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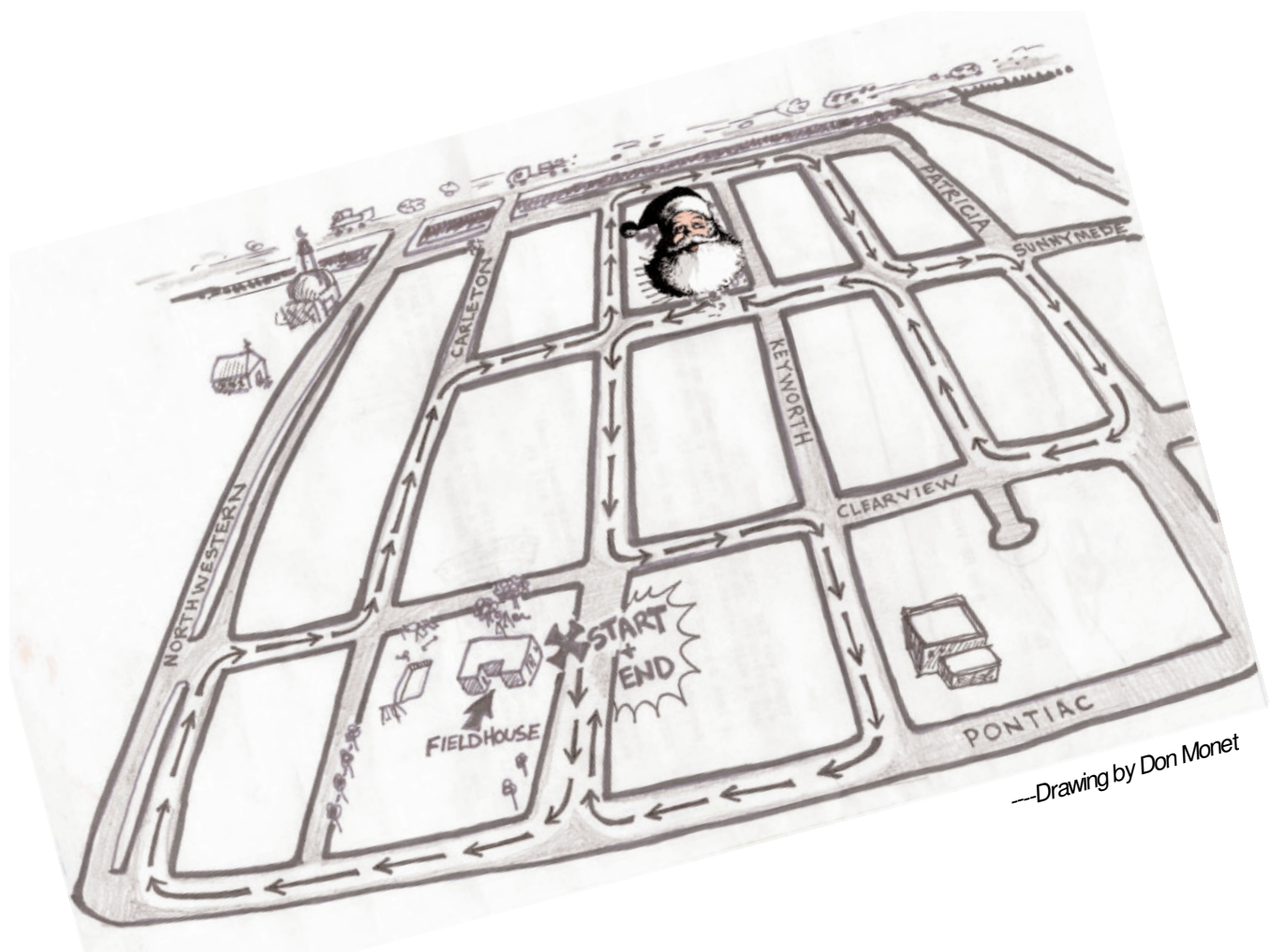
# CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER

December, 2002

Vol. 22, No. 3

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## All aboard! Christmas sleigh ride Dec. 23



### Carols, hot chocolate, cookies, a visit with the old Jolly one

The Eighth annual Christmas Sleigh Ride is scheduled for Dec. 23, from **6:15 to 8:00 p.m.**

The sleigh ride will weave its way through Champlain Park, leaving the fieldhouse at about 6:15. There will be stops along the way to pick up people and to decide on the next carol. We've asked for the biggest sleigh again this year. The map above, courtesy of Jim

Cocks and Don Monet, shows the route.

Feel free to either come to the fieldhouse at the start or join in along the way. Song sheets will be provided. A special request has been made again this year for Santa to join us, so there will be a special stop half-way to try and find him. **Ho, Ho, Ho!** The sleigh and carolling will then continue through the community and back to the fieldhouse

for some Christmas cheer and hot chocolate about 8 p.m. We are looking for donations of cookies and goodies as well as a coordinator for the hot drinks and baked goods. Please call **Jim Cocks at 728-7881** if you can help.

