

# CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER



February 2008

Vol. 28, No.2

**Did you know?** The bronze statue of Samuel de Champlain on Nepean Point, by sculptor Hamilton MacCarthy, was unveiled in 1915. Champlain holds up the navigational instrument known as an astrolabe. Although it is a dramatic composition, in actual use an astrolabe is suspended from the hand by a line. (Source: *Exploring Ottawa*, Kalman and Roaf, 1983)

## Baseball diamond update

Jim and Kathee Kot, residents of Cowley Avenue, have organized a petition in opposition to the conversion of the Champlain Park baseball diamond into a mini-soccer field. They have also organized a sign-up sheet for community softball at the Champlain Park baseball diamond this spring, open to children and adults of all ages in the neighbourhood.

Jim Kot will follow up by submitting copies of the signed petition and sign-up sheet for community softball to the City. He will also work with the City to see if plans for the park can be revised to accommodate the expressed desire of many community members to retain the baseball diamond.

– Lynne Bankier

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**PLAY BALL!** Are you interested in playing ball at the Champlain Park ball diamond? Open to all community members aged 11 and up, 7 p.m. Tuesdays from May 13 to June 24. Please call or e-mail Jim Kot (see below) to sign up.

## Is our park at risk?

The Ottawa Internationals Soccer Club has proposed a plan to rebuild Champlain Park, with the City removing the ball diamond and replacing it with another mini-soccer field (not regulation size).

In order to accommodate this club, the community will be denied access to part of the park four nights a week from May until September. Currently the Ottawa Internationals Soccer Club uses our field two nights a week; revenue is paid to the City to use our park.

Not all families and kids can or wish to commit to organized sport.

For years, Champlain Park has been the heart of our unique community. People of all ages have always felt welcome to use this park for various activities. At the turn of the 20th century, J.H. Slack donated the land as a community park for all to use.

The City has recently denied permits to play softball, deeming Champlain Park not appropriate

for the sport. According to Scott Johnson of the City, the field does not meet the Canadian Softball ball diamond recommended size requirements (165 to 220 feet). He indicated that Champlain, measured at 175 feet, is only adequate for kids up to age 10. If this is the case, how was it possible to play ball during the last 100 years?

The current outdoor hockey rink is not a regulation size. Despite this, many have enjoyed playing hockey. Will the outdoor rink be the next to disappear?

Is Champlain Park for profit or for use by the tax-paying community? Let's leave the option open for all sports and not just for one organization to monopolize the park.

If you are interested in keeping Champlain Park for our local community, please let your voice be heard. Please sign a petition to keep the ball diamond.

Contact Jim Kot, 132 Cowley Avenue

Kris.tom@sympatico.ca

Phone: 613-722-7519

–by Jim Kot

## Champlain Park Community Association

Co-chairs: Lynne Bankier (729-0955)  
and Craig Wells (725-5488).

Vice-chair: Heather Pearl  
(725-1422)

Treasurer: potter (728-4980)

Secretary: Karen Maser (722-6700)

Ex-officio Past President:

Jonathan Chaplan (728-7670)

Membership: Craig Wells (temporary)

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

Rink co-ordinator: Greg Doswell  
(722-7705)

**Neighbourhood Watch:** Michael  
Cheng (722-3344), Patrick Mates,  
(722-4120), Neil Robertson  
(729-5439)

Spring clean-up coordinator (vacant)

Social convenor: Vacant

### Planning:

Amy Kempster (722-6039)

## CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER your community newsletter

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Potter, Emma Morris, Linda Steele,  
Nancy Leigh-Smith, Benjamin  
Holland, Marlene Kells, Kelly Egan.

The *Speaker* is produced on a regular  
basis with the generous support  
of the Ottawa Citizen.

## Update on 268 Keyworth Ave.

The Champlain Park Community  
Association has determined that  
there are substantial grounds on  
which to appeal the Committee  
of Adjustment's November 2007  
decision to allow development to  
proceed at 268 Keyworth Avenue.  
In late December, the Community  
Association submitted an appeal

of this decision to the Ontario  
Municipal Board (OMB). The  
OMB will set a hearing date for  
that appeal. As of Feb. 16, no  
date has yet been set. For more  
information, please contact  
Heather Pearl at 613-725-1422 or  
pearhea@aol.com

## Civic appreciation awards

It's time to stop and thank that  
special volunteer who has touched  
your life or your community. This  
year, you can nominate someone  
online. Go to ottawa.ca, then click  
on Residents and Volunteering.

