

5.0 President report

In 2024, the WCA has undergone remarkable growth and evolution. As new neighbors settle in and our district continues to change, our board has risen to the challenge—broadening and refining our approach to meet these shifting needs.

This year's highlights include:

- Strengthening partnerships with cornerstone community organizations such as Freedom in Christ Church, RBJ Schlegel (Winston Park), Conestoga College, and the many local businesses that enrich our neighborhood.
- Amazing special events ie. Neighbours Day, Summer Markets, Earth Day, Winter/Spring Dance Recitals Concerts, Family Day and Trunk/Treat (with our friends at Freedom) etc.
- Free summer programming in the park
- New programming like Cricket, Fencing, etc.
- Ongoing collaboration with the Williamsburg Community Gardens initiative, nurturing both green spaces and community spirit.
- Progress on the upcoming Southwest Library and the future Southwest Community Centre (ground breaking on **September 11th 2024**), in close coordination with the city. Now names Holy Trinity School/Williamsburg Community Centre

We've enjoyed record-breaking attendance across all our programs. None of this would be possible without our dedicated instructors, city staff, and the enthusiastic participants who bring each activity to life. A special note of gratitude goes to Laura Shaver—her steadfast leadership and tireless effort have kept our board on track while introducing exciting new offerings like fencing.

Near the end of the year in 2024 we were approached by a local school outside our area looking for assistance to help families in need over the holidays with food, gifts, etc. I'm proud that our board not only assisted this school with gift cards, but 3 other schools within our neighbourhood.

I'd also like to acknowledge Shannon Thompson, Mike Harris, and the entire team at the Williamsburg Community Centre. Their creativity and support have been invaluable as we work hand in hand to serve Ward 5's residents.

Looking forward, we're eagerly anticipating the opening of our new community centre in **2026**. Welcoming and engaging newcomers will be essential to fostering an inclusive atmosphere where everyone feels at home. It's vital that we continue to champion diversity, collaboration, and mutual support—values that the city and its citizens share in building a community where every voice matters.

I urge both city leaders and Williamsburg residents to embrace this spirit of partnership, ensuring that our neighborhood grows in ways that meet the needs of all ages. United

as neighbors, there's no challenge we can't overcome—and no limits to the bright future we can create together.