
CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER



January 2007

Vol. 27, No. 1

Winter Carnival

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This year's Winter Carnival at Champlain Park fieldhouse and ice rink is scheduled from **noon to 3 p.m.** on Saturday January 27.

Organizer Anne Doswell is hoping for ice on the skating rink. And she says the carnival will go ahead, rain or shine, ice or slush.

The famous chili cook-off will happen, as usual, with prizes for best vegetarian and best meat chilis. Along with the chili, the lunch menu includes hot dogs, drinks and desserts.

Here are some features of the 2007 carnival:

- Children of all ages may go for a ride on a hay-filled sleigh pulled by horses.

- CHEZ 106's Shoot-to-Win contest awards prizes to people who can put a puck into a net (but it's not a wide-open net; it's one rigged up to

make scoring more difficult.)

- Tug-of-war and broomball are other activities available to those who feel the need to burn some calories (after the chili lunch and desserts).

If you like to bake, please provide a cake, squares, or cookies to the event. You don't need to tell the organizer of your plans, just arrive a bit early with your goodies.

Volunteers are needed to staff the lunch counter. Please call Anne Doswell at 613-722-7705 if you can help out.



Skippy is this year's Carnival mascot

The skinny on shinny and skating

Champlain Park's rink hours are designed to give residents of the neighbourhood maximum time on the ice. Kids aged 10 and under are invited to play shinny on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Otherwise, the rink is *not booked* this year for regular hockey games or other events. Once the ice is stable, both the small

rink and the hockey rink will be open, along with the change room, at the following times:

MONDAY – 7 to 9 p.m.

TUESDAY TO FRIDAY –
5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

SATURDAY – 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

SUNDAY – 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Rink Coordinator Greg Doswell says

the best times to book the rink for a birthday party or special event are Saturday or Sunday mornings. If you wish to make a booking, contact Greg at 613-722-7705.

As in previous years, Tom Sauve has been hired by the City to flood the rink and be on hand during its hours of operation.

Community Association

Co-chairs: Lynne Bankier (729-0955)
and Craig Wells.

Vice-chair: Glenna Patrick

Treasurer: potter (728-4980)

Secretary: Vacant (Lynne filling in)

Planning: Amy Kempster (722-6039)

Membership: Debra Huron (722-8048)

Neighbourhood Watch: Michael

Cheng (722-3344), Patrick Mates,
(722-4120) Neil Robertson (729-5439)

Fieldhouse co-ordinator:

Laurie Fagan (728-1945)

Rink co-ordinator:

Greg Doswell (722-7705)

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

Nick (**computer help**) 798-7652

Joey (**babysitting**) 728-5792

Geneviève (**babysitting**) 722-0454

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Nancy Leigh-Smith, Benjamin
Holland, Marlene Kells, Thomas and
Meredith Lauzon, Kelly Egan.

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Reflections on our latest "green" Christmas

What was billed as the 2006 sleigh ride through our neighbourhood had to be cancelled due to freezing rain. How often has this happened in the last five years? More often than I care to remember.

It's an *inconvenient truth*: climate change is upon us. Al Gore's documentary film of the same name leaves viewers with a positive message: you and I can make a difference.

We can choose to reduce carbon emissions in our community by using active and public transportation when we step outside our front doors. Inside and around our homes, what can we do?

As 2007 begins, I suggest we learn from each other!

What "green" features have you incorporated into your home? What "green" actions does your household take to reduce carbon emissions and/or energy use? How are you equipping your home to meet the environmental challenge of reducing greenhouse gases? When you planned a recent renovation, what "green" features did you incorporate?

Throughout 2007, I'm inviting you to tell your neighbours, via the Champlain Speaker, what you are doing in your home and on your property to make our community

"greener" and cleaner.

Send your write-up to the Editor by e-mail and I'll make sure your story appears on page 3. Write "Green Homes Champlain Park" in the subject line of your e-mail message so my spam filters will not reject it. Or phone me and I'll do the write-up for you. See the far left column on this page for my telephone number. —Debra Huron

Dancing and drumming dates

Dances of Universal Peace are happening at the fieldhouse once a month on Saturday nights. Open to everyone, upcoming dates are: Jan. 27, Feb. 24 and March 31, from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Contact Marlene Neufeld at neufeldm@magma.ca for more information.