You can also pick up a brochure at  
a Client Service Centre in Ottawa,  
at any Ottawa Public Library  
branch, or at community centres.

You may also contact the City at  
3-1-1 (TTY: 613-580-2401). The  
deadline for nominations is Friday,  
March 28 at 4 p.m.

civic appreciation awards in the  
following categories:

- \* Citizen of the Year (Youth, Adult  
and Senior)
- \* Brian Kilrea (Coaching) Award
- \* Arts and Culture
- \* Community Activism (Youth,  
Adult, Senior, Group)
- \* Education
- \* Environment
- \* Health
- \* Heritage
- \* Humanitarianism
- \* Recreation and Sports
- \* Rural/Agriculture

The City of Ottawa will present its

## Winter Carnival thanks

Thanks to Anne Doswell and  
all of her volunteers for yet  
another successful winter  
event!

Thanks also to Councillor  
Christine Leadman for her  
food donations.

We enjoyed seeing Paul  
Dewar, M.P. for Ottawa  
Centre at the carnival.

—by Lynne Bankier

## TEENS available for babysitting

Emma J.	728-6681
Alexandra	722-7482
Berlin	722-2248
Ben	729-1218
Leigh	715-9473
Emma I.	728-1063
Anastasia	728-9014
Fiona	761-9262
Emma M.	728-4642
Elisabeth (bilingual)	
	722-0454

# Community meeting set for Feb. 27

Champlain Park residents are invited to meet the new owners of 201 Keyworth Avenue. They will be at the fieldhouse on **Wednesday, February 27th at 8:00 p.m.** to discuss their concept for redevelopment of this property. They plan to divide the current lot (100 x 150 feet) into three to build three new "green" homes that will be assets to the neighbourhood. While a variance for a reduced frontage will be needed for each lot (consistent with those for 207, 209 and 211 Keyworth), the new lots will exceed the minimum area requirements for our R1H subzone and will meet all other zoning requirements.

The homes are being designed in accordance with the City of Ottawa's *Urban Design Guidelines for Low-Medium Density Infill Housing*. You may review those guidelines on the City's web site at: [http://ottawa.ca/residents/planning/design\\_plan\\_guidelines/completed/infill\\_housing/index\\_en.html](http://ottawa.ca/residents/planning/design_plan_guidelines/completed/infill_housing/index_en.html)

For more information, please contact Heather Pearl at 613-725-1522 or Jim Cocks at 613-850-7967.

## Sixty years at 201 Keyworth Avenue

When Peter Rubec, the son of a gold-mining family that hailed from Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec, came to Ottawa's west end after World War II, he had a degree in chemical engineering from Queen's University. He had a new wife, Coral, who was eight years older than him. And he had a hankering to build a house near a river full of fish waiting to be caught.

Peter loved to fish. Jack Holliday, who lives across the street from Peter's double lot on 201 Keyworth, also liked to while away the hours in a boat on the Ottawa, so the two of them became good friends. They spent many evenings and early mornings catching smallmouth bass, the occasional pickerel, and a few muskies.

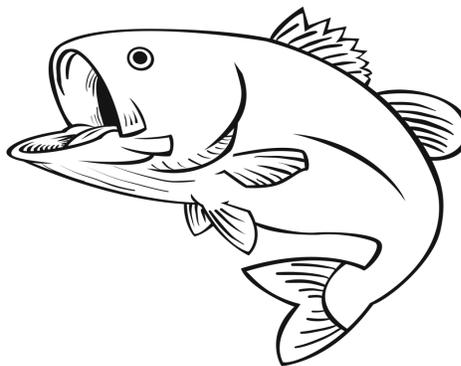
In 1947, Mr. Holliday's was the only house on the west side of Keyworth. When Peter bought the land almost directly across the street, he "worked like a dog," says Mr. Holliday.

"Peter went to work every day at Public Works, which had its offices and labs in the West Block of Parliament Hill in those days. I hadn't really met him yet but I'd see him out there every night that first summer digging the foundation himself with a pick and shovel. He pulled out all these big boulders, and rolled them to the back of the lot. Most of the rest was gravel and when he got to bedrock, he found it was pretty level, so he used it as the floor to the basement. He built the walls for the foundation and poured the concrete himself—probably mixed it himself, too."

