



CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER

JUNE
2011

GUIDED WALK OF THE HERITAGE TREES OF CHAMPLAIN PARK

You're invited!

The Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee (OFGAC) has asked Champlain Park to host OFGAC's first guided walk this year. Our big trees are pretty special and we will have a chance to admire them during this tour.

As part of the walk, we'll be discussing the trees' history, their social value, and their contribution to the environment. You might already know, generally, about trees' role in the environment. But did you know that we have a diversity of native trees in our neighbourhood? And that our trees' environmental contribution has substantial economic value?

Please join members of OFGAC, your neighbours, and invited guests from outside Champlain Park as we walk Champlain Park's urban forest trail.

Date: Sunday, June 26, 2011

Time: 10:00 to noon

Meet: North end of Champlain Park at Pontiac Street.

Did you know? The **Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee** was established in 2001 to advise Ottawa City Council and provide a forum for citizens on

issues related to forests and greenspace. The committee has 15 members, appointed by Council, from all areas of the City of Ottawa.

Please contact me at **725-1422** for more information

–Heather Pearl (co-chair, CPCA)

UPDATE ON 115 NORTHWESTERN AVE.

After the Committee of Adjustment (COA) denied his application to build an enormous semi-detached house, the developer who owns 115 Northwestern Ave, obtained permission from the City to destroy the magnificent, healthy, old-growth bur oak tree that had graced the property for an estimated 170 years. He purportedly agreed to build a single family home and preserve the two front yard trees in exchange for the tree-cutting permit.

It now appears the developer is proceeding with an appeal of the COA's decision to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB).

The OMB hearing is scheduled for July 14th.

The Champlain Park Community Association (CPCA) will be there.

–Heather Pearl (co-chair, CPCA)

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CHAMPLAIN PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Co-chairs: Lynne Bankier (729-0955)
and Heather Pearl (725-1422)

Vice-chair: Jonathan Chaplan (728-7670)
Secretary: Linnea Rowlett (728-8221)
Treasurer: David Bartlett (301-9660)

Fieldhouse coordinator:
Laurie Fagan (728-1945)

Neighbourhood Watch coordinator: Vacant
Patrick Mates (722-4120)

Spring Cleanup coordinators:
Ian Reid and Andrea Murphy (715-9504)

Planning: Amy Kempster (722-6039)

Member-at-large: Connie Barrowclough
(724-7712)

Environment Committee: Nick Xenos
(719-7780)

Other roles

Membership: Barbara Borylo-Gourdie
(722-6829)

Banking: potter (728-4980)

CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER - YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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MORE MEANINGFUL THAN DANDELIONS

You can support the Hampton-Iona Community Group (HICG) by purchasing and displaying one of its lawn signs. The one that seems most appropriate for Champlain Park residents says, "Just say NO to over development." Already, such signs are decorating front yards in our neighbourhood.

The Hampton-Iona and Westboro Community Associations created the signs to help raise money to challenge the City of Ottawa's refusal to recognize the Community Design Plan and Secondary Plan they created for the Richmond Road/Westboro area. Funds raised from donations to the sign campaign will help pay for a possible challenge at the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB).

"Our communities have worked with the City to develop community design plans that allow for respectful intensification. What we don't want is our streets lined with buildings that don't represent these plans. The domino effect for developers is powerful," said Lorne Cutler, President of HICG. "Over-intensification should not be allowed to change the existing character of our neighbourhoods from what makes them such great places in which to live."

To order a sign, and to make an on-line donation for your sign, visit: <http://hamptoniona.ca> -Debra Huron

COMMITTEE RULES AGAINST PROPOSAL FOR FOUR UNITS AT 168 CARLETON AVE.

Committee of Adjustment (COA) has denied the developer's application for variances on this property. Date of the decision was June 10. Here are excerpts from the decision:

"...the Committee is of the opinion that the proposed development represents overdevelopment, does not respect the predominant pattern of development in the surrounding area in terms of bulk and massing, is lacking in front yard amenity space and [sic] the undesirable roof-top patios."

"...with respect to the bur oak tree, [the committee] is of the opinion that a more sensitive approach to design could have been undertaken."

"Based on the evidence presented, the Committee is agreed that, in all the circumstances, the cumulative effect of the requested variances results in over-development of the site."

The developer, Boyle Homes Ltd., has until June 30 to file notice to appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board.

-Debra Huron

CLIMATE CHANGE: DOING WHAT YOU CAN DO, SOONER THAN LATER

Climate change is a big problem not only because it's a big problem but also because it is so hard for the average person to do something about it. Recycling was much easier. The blue box gives people something physical to fill each week, to help reduce waste going into landfills.

What can you do about climate change? Actually, there are a couple of things:

- Register for Hydro's microFIT: no obligation, lots of benefits.
- Join OREC, the Energy Co-op.

There will be a meeting at the Champlain Park fieldhouse

Wednesday,

June 29 at 7 p.m. to present information and answer questions on both initiatives. The workshop and information session on solar power will be presented by Janice Ashworth of Ecology Ottawa.

1) Registering for microFIT

The Province of Ontario changed the law in 2009 so that locally-generated power (solar, wind, etc.) can be fed into the electrical grid. The Ontario Power Authority offers a program called microFIT that guarantees payment for this electricity for 20 years. Your house or small business could have solar panels that would actually make money.

Applying to microFIT sooner rather than later has a number of benefits that will be outlined during the upcoming workshop. Learn more about microFIT at <http://microfit.powerauthority.on.ca>

2) Joining the Ottawa Renewable Energy Co-op

The Ottawa Renewable Energy Co-operative (OREC) is doing the same thing that microFIT does but on a bigger scale. This group of local innovators will pool investment money to set up large-scale rooftop solar electric installations in Ottawa on commercial and institutional buildings. The cost to join OREC is \$100.



