
CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER



October 2008

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Annual General Meeting

Mark your calendars! **Thursday, December 4** has been set as the date for the Annual General Meeting of the Champlain Park Community Association. The meeting will be held at the fieldhouse starting at 7:30 p.m.

A full agenda will be published in the November edition of the Champlain Speaker. Watch for it in early November.

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Holiday craft show

A group of artisans in Champlain Park is planning a holiday craft show on **Saturday, November 15** from **1 to 5 p.m.** at the fieldhouse.

Drawing on talent from the neighbourhood, there will be knitting, jewellery, wooden toys, handmade soaps and lotions, jams and jellies, and felting.

Please plan to attend! We are still looking for artists who may want to take part. The cost is \$10.00 per table. If you are interested, please contact Sarah Biard-MacNeil at queenbeebeads@hotmail.com or Laurie Fagan at lfagan@magma.ca.

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

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basis with the generous support
of the Ottawa Citizen.

The future of playgroup is in your hands

The Champlain Park Playgroup has been a great place for the children of this community to play, learn, and hangout for the last 20 years. For the last few years Cathy Leonard has generously volunteered to lead the group, but now she has decided to move on to other things. We thank you, Cathy, for all your hard work and dedication.

The playgroup can't operate without someone volunteering to coordinate the group. The job

could be jointly shared by two parents, if that works better.

When the playgroup operates, the parents and tots meet Tuesday and Thursday mornings between 9:00 and 11:30 a.m. (approximately).

If you are interested in taking up the challenge, please give Laurie Fagan a call at 728-1945.

—by Laurie Fagan

OMB hearing not yet set

The Champlain Park Community Association is gearing up to present its case before the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) in opposition to development plans for 215 Carleton Ave.

As yet, a date for the hearing has not been set. In the meantime, a team is working hard to develop the Community Association's case. Contact Heather Pearl at 725-1422 for more information.

Teenagers who will babysit for you

Karah P. 722-6039

Emma J. 728-6681

Alexandra 722-7482

Berlin 722-2248

Ben 729-1218

Leigh 715-9473

Emma I. 722-1063

Anastasia 728-9014

Fiona 761-9262

Emma M. 728-4642

Elisabeth (bilingual) 722-0454

Tips on home security

by Patrick Mates

Co-coordinator, Champlain Park Neighbourhood Watch
& Volunteer Coordinator, Home Security Inspection Program

The Importance of Strike Plates

Every lock, be it a deadbolt (built into a door cavity) or a rim lock (mounted on the door surface), has a metal “strike plate” screwed to the door frame or jamb, which houses and anchors the bolt of the lock. (Some doors, mostly in apartment and office buildings, have metal frames, which obviates the need for strike plates.) The common strike plate is a critical component of any residential lock. As such, it should be fastened firmly to the wood frame so as to be able to withstand a heavy kick or other form of attack. Most standard strike plates are small and are typically installed with only two short in-line screws. This makes them vulnerable.

A door can be strengthened considerably by replacing these short screws with longer 3-inch screws so that they penetrate the building stud behind the door frame. Alternatively, the two-screw strike plate

can be replaced with a 6- or 8- inch “extended strike plate” that requires six screws placed in an offset pattern. For adequate strength, these screws should also be 3 inches long and placed into pre-drilled 1/8th-inch holes to avoid splitting the wood. Where a door has an adjacent window with only a 1½-inch jamb, shorter screws will be required, but they should be as long as is feasible. This is an easy and inexpensive way to substantially increase the security of any door. Extended strike plates are relatively easy to install, and are available at locksmiths and hardware stores. They typically cost between \$10 and \$15.

The Wellington Community Police Centre offers free home security inspections for anyone who wishes to have an impartial opinion on their home’s security. They take less than an hour to complete. Just call the Centre at 236-1222, ext. 5870. If no one is there, leave a message and we’ll get back to you to set up an appointment.

A spooky party planned for October 25

The Community Halloween Party will be held at the fieldhouse on Saturday, October 25, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Cost: \$2 per child

* Little John the Clown will entertain

* Ghoulish Treats

* Costume Parade

* Halloween Crafts

* Bring your pumpkin for the Pumpkin Carving Contest

We're looking for volunteers to help with treats.

Students: This is a great way to pick up a few volunteer community hours. You must have 40 hours of volunteer work to graduate from high school!

Please contact Kelly Wiles to volunteer in any capacity: Phone 613-794-7906 or contact thewiles@rogers.com.



Amy's Corner



by *Amy Kempster*
613-722-6039

Bill 106, Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods

Act: Our Member of the Provincial Legislature, Yasir Naqvi, introduced this bill recently. It is aimed at handling the problem of crack houses or similar situations in a neighbourhood. While our neighbourhood does not currently have this type of problem, Hintonburg and Mechanicsville have had problems with places where crack houses have been established. Mr Naqvi promised to introduce this type of legislation during the provincial election and is thus fulfilling his promise. Similar legislation has been passed in several provinces.

For further details on the bill, go to www.ontla.on.ca, click on Bills & Lawmaking, and then Bill 106.

Development in Kitchissippi Ward: Not much new since my last column. There is a for-sale sign up on a Scott Street property just west of the new development on the former Banknote lands.

Federal Election: Let me remind you again to vote on October 14.

Notices of New Assessment of Property: Expect the notices of how your property has been assessed for municipal and education tax purposes the week of October 27th. The average increase in value at the provincial level was about 20 percent. If your assessment since 2004 has gone up by more than this amount, your educational taxes are likely to go up unless the province requires less in total than for this year. As well, if your increase is more than the average for the City of Ottawa, then your municipal taxes are likely to rise by more than the probable tax increase the city determines by the budget process. In contrast, if your increase is less than 20 percent,

your educational taxes are likely to decrease; and if it is less than the average for the City of Ottawa then your municipal taxes also may decrease if there is no change in the tax rate (but may go up by less than the increase in the tax rate, if that increases).

If you are unhappy about the system to determine your assessment, you can appeal it. As well, you can consider if you wish to support the Federation of Citizens' Associations report and recommendations on this topic. The FCA-FAC website's Views & Positions section has a copy of that report or you could obtain a copy by emailing me ([kempster @ rogers.com](mailto:kempster@rogers.com)) or telephoning me at 722-6039. As well, there is an organization aimed at property tax reform called the Coalition After Property Tax Reform (CAPTR) whose policy you may wish to support, although it differs from that recommended in the FCA Report.

Transitway along the Ottawa River parkway: Many of the people I know are opposed to the proposed light rail system that would use the current bus route that goes from Dominion Station to the Pinecrest Station. Given the beauty of the Parkway it seems to many that while we may want light rail, does it have to use that route? The goal is to have a route that does not destroy greenspace. Unfortunately one of the alternatives—the Byron strip—is also important to many communities. Perhaps we should consider elevation, or a tunnel. If you have any brilliant ideas on this topic I suggest you telephone our Councillor Christine Leadman, as she might be glad to hear them.

How to contact your City Councillor

Councillor Christine Leadman

Phone: 613-580-2485

Website: www.kitchissippiward.com

e-mail: christine.leadman@ottawa.ca
