

# COMMUNITY

## The virtual side of Barrhaven's small town charm

By APRIL DUFFY

Barrhaven residents may find their sense of community in a very strange place, their basement.

As Barrhaven expands and matures it loses that quaint, small town feel; but residents are fighting back and they have technology on their side. Barrhaven has a ton of websites looking to be the place where people and businesses can intimately interact once again.

Barrhaven.net, southpointe.ca, Barhaven.org, Janharder.com among others. And these websites are, in large part, being created and maintained by community residents themselves.

"I've lived and worked in Barrhaven since 1983 and I just find that people will often wonder what's going on in Barrhaven itself and I figured it was a good service to offer to the community," said Bev Thompson, a

local real estate broker and creator of one site. "I've had lots of positive feedback from it; I've had clients tell me how much they enjoy it."

Thompson explained that her site, www.barrhavenliving.com, generates no leads for her as a real estate agent nor does it make any profit itself because she feels it is just a community interest website and it is there to fill a need.

"I do a lot of Barrhaven business so anyone that I'm working with that is interested in living in Barrhaven or buys in Barrhaven I'll direct them to the site if there are things they need to know," Thompson said.

Avril and Victor Tsang have a different strategy for their community website. Far from a part time hobby Local Communities On-Line (LOCOL) and its product www.barrhavenlive.ca are the couple's fulltime occupation.

And despite jokes about who gets to be LOCOL's president, it is a serious and planned out business for the pair with corporate backgrounds.

"Barrhaven Live went live on September 1, 2006 but there was a good nine months of planning and research prior to it going on the net," Mrs. Tsang said. "It was probably about a year and a bit ago that we started the whole idea of trying to bring value to the



April Duffy illustration

Wondering what's going on around Barrhaven? The answer is just a click away at a number of local websites devoted to the growing community.

community and that's where the discussion started, bringing value to the community and then bringing value to the small and medium businesses within our community."

"And with the growth in Barrhaven that's obvious all around us it just felt like a natural place for us to start," said Mr. Tsang.

Offering an interactive community site for residents and internet solutions for businesses the couple sees the future online.

Barrhaven residents certainly appear ready to embrace this internet lifestyle.

"Everything I do, I do online. I got my phone-books yesterday and I haven't opened them, I probably won't," said James Gilliland, president of the Barrhaven Community Association (Barrhavencommunity.com). And as he points out he is not the only one in Barrhaven leaving behind the old technology.

"I think we've even gotten to that stage where people are communicating by email rather than telephone," Gilliland said. "We look after four outdoor rinks in the community so we've got teenagers shovelling the

rinks. And we've gotten more email inquiries about how do I sign up, or I'd like to volunteer for this rink than we've had phone calls."

The numbers certainly say a lot. Tsang said BarrhavenLive.ca gets anywhere between 60 to 400 individual computers logging on each day, and boasts a business listing of roughly 460 businesses.

The small town feel of Barrhaven seems safe from urban sprawl, at least on the internet.

April Duffy is an Algonquin College journalism student.



April Duffy photo

Avril and Victor Tsang have invested their full attention (and time) into creating their community website.

# Church Directory

### BETHEL PENTECOSTAL CHURCH "REAL PEOPLE ... REAL HOPE"



**Sunday 10:30 am**  
A Service bringing ages together  
**Sunday 6:00 pm**  
Intense Worship, A Relevant Message  
For information about mid-week events for the entire family, call 613-226-1383.

500 Viewmount Drive (at Fisher) Nepean, ON K2E 7P2

www.bethel.ca info@bethel.ca



**Barrhaven Fellowship Christian Reformed Church**  
Serving Christ and Community in Barrhaven for 15 years!

A Place To Connect

Pastor Daryl Meijer 3058 Jockvale Road, Nepean • Tel: 613-825-7512 Service Times Sunday at 10am and 6pm

### Longfields Community Church

Affiliated with the Baptist Convention of Ontario & Quebec



**Sunday Worship at 10 a.m.**  
at St. Luke School, 60 Mountshannon Drive  
Our Pastor, and our Congregation invite you to worship with us.

Call 823-4311 for information, or visit our website: www.longfields.ca

### St. Andrew Roman Catholic Parish

Office: 440 Longfields Drive (Mother Teresa H.S.)  
Pastor: Fr. John Whyte

Masses at St. Joseph H.S. 3333 Greenbank Rd.  
Saturday Mass 4:30pm  
Sunday Mass 9:00am & 11:00am (with Children's Liturgy)  
EVERYONE WELCOME

Tel: 843-9767 e-mail: st\_andrew@bellnet.ca www.saintandrewparish.ca

We invite you to be our special guest at



"Where we emphasize a Relationship, not a Religion"  
Sunday Worship Service at 10:10 am, Mother Teresa High School  
440 Longfields Dr., Nursery and Children's Programs provided  
Tel: (613) 825-3000 www.sequoiachurch.org

### ST. JAMES' ANGLICAN CHURCH

1138 Bridge Street, Box 220, Manotick K4M 1A3  
Serving: Barrhaven, Riverside South and Manotick

#### SUNDAY SERVICES

Holy Eucharist at 8:15 & 10:00 a.m.  
Next Evensong Service - January 28th, 4:30 pm

"We Would Love You to Join our Church Family" (Elevator Access Provided)  
Church 692-2082 - The Reverend Rick Marples - Home: 823-6517  
e-mail: stjamesm@magma.ca Web Site: www.manotick.org/stjames



**Sunday**  
9:45am. Sunday School  
10:30am. Worship Service  
6pm. Evening Service

**Wednesday**  
7:30 Bible Study & Prayer

4000 Strandherd Dr.  
825-9695

"Come Unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28)

"...where the nations meet Christ"  
Woodvale Pentecostal Church 829-2362

#### Regular Sunday Services

8:00 AM or 9:30 AM or 11:00 AM or 12:30 PM and 6:30 PM  
Child care provided at all services

Rev. Mark Scarr, Senior Pastor  
For information on other activities please contact the church office.  
205 Greenbank Road, Nepean, Ontario, K2H 8K9 www.woodvale.on.ca

### St. John The Divine Anglican Church



Rev. June Hough  
Family Worship - Sundays 10:00 a.m.  
(With church school and supervised nursery)

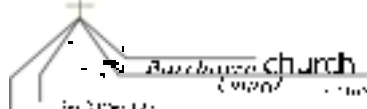
at École Élémentaire Catholique Pierre Elliott Trudeau  
601 Longfields Drive, Nepean  
Parish Phone: 823-8118 www.st-john-the-divine.org



**Sunday Celebration Schedule**  
Worship Services 9:30am & 11am in Church Sanctuary  
Family Bible Hour 9:30am for adults, youth, & kids  
Kids programs also at 11am in Church lower level

2784 Cedarview Road (at Fallowfield) www.cedarview.on.ca

613-825-5393



Join Us...  
Sunday Worship  
10:00 am  
Nursery & Sunday School  
bucYOUTH

613-825-1707 www.barrhavenunited.org  
3013 Jockvale Road, Ottawa, Ontario K2J 4E4

**DIVINE WORD Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
A member of W.E.L.S.  
(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)



**Sunday Schedule**  
Sunday School @ 9:00 a.m.  
Adult Bible Study @ 9:15 a.m.  
Worship Service @ 10:30 a.m.

www.divinewordottawa.ca