Mr. Holliday remembers Peter as "a strong man, and

an optimist...I have hundreds of memories of our time together." Fittingly, the eulogy Mr. Holliday delivered in July 2007, after Peter passed away at age 86, contained more than a few of those memories.

Peter and Coral Rubec had two sons. Both of them have followed the path of higher education and both are working in fields that support conservation. The elder son, Peter Jr., is a fish biologist now living in Florida. The younger son, Clayton, lives on Athlone Ave. He is about to retire after many years of working on wetlands conservation policy with the Canadian Wildlife Service.



During a recent interview with the Speaker, Clayton reflected on the fact that his father spent 60 years in the one-and-a-half-storey house on Keyworth. "My mother passed away in 2005 at the age of 91," he says. Peter Rubec visited her every day during the decade she lived in a nearby nursing home.

Coral was born in Manitoba, where both she and her sister completed Bachelor of Science degrees in the early 1920s. "It wasn't something women did in those days," Clayton recalls. When she came to Ottawa as part of the female workforce that kept the public service going during wartime, Coral met Peter. She was 38 when they married.

"It was a great neighbourhood to grow up in," says Clayton. "A piece of me misses it still."

—by Debra Huron

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# Amy's Corner



by *Amy Kempster*  
613-722-6039

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## **Wellington Street Reconstruction and Parking**

After checking the City of Ottawa's website, I can summarize the plans for Wellington Street reconstruction (between Western and Bayview) as follows.

Here's what will happen along Wellington Street between Western and Parkdale this coming summer, starting with Parkdale to Holland in April and May 2008, followed by the area west of Holland from June to November 2008. The remainder of the street (to Bayview) will not be done until 2009.

- The street as it is will be torn up to replace underground utilities.
- After replacement of the underground structure a new streetscape will be put in place with street furniture (benches and waste baskets, bollards, new street lighting and bike racks). In some areas, the sidewalk will be widened; street trees will be added wherever feasible. Bulb-outs and bus bulges may be used at some intersections to define the parking lanes and provide for either landscaping (in the case of bulb-outs) or space for bus shelters (in the case of bus bulges).
- Since one per cent of the cost of reconstruction can be spent on public art, proposals should be submitted now. There will be a public viewing of these soon.
- The City says that four new legal parking spaces will be added. Some illegal ones will be eliminated (such as those within nine metres of an intersection).
- The recent budget called for parking meters on Wellington Street in this area. It also suggested the metered hours extend to 9 p.m. and weekends, at a cost of \$3 per hour (as elsewhere in the city). Following recent Council discussions, I believe the cost has risen to \$3.25, the effective hours will end at 7 p.m., and Sundays will be excluded. Further changes may take place.

- The new Wellington West Business Improvement Area (BIA) may work with its members and the public to encourage walking, cycling and transit use, especially by its staff and customers. The lack of a nearby municipal parking lot was noted as an issue that affects parking.
- While a cycling route is shown in the shared road space between Western and Holland, the main designated cycling route was shown as using Spencer and Armstrong. According to NewsWest, this elicited some comment at an open house on January 30.
- During construction of the Holland/Parkdale section, the three blocks of Wellington Street between those streets will be closed to through traffic, while the intersections at Parkdale and Holland will remain open.

If you wish further information please consult the City web pages at: [http://Ottawa.ca/residents/public\\_consult/wellington\\_reconstruct/](http://Ottawa.ca/residents/public_consult/wellington_reconstruct/)

Should you wish to comment on the work slated to take place between Western and Parkdale, you should do so before Feb. 29 as the work will go out to contract in early March 2008. Send your comments to [Max.Ross@Ottawa.ca](mailto:Max.Ross@Ottawa.ca).

## **Meeting on March 1st on new Official Plan**

I hope you have noticed the ad in the recent Kitchissippi Times about the meeting being hosted by our Councillor Christine Leadman. The topic is Future Growth of our Community. Such questions as "How should the City balance intensification with the Community's vision?" will be discussed in a **symposium to be held on Saturday, March 1** from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Auditorium of Nepean High School, 574 Broadview Ave. Anyone wishing to share transportation to this meeting may call me at 613-722-6039.

## **Help needed for spring clean-up**

For the last few years, Amy Kempster has coordinated the spring clean-up in Champlain Park and along the Ottawa River. Our community effort has been part of a larger City of Ottawa campaign to pick up garbage and beautify green spaces each spring.

Champlain Park needs a new volunteer to look after this annual activity. If you think you can take this on, Amy will provide support and information. Call her soon at 613-722-6039.