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London Road Neighbourhood Association

Spring 2006 Newsletter

We're Entered in the Communities In Bloom 20-Minute Makeover

The City of Lethbridge is participating in the first 20-MINUTE MAKEOVER which is supported by the City of Lethbridge and Communities in Bloom. The program will focus attention on a 20-minute makeover of our community, school grounds, business and commercial areas, and residential neighbourhoods. The 20-MINUTE MAKEOVER is just one of the many wide-ranging programs sponsored by Pitch-In Canada.



when participating community associations register with the program. The London Road Neighbourhood Association has registered to participate in the 20-MINUTE MAKEOVER. Media may be on hand to take photographs and speak to participants.

The 20-MINUTE MAKEOVER is a litter clean-up activity that will take place from **10:40 to 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 29, 2006**. Basically, we are asking London Road residents to clean up around their neighbourhood business or home for 20 minutes. Let's work together to make our neighbourhood beautiful! As the age old adage goes, many hands make light work!



The goal is to show the rest of Canada the pride Lethbridge residents have in their city and the environment. City of Lethbridge residents recognize that a clean and beautiful community is also an asset which many communities use to attract tourism as well as economic activity. Pitch-In Canada recognizes and supports our community

See you out there!

**Thank You**  
 to the following businesses for their ongoing support of the London Road Neighbourhood Association:  
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Advertising in the Newsletter  
 If you operate a business in the London Road Neighbourhood and you would like to advertise in the newsletter, please contact us at info@londonroad.org.

Who Is The LRNA?

The London Road Neighbourhood Association is a group of volunteers dedicated to working together to help address issues or concerns of residents and businesses within the London Road Neighbourhood. There is considerable time, energy, pooling of resources, and collaboration with neighbours and various City departments, including the Regional Police Service, to address concerns within the neighbourhood. This year a significant development was the reactivation of the Neighbourhood Watch program in response to concerns that were presented to the Board. We are also pleased with our involvement in and contribution to the Bright Lights Festival and the Christmas home tour.

This newsletter is a communiqué to the residents and businesses of London Road Neighbourhood. We want you to know that we are working for you, your voices are being heard, and your concerns matter!

We encourage you to get involved in our wonderful neighbourhood through becoming a Block Captain for Neighbourhood Watch, serving on the LRNA Board, or through other contributions that make London Road Neighbourhood one of the best places to live in Lethbridge!

*If These Walls Could Talk*  
 Did you know that you can research your home's history at the Galt Museum?

AGM

The next Annual General Meeting of the London Road Neighbourhood Association will be held in the **Theatre Gallery of the Lethbridge Public Library, on Tuesday, June 13, 2006, at 7:00 p.m.** It is a chance for all interested residents of London Road to meet their neighbours and receive an update on what has been happening in the neighbourhood during the past year. We will be highlighting our year, the London Road Area Redevelopment Plan, the City's Community Strategy Program, reactivation of our Neighbourhood Watch, association business, then finally, an open forum where you may contribute or inquire.

Memberships will also be available. \$5 buys you a lifetime membership to the Neighbourhood Association—remember, the strength of an association is it's members! We look forward to meeting with you again!

LRNA WEBSITE, EMAIL

To help keep you informed of neighbourhood events, the London Road Neighbourhood Association has a website. Association and member information, the newsletter and useful links are posted.



The London Road Neighbourhood Area Redevelopment Plan is also available online. The Neighbourhood Watch section lets people know how they can get involved in crime-proofing their neighbourhood. Please visit the London Road Neighbourhood Association's website at www.londonroad.org.

Our email address is info@londonroad.org.

Your Membership is the Strength of Our Community and Our Association

If you are not already a member of the London Road Neighbourhood Association, consider becoming a member today. A lifetime membership is only \$5.00. Please detach, complete and send this form with a cheque to: London Road Neighbourhood Association, c/o 1264—4th Avenue S., Lethbridge, AB T1J 0R2.  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Thank you for your support! We look forward to continuing to serve the residents of London Road Neighbourhood.

About the London Road Neighbourhood Association

Established in 1974, the London Road Neighbourhood Association is a non-profit association dedicated to maintaining the qualities of the historical London Road neighbourhood that make it one of the finest communities in the city. We work closely with the City and provide considered opinion to changes that may affect and enhance the quality of residency within the London Road area.

The 2005/2006 Board is:

President: Garfield Bland  
 Vice-President: Diane Horvath  
 Secretary/Treasurer: Helen Cox

Directors: Kate Connolly, Fred Greene, Sharon Hudemka, Tom McKenzie, Chet Mook, Em Pijl-Zieber, Lydia Quigg, and Laraine Stuart.



# Taking Back the Neighbourhood

## What's the Problem?

London Road can be a wonderful place to live. A short walk away from downtown this historical neighbourhood boasts character and convenience that many communities can only envy. London Road is home to a diverse demographic group and many would maintain that this diversity is invaluable for the creation of a rich and rewarding community.

