
CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER



September 2008

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What community really means

Champlain Park can be truly proud of its reputation for being a friendly and active place in which to live. As we have become a more mobile society, many of us here in Champlain Park have been transplanted from other parts of the country or the world, and as a result do not have family in Ottawa.

Recently I had surgery and was limited in what I was able to do for a six-week period afterwards. I was not able to drive, lift, or carry anything. My neighbours pitched in. They drove me to doctors' appointments, took me for groceries, brought meals, walked my dog, visited me, took me out for coffee and other outings. I felt well looked-after. Their practical support was invaluable. It was also a chance to get to know my neighbours better by exchanging gardening tips, sharing books and spending time.

I wanted to publicly thank all my neighbours for their gestures of caring. Community is not just the streets and houses in the community but the people who make it the place that it is. I am very grateful that I live in this neighbourhood. Also, this is a good opportunity to remind neighbours: if you need support, ask for it, and if you see a neighbour in need, perhaps you can lend a helping hand.

—Sandy, a Champlain Park resident (surname withheld at author's request)

Report on 215 Carleton Ave.

A developer purchased the small single detached home at 215 Carleton Ave. and submitted a request for a minor variance to build a semi-detached dwelling on the 50-foot-wide lot. Lynne Bankier and Craig Wells opposed the proposal on behalf of the Community Association at a Committee of Adjustment (COA) hearing on July 16, 2008.

Form letters opposing the development were signed by most of the neighbours in the notification area and some neighbours further away from the property also wrote letters of opposition.

The main points we presented were as follows:

- The proposal contravenes the zoning by-law, which requires a 60-foot-wide lot for a semi-detached dwelling in the part of our community zoned R2F.
- The proposed double, whose front would be dominated by garages and pavement, with minimal greenspace, does not fit with the character of the

existing neighbourhood.

- If allowed, the development would set a precedent for other similar incompatible development.

The COA ruled in the Community Association's favour and did not approve the development. The developer has appealed the decision to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB). A team of Community Association executive members and other interested neighbours is preparing to defend the community's position at the OMB. The team consists of Cathy Bennett, Bob Ledrew, Jim Cocks, Heather Pearl, Craig Wells, and Lynne Bankier.

There are a number of smaller homes on 50-foot- wide lots in this community (similar to 215 Carleton). If allowed, the proposed development could open the door to more doubles on undersized lots. This has happened in other communities, and we are trying to stop it from happening here.

—by Lynne Bankier

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 cleanup coordinator (vacant)

Social convenor (vacant)

Planning:

Amy Kempster (722-6039)

CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER your community newsletter

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Holland, Marlene Kells, Kelly Egan.

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

Parents and kids invited to bask in the joy of music

Making Music Meaningful is pleased to be offering classes at the Champlain Park fieldhouse on Wednesday mornings beginning this fall. Parents and caregivers are invited to come and experience a lively program that introduces them and their babies, toddlers or pre-schoolers to the joy of making music...without pressing PLAY. The fall term runs for 10 weeks from September 10 to November 12, followed by another 10-week term from November 19 to February 4 (no classes Dec. 24 or 31). Mid-term registrations are welcome, space permitting. For full program details, including information about classes beyond February, please visit www.makingmusicmeaningful.com

or contact Nicole Wassink at 613-806-7464 or at nicole@makingmusicmeaningful.com. Sibling discounts are available!

Garden Club

Whether you are a veteran or novice gardener, why not join the Champlain Park Garden Club? We meet the second Tuesday of each month from September to June at the fieldhouse at 7 p.m.

You'll see slideshows of Tuscan gardens, water features in the garden, hands-on demonstrations, and tours of some of the most interesting gardens in this city.

The cost for the entire year is \$20.00 plus the Community Association membership fee of \$10.00 (for those who have not yet purchased one). For details, call Laurie Fagan at 728-1945.

New bridge players welcome to join Club

We have a small group of bridge players who meet on Wednesdays at 2 p.m. in the Champlain Park fieldhouse. We wonder if there are bridge players out there who would join us if the time were different. If so, please call Amy Kempster at 722-6039. If our current time or a slight variation of it (meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesdays) would suit you, please feel free to join us. Please call before coming, as sometimes, if we know there will be absences and we may be only four, we meet in members' homes.

TEENS who babysit

Karah P. 722-6039
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

A tragic event on Keyworth Ave.

August 18th dawned bright and sunny—a good day to be alive. By day's end, a man was fighting for his life in the Trauma Centre of the Civic Hospital, the victim of circumstances that led to his fall from a rooftop while he was attempting to cut down a tree at 201 Keyworth Ave.

Early in the day with camera in hand, I wandered over to

Keyworth to take pictures of the oaks being demolished to make way for three row houses. Who should I encounter at the site but Mr. Jack



Holliday (pictured above at the site with his video camera)? A longtime resident of Keyworth Ave., Mr. Holliday was documenting the tree-cutting that had started the week before. As we chatted, the man doing the tree-cutting approached us to say that his chainsaw had just failed and he would have to leave the site to get a different one. I asked Mr. Holliday to pose for this photograph and then left shortly afterwards.

Disaster strikes

By noon that day, Mr. William Fennell, 64, had felled the tree (on the right of the photo at the back of the property) but it didn't fall where he expected it to. Mr. Holliday, who called 911 when he saw events unfolding and was later quoted in a story published online by The Ottawa Citizen, said, "the man cut a large part of the tree and it fell on the neighbour's house, so he went up to the roof to try to fix that and he fell from there."

