
CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER



November, 2002

Vol. 22, No. 2

Silence of the hams

Not-too-excited! Jocelyn McCauley, 10, (centre) won second prize in the pumpkin carving contest at the fieldhouse party. Celebrating with her, from left, Tess, 7, Alexandra, 10, Jacqueline, 10, and Allie, also 10.

In praise of pumpkins: Ghoulish gourds captured on our streets

Community Association

Chair: Jonathan Chaplan (728-7670)

Vice-chair: Mark Cianfaglione (722-5674)

Treasurer: potter (728-4980)

Secretary: Lynne Bankier (729-0955)

Planning: Amy Kempster (722-6039)

Membership: Amy Kempster (722-6039)

Neighbourhood Watch: Michael Cheng (722-3344)

Fieldhouse co-ordinator: Laurie Fagan (728-1945)

Rink co-ordinator: Jacques Bourbeau (728-0337)

Adopt-a-Riverbank co-ordinator: Don Monet (728-1750)

TEENS AT WORK

Jessica (babysitting) 728-8413

Morgan (yard chores) 728-6530

Kym (babysitting) 729-5439

Paul (yard chores) 728-2583

Rory (yard chores) 798-0036

Karl (yard chores) 728-7589

Miriam (babysitting) 728-7589

Nick (yard chores) 798-7652

Daniel (yard chores) 798-7652

Joey (babysitting) 728-5792

Katrina (babysitting) 725-5423

Geneviève (babysitting) 722-0454

CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER

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Potluck Christmas Party Dec. 7

Nothing like a little snow at Halloween to remind us the holiday period is nearly upon us. In the spirit of the season, a finger food potluck party will be held at the field house on Saturday Dec. 7, from 4 to 7 p.m.



All ages welcome. Guests are asked to bring any kind of hot or cold finger food or nibbly stuff. (No nuts, at least not in the food.) Coffee, tea, juice will be available. For information, call Sutherland, 722-7482.

Hush
Hush



Hearty thanks to volunteers at Halloween shindig

Biggie size high-five to the crew that made the Halloween party possible. Don Monet was masterful in orchestrating the event. So magical was his advance planning that he managed to disappear to a far-off place for the weekend.

Special praise is reserved for Jeremy Levett, ably assisted by Ian Holland, for creating a new spooky room. Scared the pants off plenty. To those manning the door, the kitchen, the fortune teller booth, the pumpkin table, and all the bakers and decorators --- we salute you.

1 Champlain Park Garden Club Wreath-Making Workshop, Thursday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m. Come make a beautiful dried flower wreath using cockscomb, reindeer moss, roses and pepperberries. No experience necessary, only a glue gun needed. Cost \$38. To register, call Laurie, 728-1945.

2 The Churchill Seniors' Recreation Centre is holding a Potato Day on Nov. 14, from noon to 2 p.m. Stew will be served with every style of spud under the sun. Admission \$7. Info: 798-8927.

3 The annual Hollyberry Luncheon and Bazaar will take place at Northwestern United Church on Saturday, Nov. 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bake table, crafts, nearly new, children's room and silent auction.

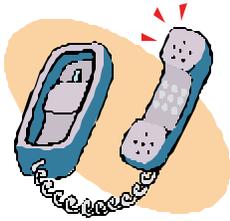
4 The annual membership drive for the Champlain Park Community Association will be underway at various times in October and November. Expect to see a volunteer canvasser at your door. Paying the annual fee helps fund a variety of association programs, from fieldhouse activities to the monthly printing costs of the Speaker. (A worthy cause if ever one, we hasten to add!)

5 Would you like to volunteer as a family? Family Services Ottawa is looking for participants for its "Family to Family Ties" program. You will be matched with an isolated family that needs friendship and support. Outings involved. For details call Nathalie at 725-3601 ext. 108.

When a ticket won't do. Couple of scary dudes out on Sunnyside Oct. 31.

November 2002

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday



To add items,
call 728-1945
or email
lfagan@magma.ca



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Playgroup

9:30-11:30 a.m.

Champlain Park
Garden Club
7-9 p.m.

Blue 

Bridge Club

2 p.m.

Fitness class
6:45-7:45 p.m.

Yoga
8-9:30 p.m.

Playgroup

9:30-11:30 a.m.

**ODS
PLAYGROUP**
9-11:30 a.m.

10

11

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7 p.m.
**Karate
Classes**

Fitness class
6: 45-7:45 p.m.

Yoga
8 to 9:30 p.m.

Black 

Playgroup

9:30-11:30 a.m.