So plan to join your neighbours for a festive couple of hours, or even just a song or two, on the night before the night before Christmas!

## 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

**Editor:** Kelly Egan, 728-1945  
lfagan@magnum.ca

197 Daniel Ave. K1Y 0E1

**Delivery Chief:** Laura Robin

**On-line project:** Alexander Smith  
agmsmith@rogers.com



**Carriers:** Kay Young, Terri

Blanchard, Sandy Milne, Philip Cutfield, Patrick Mates, Jim Croft, Laura Robin, Becky Rynor, Jim Hay, Wendy Huculak, Heather Pearl, Ann Potter, Monique Kerr, Carole Anne Copeland, Beth Buist, Linda Steele, Nancy Leigh-Smith, Karen Maser, Marlene Kells.

# Making a fresh start in 2003

## Low impact fitness

**What:** Low-impact fitness classes.

**Where:** Champlain Park Fieldhouse.

**When:** Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:45 to 7:45 p.m. (You can sign up for both classes or just one.) A new session of classes will start January 6 and run till late May.

**Why:** Led by certified Y instructors Julie and Sandy, classes are enjoyable, affordable and so convenient.

**Who:** Everyone's welcome. OK, this isn't a spandex and bare midriff crowd, although buns of steel are welcome too.

**Cost:** For two classes a week, will be about \$120, depending on the number of participants (maximum 12).

For information or to register, call Val at **728-4980**.

## Hush Hush



**1** Champlain Park Christmas Carol Sing **Sunday, Dec. 15, 7 p.m.**

Northwestern United Church 241 Northwestern Ave. All voices welcome. Freewill offering for Parkdale Food Bank. **Information, 722-7163**

**2** The Champlain Gardening Club meets on **Tuesday, Jan. 14**. The NCC's tulip and annuals bed designer, Donata Grundniewicz, is slated to present a slide show.

**3** Was that our very own **Amy Kempster** on page 13 of the **Citizen** on Dec. 7? You betcha. Amy was described in the New Homes section as a "fi rebrand" dedicated to preserving green space in the city and keeping an eye on municipal planning matters. Oh, Amy, we knew you when.

**4** The Dec. 7 potluck Christmas party at the fieldhouse was a smashing success. Sutherland would like to thank the Loeb store on Carleton Avenue and the Tim Hortons on Richmond Road for their generous contributions.

## Yoga

Join our dedicated group for 90 minutes of stretching, asanas (yoga postures) and relaxation. **Peter**

**Beacham**, who is trained in the Sivananda tradition, is returning once again to lead the classes. They are held in the fieldhouse, on two nights:

**Monday:** All levels, from 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Jan. 13 to March 24, (11 classes). Cost is about \$88.

**Wednesday:** Intermediate level, from 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Jan. 15 to March 26 (11 classes). Cost is about \$88.

If you would like to try a class or can make only a few classes, the cost per class is \$10. For information or to register call Karen at **722-6700** or Peter at **725-1503**.

## Friends of Farm present master gardener lectures

Master Gardeners Lecture Series, presented by Master Gardeners and Friends of the Central Experimental Farm, on Tuesdays, March 25 to May 27, from 7-9 p.m. in Building 72, Arboretum.

The series will cover the secret of success, from seeds and soil, choosing the right spot, to tips and maintenance techniques. Cost is \$60.00 for members and \$80.00 for non-members. Pre-registration is required. Call 230-3276.

**Bonsai Design and Techniques** presented by Barney Shum of the Bonsai Society and Friends of the Central Experimental Farm on March 19 from 7 to 9 p.m., building 72 in the Arboretum. Cost for FCEF members \$10 and for non members \$12.

Limited seating. For information or to register, please call 230-3276.

**Gardens of Kyoto** Japan presented by Robert Brandon, an Ottawa gardener. Feb. 19 from 7 to 9 p.m., building 72 in the Arboretum. Cost for FCEF members \$10 and for non-members \$12. Limited seating. For more information or to register please call 230-3276.

# December 2002

Note: Blue and Black days are reversed on some days. Sorry.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 7 p.m. Karate Classes	<b>2</b> Blue	<b>3</b> Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Champlain Park Garden Club 7-9 p.m.	<b>4</b> Bridge Club 2 p.m. Fitness class 6:45-7:45 p.m. Yoga 8-9:30 p.m.	<b>5</b> Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 7 p.m. Karate Classes	<b>9</b> Blue 	<b>10</b> Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Champlain Park Garden Club 7-9 p.m.	<b>11</b> Bridge Club 2 p.m. Fitness class 6:45-7:45 p.m. Yoga 8-9:30 p.m.	<b>12</b> Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m.	<b>13</b> ODS PLAYGROUP 9-11:30 a.m.	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 7 p.m. Karate Classes	<b>16</b> Fitness class 6:45-7:45 p.m. Yoga 8 to 9:30 p.m. Black 	<b>17</b> Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Ottawa Fly Fishing 7-9 p.m.	<b>18</b> Yoga at Noon Bridge Club 2 p.m. Fitness class 6:45-7:45 p.m. Yoga 8-9:30 p.m.	<b>19</b> Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m.	<b>20</b> ODS PLAYGROUP 9-11:30 a.m.	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 7 p.m. Karate Classes	<b>23</b> Blue 	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Merry Christmas	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 7 p.m. Karate Classes	<b>30</b> Fitness class 6:45-7:45 p.m. Yoga 8 to 9:30 p.m. Black 	<b>31</b>			To add items, call <b>728-1945</b> or email <a href="mailto:lfagan@magma.ca">lfagan@magma.ca</a>	