Learn more at www.ottawarenewableenergycoop.ca

Ecology Ottawa is a local non-profit group with a principal focus on climate change in our region. Learn more at www.ecologyottawa.ca.

–Charles Hodgson

NO PHYSICAL MEMORY OF BUR OAK

The Champlain Park Community Association and the Champlain Oaks project (www.champlainoaks.com) requested a cross-section of the giant bur oak recently cut down at 115 Northwestern Ave. We understood that the developer of the site had agreed to this request and would provide one or more pieces of the tree trunk.

Cross-sections from the healthy tree— estimated by an arborist to be 1.16 metres in diameter— would have been used for educational and scientific purposes. For example, Joanna Dean, a professor at Carleton University, was hoping to use one of the slabs as part of an exhibit on the urban forest slated for the Bytown Museum later this year.

Despite ongoing efforts by myself and Ms. Dean, a cross-section of the tree has not been forthcoming and we have abandoned our appeals to the developer as being untenable.

On two other fronts:

- The Champlain Oaks project is discussing the possibility of having genetic material from one of the large bur oaks in Champlain Park cloned by The Archangel Ancient Tree Archive based in Michigan.
- We will be pursuing the development of a Heritage Tree by-law for the City of Ottawa.

–Daniel Buckles

SEWING CLASSES SLATED FOR FALL

Plan ahead! I will be offering sewing classes at the fieldhouse starting Thursday, Sept. 15 and continuing every second Thursday until the end of November.

The classes are suitable for both beginners and those with more experience. You must supply your own sewing machine. Fun is guaranteed!

To register, to ask questions, and to find out if these classes are for you, please contact me at 613-729-8434.

–Kathleen Traeger

AMY'S CORNER



BY AMY KEMPSTER
722-6039

OMB Decision on the Urban Boundary: The OMB (Ontario Municipal Board), as many of you may know, is a quasi-judicial administrative tribunal set up to resolve disputes on municipal matters, and especially disputes about land use planning. As such, it considers that it should resolve such disputes about land use planning on the basis of “good land use planning.” Ontario’s Planning Act sets out the procedures and some of the rules regarding land use planning. It requires municipalities and the OMB to render decisions consistent with the Provincial Policy Statements (PPS). Unfortunately, the OMB is usually convinced that something is consistent with the Provincial Policy Statements only if the proof is provided in a convincing way by an expert such as a qualified land use planner.

The urban boundary case was a complex one, where developers in Ottawa appealed the City of Ottawa’s June 2009 amendment to the 2003 Official Plan. That amendment increased the City’s urban boundary by 230 hectares on the basis of a time frame of about 18 years, for detached and semi-detached homes. This contrasts with the staff recommendation of 850 hectares and a time frame of slightly more than 20 years. The final OMB decision agreed with this original suggestion from City staff that a figure of 850 gross hectares (rather than the 230 hectares passed by Council) be applied. As well, the OMB decision favoured a time frame of 20 years rather than 15 to 18 with regard to the need for additional land to accommodate growth, as it found this use of a different time frame than that for other elements of the amendment inconsistent with PPSs.

The OMB’s ruling keeps the City consistent with other parts of the Official Plan and in line with Section 1.1.2 of the PPS. This section states that “Sufficient land shall be available through intensification and redevelopment and if necessary designated growth areas, to accommodate an appropriate range and mix of employment opportunities, housing and other land uses to meet projected needs to a time horizon of up to 20 years.”

The outside planner hired by the City to defend this difference in time periods was not convincing. Nor—more importantly—was the demographer, Dr. Norris, who was a witness called by private citizen Paul Johanis, and whose written testimony suggested the City staff’s population estimates and land requirements might be on the high side. On the other hand, the developers’ planners and experts advocating even more expansion were also unsuccessful. Thus, the Council amendment in favour of a lower amount of expansion lost out to what was perhaps considered by the OMB as a middle ground.

One might conclude from this that when Council disagrees with staff and is going to the OMB, it needs to hire the very best planner available, which may not be easy to do. This is because other than City staff, most planners in Ottawa usually work for developers, and may not be eager to oppose them. If you would like further information, the decision is available on the OMB website as case PL100206.

Greenbelt Review: The National Capital Commission’s (NCC) proposed vision for the Greenbelt is quite good, so it was disappointing to see that the three concept plans contained little in the way of inspiration. A summary of the three concept plans follows:

Concept 1. This is largely the status quo, but includes some strengthening of the natural environment role within the Greenbelt.

Concept 2. This increases the natural environment within and beyond the Greenbelt by identifying potential Greenbelt land (mostly natural areas but also some small pieces of agricultural land). As well, under this concept, some areas with activities not suited to the Greenbelt are proposed to be removed and placed within the urban lands envelope of the NCC. These are two park-and-rides, the Queensway-Carleton Hospital, the airport, and the (Nepean) Sportsplex. (While there was little objection to removal of the buildings and paved surfaces, the large circles drawn on the plan elicited criticism since they included valued greenspace.)

Concept 3. This concept includes four areas identified as Potential Diversified Land Uses (basically, use by private rather than public bodies, presumably by sale or rent.) The concept is titled “Creating opportunities for Limited Diversified Land Uses.” The areas are shown roughly on the map and described, but it is difficult to decide whether such a future is appropriate.

Some critics suggest the NCC should have a longer-term plan that would include the Carp Hills, South March Highlands, the Constance Creek area, the Leitrim wetland, and other areas near the airport to provide a wider natural corridor around the Greenbelt. If you would like to have your say on the future of the Greenbelt, visit www.canadascapital.gc.ca.