**Ottawa Fly
Fishing**
7-9 p.m.

Yoga at Noon

Bridge Club
2 p.m.

Fitness class
6:45-7:45 p.m.

Yoga
8-9:30 p.m.

Playgroup

9:30-11:30 a.m.

**ODS
PLAYGROUP**
9-11:30 a.m.

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7 p.m.
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**ODS
PLAYGROUP**
9-11:30 a.m.

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7 p.m.
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PLAYGROUP**
9-11:30 a.m.



by Amy Kempster
722-6039

City hall crunches capital budget

Preliminary Draft Official Plan
and Other Smart Growth Plans:

The City will continue to receive input on this through the web-site, although the formal presentations were to be made on Nov. 4 and 6. Do visit the web-site (Ottawa2020.com) to have your say, particularly with regard to the other plans, some of which are only now becoming available for comment. The other plans are a Human Services Plan, an Arts and Heritage Plan, an Economic Strategy and a Corporate Strategic Plan.

Budget and Long-Term Financial
Planning:

Corporate Services Committee recently passed, with two additional recommendations shown at the end, the following proposals regarding long-term financing of capital expenditures:

1 Move to maximized pay-as-you-go. In order to expand upon the existing pay-as-you-go practice, movement to maximized pay-as-you-go needs to start now but also must recognize the taxpayers' ability to bear sizeable tax increases.

2 Prioritize capital envelopes. A new step in the budget process needs to be put in place which allows Council to determine the overall multi-year funding priorities within the overall available funding. This prioritization would occur early in the process and the priorities would be identified both by functional area and by type (life

cycle, growth etc.)

3 Growth pays for growth. Development charges need to be increased to the full level allowed by legislation. Front-ending agreements, funded by development proponents, for growth area infrastructure should be encouraged. Growth must fully pay its own way or consideration be given to restricting future growth if sufficient revenues cannot be generated.

4 Spending must be reduced. Until such time as sufficient funding is available to meet the capital program, the program must be reduced annually. To assist in identifying where the reductions should occur, a review of standards, including comparison to similar municipalities, should be undertaken.

5 Pursue the concept of public-private partnerships and/or the pooling of large projects so that significant design/build proposals can be sought from the private sector with the goal of reducing overall costs.

6 Accelerate the existing program of rationalization and disposal of city buildings. Review alternate development proposals on surplus city properties in addition to the straight sale of properties by adding value to the property and increasing the financial return to the city.

7 In instances where large capital works are constructed which may require an increase in rates or taxes for a period of time, consider establishing a separately identified surcharge for this purpose for the specified time period.

8 The city's tax rate should be split into two components: one for operating expenses, and another for capital expenses. This split establishes a direct link to the capital program through the tax bill and ensures that increases in property assessment are shared by operating and capital budgets through increased contributions to pay-as-you-go.

9 The capital reserve funds should not be allowed to be fully depleted at any time. It is recommended that the goal for each budget year be that a minimum balance be maintained in both the tax-supported and water- and sewer-supported capital reserve funds and that staff be directed to recommend an appropriate level.

Debt financing:

10 A long-term goal should be to eliminate any debt-funding for life-cycle projects and new initiatives and move to a maximized pay-as-you-go funding model overall.

11 It is recommended that in the future, debt-financing be restricted to specific project types. Debt-financing should be restricted to projects related to capacity expansion or growth and those that leverage funding from others. Projects that would be eligible for debt-financing would include those to be financed from development charges, future new non-traditional infrastructure projects, such as new transit programs, or projects that are to be tied to third party matching funding. It is also recognized that these restrictions may have to be phased in to meet the short-term budget issues.

Funding from other governments:

12 Given that the city's property tax base is required to share costs that other provinces do not impose on municipalities, such as social welfare and health, additional tax sources need to be made available by or shared with the provincial and federal governments. The recommendations of the City's Task Force on Property Assessment and Property Tax Issues in this regard should be re-endorsed.

The additional recommendations passed were:

1 a) That for the years 2004-2006 staff be directed to cut capital spending levels by five per cent, and an additional five per cent;

b) That the fifth year of the 2003 capital budget be brought in line with the average of the 2003-2006 reduced spending levels.

2 That the city adopt a minimum balance of \$50 million in tax-supported capital reserve funds, effective immediately.

This suggests the direction of the capital budget. Both the capital budget and the operating budget are to be presented to council on Nov. 13. From then until Dec. 9, the public can discuss the budget and then present their concerns to the standing committees between Dec. 9 and 17. So if you are interested in the city budget, that is your opportunity to have your say.