If you have a drum and would like to make a joyful sound with other drummers, come to the fieldhouse the third Sunday of each month from 7 p.m.–10 p.m. The Ottawa Winter Drum Circle will continue until May. For information, contact Jeremy Wrench at 613-792-1848. He lives in Champlain Park neighbourhood.

Message from your new editor

I've decided that being foolish is more fun than being sensible. That's why I have offered myself as your editor, for 2007, at least. I'll rethink my commitment to the job at the end of this year.

The orderly transition of power that your former editor, **Kelly Egan**, requested last month was accom-

plished with hardly any inconvenience to either of us. Thank you, Kelly, for doing a great job as editor for five years.

What can I tell you about myself? I live on Daniel Avenue with my husband and our 16-year-old son. We have been happy residents of the 'hood since 1996.

Neighbourhood Watch goes on-line

The excellent Neighbourhood Watch Program in our community is run by Michael Cheng with the help of Patrick Mates and Neil Robertson.

Patrick is well-versed on the safety measures needed to make your house more secure against a break-in. He is available to conduct a safety audit of your home as part of his duties with Neighbourhood Watch. It's free of charge and he'll go over your locks, bolts, windows and doors, and leave you with recommendations.

To reach Patrick and book an appointment, send him an e-mail at patrickmates@hotmail.com

At the community association's Annual General Meeting in October, Michael Cheng said that the police send out electronic alerts to communities based on crime calls they receive from citizens. Mr. Cheng and Neil Robertson are setting up an alert system for people in our community who wish to be notified by e-mail (by e-mail only, no phone calls) once the police have issued an alert.

Several dozen people who attended the AGM signed up for the e-mail list.

A program like this only works when people phone in crimes like the car break-ins that happened last summer.

So who do you call? Well you only phone 911 in an emergency, which means you're experiencing or witnessing a crime in progress. The number to call after the fact to report and register a break-in with the police is **236-1222 ext. 7300**. Take note of this number...put it up on your fridge.

If you wish to receive e-mail alerts from the police about security issues in our neighbourhood, send a message to Neil Robertson at this address: neil.pr@sympatico.ca

More news about crime

At the AGM, Constable Tim Senack of the Community Police Centre at 418 1/2 Wellington Street (a few doors west of the Bagel Shop) provided advice on making homes and properties more secure.

Displaying a map of the Westboro area, he told us we can draw some comfort from the fact Champlain Park has quite a low crime rate compared to nearby neighbourhoods. But we shouldn't be complacent. For example:

- Don't ever leave anything of any value in your car and, of course, lock it. He says some people leave credit cards on the seat or in the drink

holder and a thief doesn't even need to break into the vehicle to steal your card. He can simply write down the number and use the card to charge items. You won't even know it's happening until you get the bill.

- 99 per cent of home break-ins happen during the day. The average time the thief is in the house is 90 seconds. They go to the bedroom and check for jewelry and lift up the mattress looking for money. They may pick up a knapsack or small bag to hold the jewelry. They then go looking for a camera, iPod, CDs, and perhaps a bottle of alcohol.

Const. Senack says he's noticing a trend in how thieves get into houses. Many times the garage door is open and inside the thief finds a ladder. They then climb through a second-storey window (bypassing the alarm system which is probably just protecting the main floor).

He says many thieves don't carry any tools to break in because that's a separate criminal charge if they are caught by police.

Tim displayed locks, bolts, window locks and strike plates that he recommends for your home. He also had tips on safeguarding patio doors.

—Laurie Fagan

Barb's photos are famous

When you're out walking your dog, you may see Barb Roberston of Cowley Avenue roaming the streets and the woods with her digital camera. Next to her iMac and her husband, Neil, that camera seems to be Barb's best friend.

Barb loves to capture images of birds, insects, mushrooms and flowers. Her photos have won contests. One of her photographs of hoarfrost recently appeared on spaceweather.com. Through her love of photography, Barb has made friends on-line with people in Germany and the U.S.

About once a week, Barb sends e-mails to a group of about 40 people with new photos as attachments. If you'd like to be on Barb's list, contact her at barbrr@sympatico.ca.