Police were on-site when I walked by around 1:30 p.m. to take a few more photographs. I was shocked to hear the bad news from Mr. Holliday. The Ministry of Labour is investigating the accident.

Mr. Fennell's struggle for life

The following morning, I walked past the site and

talked to Penny Fennell, Mr. Fennell's daughter. She told me her father was in intensive care with 8 broken ribs, two broken pelvic bones, and bleeding from his spleen and brain. The seriousness of the situation was evident. With tears in my eyes, I gave her a big hug.

Last week, I spoke to Penny by phone to enquire about her father. "He woke up after 18 days!" she announced. He is still in hospital and may be there for some time to come. "He is not talking yet, but he recognizes us."

Should you wish to send get-well greetings to Mr. Fennell, you may do so by writing to him at this address:

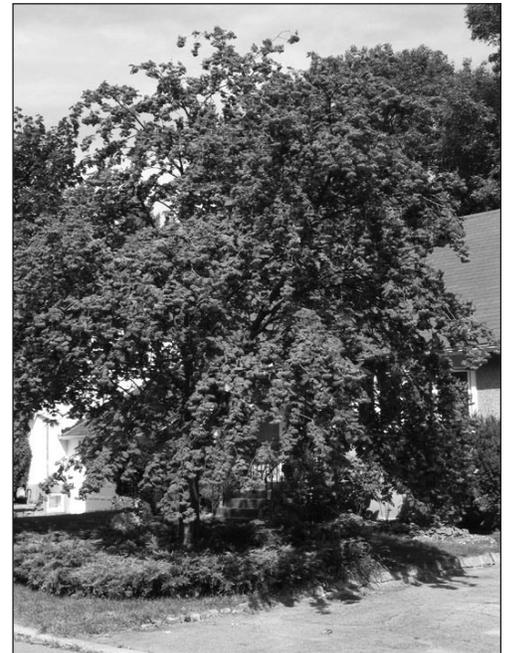
244 Feriand Street, Vanier, Ontario K1L 7T6

—by Debra Huron

The best tree around

A black and-white photograph cannot capture the beauty and colour of this mountain ash at 207 Patricia Ave.

"It seems that this is a year when most mountain ash are full of berries," says Dawn Grigor. She lives in a cute bungalow



with husband Michael Buda and their 15-month-old son, Matthew. "We have an arborist coming soon to trim it," says Dawn. "It has a canker and we wonder if it's flowering so much because it's having trouble." The tree was planted in the late 1940s by the original owner of the home, Dorothy Cone. "She was a painter who quite liked gardening." During the three years the Grigor/Buda family has lived in the home, they have observed that the mountain ash attracts "a ton of birds" and that a rabbit lives under the junipers at the foot of the tree.

—by Debra Huron

Amy's Corner



by *Amy Kempster*
613-722-6039

Development in Kitchissippi Ward: The site plan for the old St. George's School property on Picadilly has been approved. Approval will allow the construction of 34 homes through a planned unit development (singles, semis and door rows). Meanwhile, the proposed development just west of Island Park Drive on Richmond Road at 93 and 109 seems to be going forward. A six-storey building will be built with the top storey set back and the below-ground garage entrance on Richmond Road, with turn restrictions. The big development at Richmond and Roosevelt has also been approved. This is intensification in action!

Although the proposed amendment to the Official Plan stemming from the five year review talks about setting actual targets for intensification for different areas of the city, a little bird has told me that that proposal will be dropped and an overall target will be set, probably the 40% mentioned in the draft document. My belief is that the city should add guidelines regarding intensification to protect both the privacy of existing homes and sunlight for existing homes and the street. Means should be sought to prevent canyons; namely, either one side of the main street should not allow buildings over a certain height or auctions should be held as to which side can exceed shadowing more than half the street for more than half a day.

Federal Election: The federal election can have much influence on our area. We have many fairly good candidates with our current member (Paul Dewar) for the NDP; Penny Collenette for the Liberals; Brian McGarry for the Conservatives; and Jen Hunter for the Green Party. There may be other candidates later but no candidates were yet registered at the Elections Canada website. Local issues that may be of interest to

this ward and about which you may wish to question the candidates include:

- 1) the extent to which their party will support renewing infrastructure in cities (including Ottawa)
- 2) if they will protect the Greenbelt from development or push the NCC to allow some development
- 3) if they will support or oppose the use of the Ottawa River Parkway for light rail. (The NCC has not yet spoken decisively on the issue.)

Other issues may include healthcare, the environment, the economy, etc. My suggestions are that you listen carefully to all candidates and all parties and try to make what you feel is the best choice for you and your community. Make sure you exercise your franchise; it is a precious gift.

Transportation Master Plan: The Open Houses with regard to this commenced Sept. 11—too late for readers of this column to attend. However, there is another date, not too far away, as follows:

Monday, September 22
Nepean Sportsplex – Salon A
1701 Woodroffe Avenue (near West Hunt Club)
Transit Routes: 70, 71, 73, 76, 77, 95, 157 and 188

Planning is a community effort. Your input is important.

On the transportation front, the recent news on interprovincial bridges suggests that only one has any chance to get built and it will cross at Kettle Island. This will do nothing to relieve traffic in our neighbourhood but may help the downtown truck traffic situation, if it gets built.

Annual Meeting of Community Association

The Annual General Meeting will be held in November.

Stay tuned! The exact date will be announced in the October edition of this newsletter.