However, even proponents of diversity object to the negative influence that 'drug houses' have on a neighbourhood. Dealers selling from their homes bring people from far and wide who come and go at all hours of the day and night, argue, shout, fight and otherwise disrupt any serenity, security or comfort that communities may have developed. The effects of living close to a drug house are tangible: lost sense of security, loss of sleep, fear for children in the neighbourhood, frustration and helplessness. This is a reality that an unfortunately high number of London Road residents are having to live with on a daily basis...but it's not a reality that has to be accepted.

By taking three steps London Road residents can join together to protect themselves and their neighbours from the disruptive and dangerous influence of drug dealers living and selling out of houses in our area.

## 1. Get Involved!

Apathy and willful blindness are friends to crime, while unity and community are powerful deterrents. As the London Road Area Coordinator for Lethbridge Neighbourhood Watch, I strongly urge all London Road residents to join this non-profit, volunteer-driven organization.



Signing up for Neighbourhood Watch is a paltry \$3 per household one time fee. Benefits include: 1) meeting members of your neighbourhood who share your concerns about security and safety; 2) the security of knowing that others are looking out for you; and 3) a 60% sign up in your block allows you to have a Neighbourhood Watch sign put up (these recognizable signs put potential criminals on notice that others are monitoring the area).

In order for Neighbourhood Watch to be effective, participation is required. Each block (both sides of the street) requires a 'Block Captain'. This is simply a person willing to go to the houses in their block and ask people to sign up and collect the \$3 fee. Block Captains then pass on membership information to the Area Coordinator...the rest is simply looking out for one another and attending meetings when you're able or have a specific concern.

For more information about Neighbourhood Watch go to <http://www.lethbridgeneighbourhoodwatch.org> or if you'd like to sign up or volunteer to be a Block Captain you can call Constable Randy Ward at 330-5020. Information and links are also accessible on the London Road Neighbourhood Association website at [www.londonroad.org](http://www.londonroad.org).



## 2. Get Vocal!

So, you've signed up for Neighbourhood Watch and they're going to be putting signs up on your block...now what?

Police Officers can only intervene against drug dealers and drug houses if they have enough information to get a search warrant or make an arrest. This is where community action comes in.

The Lethbridge Regional Police Service complaint line is: 328-4444. If you are awakened by shouting, have your driveway obstructed by an unknown vehicle, see persons who appear to be driving under the influence, or believe you are witnessing a drug buy, etc. you can call this number. The more people that call, the more likely there will be a response. In speaking with members of the Lethbridge Regional Police Service I have learned that 'the squeaky wheel gets the grease'. In other words, if you want something done you have to ask for action to be taken and not assume that others will do it for you.



However, you should know before you call that you will be asked for your name, address and telephone number. This information is not for public record, but a record is made of the complaint for police purposes. If you have questions about revealing this information don't hesitate to ask the person on the complaint line for details.

If you are more comfortable with making an anonymous tip about criminal activity you call Crimestoppers (1-800-222-8477) or go to

<http://www.southernalbertacrimestoppers.com> where you can submit an anonymous tip online. You can also set up a file number and continue to collect information about a particular residence. If, for example, your Neighbourhood Watch group shares a Crimestoppers file number on a specific address then any suspicious activity, vehicles or persons can all be reported to the same file by various people. The richer the file, the more likely that action will follow. However, while Crimestoppers is anonymous, it is less likely to bring an immediate response to a complaint and it is not the place for complaints about noise disturbance, etc.

Finally, it is often the case that owners or occupants of drug houses neglect various civic duties and responsibilities and are frequently in breach of City Bylaws. By complaining to City Hall, writing petition letters to Council members, and filling in complaint forms at City Hall, bylaw responsibilities can be enforced and tickets may be issued for noncompliance.

## 3. Take Action!

People may be frustrated by the way Police Officers seem to have their hands tied by the heavy burden of proof required for criminal proceedings. However, there is another way to approach the activities of drug dealers and the existence of drug houses.

A community in West Lethbridge embarked on what has been termed a Nuisance Neighbourhood Action Suit against a drug house that has negatively impacted them for some time. This is a civil class action suit by all people directly affected by the property complained of and is essentially a suit for damages incurred as a result of the loss of enjoyment of property.



This option allows complainants/plaintiffs to sue for the damage that the nuisance of the drug house's unreasonable use of the property creates, without needing to make any criminal allegations (or be subject to the criminal law's stringent burden of proof).

## Take Back the Neighbourhood

We are all interested in improving our neighbourhood...for the sake of our children, our families, our friends and ourselves. Who wouldn't want to live in a peaceful, character neighbourhood, close to downtown with friendly neighbours and strong community ties? The very existence of drug houses in the London Road area poses a tangible obstacle to this goal. Drug houses replace trust with suspicion, comfort with fear, and inevitably destroy the value of neighbourhoods.

By getting involved, getting vocal, and taking action these threats to our community can be minimized. A strong community is not a place where criminals want to be.

Shaun Eden  
London Road Area Coordinator  
for Neighbourhood Watch