Photo by Barb Robertson

Amy's Corner



by *Amy Kempster*
722-6039

The City Budget

Consultations on the City's budget began on Jan. 10 with public input on the Budget Directions document. That report recommended no increase in taxation but identified a shortfall of \$72.5 million to maintain existing services, and \$84.9 million to maintain those services, address the mandatory program and growth requirements, and implement various enhancements to current service levels. (Note however that it also recommends an increase of 9% in the water/sewer rate.)

In order to get to this no increase in taxation, the following options may be necessary:

a) deferral of service improvements that have not yet been implemented (\$10.8 million).

b) use of provincial gas tax revenues to the extent possible to offset increases in the cost of transit services (estimated at \$11 million). This amount must then be removed from the transit capital program.

c) Use debt where possible, instead of contributions to capital, to fund the capital program. Since the budget contains an increase of \$9.5 million for contributions to the strategic initiatives category of capital, using debt instead would save \$9.5 million. No estimate is given for using debt for other types of capital.

d) Incorporate and pursue the cost-sharing shortfall with the provincial government. If successful this could result in savings of \$16 million. The report suggests alternate sources if not

successful (such as the tax stabilization reserve or City-wide reserve, which might have consequences for the 2008 Capital budget.)

e) Identify and incorporate any other one-time sources of funding. A possible source mentioned is the Tax Stabilization Reserve at \$9 million.

f) Increase user fees by more than identified in the earlier suggested amount. No amount is suggested for this, and given the 9% increase for sewer/water which was listed earlier, this would not likely be welcome. Other possible increases include transit rates to cover 55% of direct transit expenditures.

g) Identify program reduction. Again no figure is given and it is suggested the 2004 Program Review be used to assist in this task.

The reductions listed above add up to \$56.3 million. This leaves \$28.6 to come from one of the following: reductions to services, more debt, or increased user fees.

Perhaps an increase in taxes at the rate of inflation might be better than these alternatives. The Council decisions on this report will be used by City staff to prepare the budget. The actual budget will be tabled on Feb. 7 and consultation on it will follow during February.

NCC Review Panel

The NCC Review Panel report is now available at www.nccmandate.ca, where you can also view all submissions.

Some highlights of the Panel's report:

- That the mandate of the NCC be reaffirmed and strengthened to reflect its role as the main instrument of the federal government charged with the coordination of all activities pertaining to the ongoing planning, stewardship and celebration of the capital of Canada. Additional funding to ensure that the NCC can fulfill this strengthened mandate was also recommended.

- Have open board meetings; set up advisory committees on key issues that come under the NCC's mandate. The advisory committees would receive submissions from the public.

- Make the NCC report to Parliament via the responsible Minister, and have the NCC's Plan for Canada's Capital be approved by Parliament.

- Appoint an expert panel of independent persons to review the National Interest Land Mass in 2007 which subsequently should be defined in the National Capital Act and managed so there is no net reduction in size, ensuring that the ecological and commemorative integrity of these places is protected.

- Disposal of surplus lands should not be done by sale and such properties should remain as public property perhaps used in swap operations through a public, transparent and open process to determine how these lands should be treated, while ensuring appropriate compensation.

- Give the NCC the mandate and authority to coordinate both inter-provincial transportation initiatives (bridges and public transit) and the federal government's transportation initiatives on both sides of the Ottawa River.

- Strengthen the NCC's environmental protection mandate and its role as steward of the lands by formally recognizing the Green Capital lands and their value to the capital.

- Allow the NCC to continue to oversee the protection and design of federal heritage buildings in the NCR.

Another recommendation went beyond the NCC in recommending that a municipal consultative committee composed of senior officials from the NCC, the City of Ottawa, the City of Gatineau and the MRC des Collines-de l'Outaouais be created to meet quarterly to act as a coordinating and problem-solving working group and to report regularly to the NCC Board.

The above is a selection of the 31 recommendations. I believe they are a fairly good set of recommendations. In particular the recommendation re funding and the disposal of lands should be welcomed by those interested in Rochester Park and the lands in Westboro Beach which were under threat of disposal. It remains to be seen how the government will treat them.