



KANATA'S
COUNCILLOR



Peggy Feltmate

Seniors' Update

10th Anniversary of Expo 55+

Since Expo 55+ was started 10 years ago by my predecessor Alex Munter, it has been a chance for seniors in Kanata to find out about services in our community, to provide feedback to service providers and to have a get together with other seniors. It remains popular.



Meeting with residents of Stonehaven Manor

I have been pleased to continue the tradition of Expo 55+ over the last three years. While Kanata may be split between three wards after the November municipal elections, I am confident that one thing that will not change is Expo 55+.

Neighbourhood Watch - Making Our Community Safer

With problems like vandalism and noise in parks, people are wondering what can be done to make Kanata safer. One way is getting involved with Neighbourhood Watch.

If you would like to get involved or want more information, call the Kanata Community Police Station at 613-236-1222 x2005 or go to <http://www.atkanata.com/KNW/home.htm>.

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Freeze in Property Reassessment Only a First Step

Over the last few years, Ottawa City Council has repeatedly asked the provincial government to change how property assessment is done.

Rapid increases in property assessments mean that many people are paying more in taxes without an increase in their ability to pay. It is particularly difficult for seniors and others on fixed incomes.

After complaints from the City of Ottawa and other municipalities, the Provincial Ombudsman investigated the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC), the provincial agency responsible for property assessment. His report was highly critical of the process used by MPAC. In response the provincial government announced property assessment would be frozen until 2008 to give MPAC time to act on the Ombudsman's recommendations.

The freeze does give us breathing space, but it does not mean the property assessment system is fixed. There is a need to continue to put pressure on the provincial government until long-term solutions are put in place. As councillor, I will continue to push the provincial government to take action.

Provincial Announcement Shows Cost of Downloading

Many media reports of the Ontario government's review of whether it should be the provincial or municipal level that delivers services like housing, social services, and health mentioned that downloading these services to municipalities adds \$700 a year to the average property tax bill. And that's only part of the cost.

In other provinces, housing, social services, and public health are delivered and funded by the provincial government. Property tax revenues are not used.



Peggy and Clarence Maheral at a Glen Cairn Community Association event to recognize his long service to the community