products that you can make yourself? These nontoxic alternatives are easy on your budget and better for your health and the environment than commercial, chemical cleaning products. All recipes below are from the book *Clean House, Clean Planet* by Karen Logan.

All-purpose surface cleaner: Regular baking soda is a simple cleaner for counters, sinks, and tub. Don't use too much, just sprinkle lightly on the surface you want to clean and wipe with a damp sponge. Baking soda is a grease cutter, natural deodorizer, and a mild abrasive that won't scratch. An open box of baking soda makes a great solid air freshener, too.

Liquid all-purpose surface cleaner: Fill a spray bottle with equal parts white vinegar and water, and you're ready to spray it on most surfaces and wipe with a soft cloth. Vinegar repels grease and grime and can help prevent mold and mildew.

Easy silver polish: Place a sheet of aluminum foil, 1 Tbsp. salt, and 1 Tbsp. baking soda in a large bowl. Then fill the bowl with warm water and place your tarnished pieces in. Wait 1 hour, then wipe silver with a soft cloth.

Our condominium is managed by a Property Manager in consultation with your Board of Directors. The Property Manager is Scott Smith of Condominium Management Group, and he can be reached by email at ssmith@condogroup.ca or by phone at 613-237-9519x227. Please contact him if you have any concerns or maintenance requests. We also maintain a website at www.castlebrook-village.ca.

Community Noticeboard

Meet neighbors that share your interests. If you would like to organize a community group (bridge club, book club, dog walking group, or anything else!) please send a note to our property manager for inclusion in the next issue of the Castlebrook Village Voice.

Wine: I make wine at home from grapes and kits. If anyone is interested in sharing wine-making ideas and/or getting together occasionally to taste some different wines, please contact Ken at 613-727-6377.

Gardening: The first meeting of the Castlebrook Gardening Club will be Sunday, March 24th at Rita Paterson's home, 10C Millrise Lane, at 1:30 P.M. Contact Rita at 613-225-3058.

Bridge: Attention bridge players! Are you interested in occasional "kitchen" bridge games? If so, please call Janet at 613-727-6377.

We welcome your input to the management of our village. We also invite contributions or suggested topics for the next newsletter.

Please email our Property Manager.