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## Amy's Corner



by Amy Kempster  
722-6039

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## Budgets, taxes raccoons in sewers

The community just west of us, Westboro Beach Community Association, invited me to their Annual General Meeting. Thus I was able to hear about the water testing at the beach this last summer.

The city and the residents have co-operated in studying the water at the beach, besides the monitoring of the Health Department. As I assume a number of residents of this community use the beach, I thought there might be some interest in the topic. Besides the city staff, 12 volunteers from



the community were involved in testing the water in the storm-sewer outfalls.

It seems that while some of the storm-sewer outfalls up the river have quite high levels of e-coli, these seem to disperse and not affect the beach greatly. However, the storm-sewer outfall for the overflow from Hampton Park may influence the counts at the beach. This is my conclusion; city staff indicated that more analysis needs to be done.

The number of birds increased between July and August and, as at Britannia, it could be that the gulls (and possibly the geese) are a significant factor.

Raccoons getting into the storm sewer were also a likely source of some of the e-coli. The water study will

probably continue next summer and, if you would like to help by volunteering, I feel sure the community would be pleased.

If you want further information, you can visit the Westboro Beach web site at [www.westborobeach.org](http://www.westborobeach.org)

## Assessment

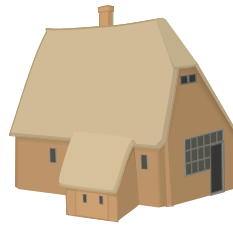
You have no doubt received your assessment notice with the new assessment of your property. The city's web site has answers to some common questions in its *What's new* section.

Since the new tax rates have not been set, the effect of the increased assessment cannot be finally determined at the moment.

However the city does not intend to receive more in residential taxes as a result of increases in the assessment of existing properties.

In general, if your increase is less than the average or is approximately at the average rate for the city (21 per cent according to the *Ottawa*

*Citizen*) your taxes may go down or not be affected. However, if your increase was at a higher-than-average rate, then it is very likely that your city taxes will go up. The province sets the education portion of your taxes and again it is unlikely that the province will seek to obtain more from the current residential tax base than at present. The assessment system is determined by the province and the city has very little flexibility. It could however do some redistribution of the burden within the residential tax base between multi-residential and other classes. Multi-residential buildings pay taxes at a higher rate than homeowners. You can obtain more information about assessment by visiting the MPAC web site at [www.mpac.ca](http://www.mpac.ca)



## City Budget

First I will discuss the operating budget. The overview document, which is the one readily available, gives a total of about \$1.8 billion for expenditures. The expected shortfall is about \$22.3

million. The distribution of expenditures is: People Services 30 per cent; Transportation, Utilities and Public Works 24 per cent; Non-departmental 19 per cent; Corporate, Human Resources, Development Services, City Manager 13 per cent; Police Services 8 per cent; Emergency and protective Services 6 per cent.

Salaries form a large part of the budget since there are 12,600 full-time equivalents. The largest item in the People Services sector is employment and financial assistance at about \$244 million (net \$95 million). Another large item is transit services at about \$204 million (net \$93 million). Utilities, which includes garbage, adds up to about \$98 million (net \$85 million).

Another big item is fleet services (city trucks, etc...) which are charged back to the departments using them. These amount to \$125 million. These are just a few of the figures available from the 2003 Draft Budget Overview document.

The document suggests a need to find another \$22.3 million of budget solutions. The staff seems to have looked for solutions in two ways: adding user-pay costs and deleting services. Notable among these is a proposed two-per-cent increase in transit fares, reducing wading pool hours and lifeguard supervision at the beaches, turning off park lights after 11 p.m., eliminating the grants to the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre and the Wild Bird Care Centre.

The Capital Budget covers authority for about \$465 million in capital expenditures. Of this, Transportation and Transit account for 47 per cent, Environmental Services 23 per cent, Corporate Services and Economic Development for 12 per cent, Emergency and protective services for 7 per cent, Planning and Development for 6 per cent, Health, Recreation and Social Services for 4 per cent and Police Services Board for 1 per cent.

About 29 per cent of capital expenditures are related to growth but only 12 per cent is expected to come from Development Charges. In the work expected is the renewed Plant Bath but much of that is covered by authority from last year. For more information visit the city web site.