
CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER



January 2009

Vol. 29, No. 1

Winter Carnival on Jan. 31st

This year's Winter Carnival at Champlain Park fieldhouse and ice rink is scheduled for **11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.** on **Saturday, January 31**. Sleigh rides will begin at noon and end at 2 p.m.

Although everyone is hoping for good crisp weather that will sustain ice on the rink, the Carnival's organizer, Ann Doswell, says the Carnival will proceed rain or shine, ice or slush.

Hot drinks and hot dogs will be sold on site.

If you like to bake, people will enjoy eating your treats, so please bake to your heart's content and offer your cookies and cakes to the Carnival's hungry skaters.

The annual chili contest will proceed as usual, with prizes in both the meat and vegetarian categories.

A variety of outdoor events for young and old are planned.

Volunteers are needed to staff the lunch counter. If you can offer some of your time to that task, please sign up by calling Ann Doswell at 613-722-7705.

Rink hours

Conditions at the Champlain Park skating rink have been excellent. The hours of operation are:

Monday to Friday: 6 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

Saturday: 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

Sunday: noon–6 p.m.

If you wish to book the rink for your group, call Jim Kot at 613-722-7519.

Volunteers are welcome to help with the rink. The hours of operation may be expanded if volunteers can keep it open. Please call Jim Kot if you wish to volunteer.

Report on Annual General Meeting

The 2008 Annual General Meeting for Champlain Park took place on December 4, 2008. City Councillor Christine Leadman and 15 members of the community attended. For those who could not make it, here are the highlights:

- **Report by our Ward Councillor:** Christine Leadman reported on several issues, including the City budget and the transit plan. She also spoke about the Champlain Park ball diamond. Due to the observed low frequency of use this season, the decision was made to plant grass (but retain the backstop) and to create a mini soccer field in a cost-shared arrangement with the Ottawa Internationals Soccer Club (funding not yet confirmed). Councillor Leadman's office has communicated by e-mail with all who attended last spring's meeting on this topic or who sent comments to her office. Please contact Marissa.Aitken@ottawa.ca for further information.
- **Development (215 Carleton):** The new owner of 215 Carleton applied for variances to build a double on the 50-foot wide lot. (60 feet is required.) On July 16, the community association successfully argued against the application at the Committee of Adjustment (COA). The owner appealed the COA's Decision to

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Champlain Park Community Association

Co-chairs: Lynne Bankier (729-0955)
and Heather Pearl (725-1422)

Vice-chair: Vacant

Treasurer: potter (728-4980)

Secretary: Karen Maser (722-6700)

Ex-officio Past President:

Jonathan Chaplan (728-7670)

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)

Other roles:

Membership: Craig Wells

Fieldhouse co-ordinator: Laurie Fagan

CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER your community newsletter

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

Energize your home and your attitude with Feng Shui

Join local author Ingrid Hauck for a book talk and signing that features her new book, *Feng Shui with Attitude! Jump-Start Your Joy*.

The event is slated for Tuesday, January 27 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Champlain Park fieldhouse.

Ms. Hauck, a member of the International Feng Shui Guild, will discuss how to attract success in key areas of your life. Based on her newly-released book, she will show you how to create a more beautiful, uplifting environment

that brings you home to your true self and attracts the life of your dreams. Simple and practical techniques revitalize, balance, and beautify yourself and your home, making your load lighter and your spirit more joyful. Discover:

- six steps to enlisting your home as your ally in achieving your dreams,
- five paths to inner balance, and
- transformational auspicious attitudes.

Association news

Craig Wells has resigned his "executive" positions as Vice-Chair and Membership Coordinator with the Champlain Park Community Association. He will continue his work on the Membership Drive and other volunteer roles with the Association, but not as part of the executive. He is still working closely with the executive on various projects, but wants to do so in a less formal way.

Greg Doswell has resigned as Rink Coordinator. Jim Kot has signed a rink contract directly with the City of Ottawa and will maintain the rink as a community member independent of the CPCA. This allows Jim to be listed as the service provider on the rink contract, obtain his own insurance from the City (the City pays the insurance fee), and obtain the cheques directly from the City, rather than via the Association. It is a more efficient model that both Jim and the executive are satisfied with. In terms of actual operations, nothing will change from past years.

—Lynne Bankier

Alzheimer Society workshop

The Alzheimer Society of Ottawa and Renfrew County is holding a workshop entitled "**Rising Tide: The Impact of Dementia on Canadian Society**" on Tuesday, Jan 27 from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. (yes, it's a morning workshop!) Another upcoming event is the Society's **Walk for Memories** fundraiser, to be held Sunday, Jan. 25 at Carlingwood Shopping Centre. Visit www.alzheimer-ottawa-rc.org for more details on these events.

Sad news

Mr. William Fennell, who fell from the roof of a home adjacent to the property on Keyworth Ave. where he was cutting a tree in late August 2008, has died in hospital.

Teens who babysit
will return next month.

Tips on home security

by Patrick Mates

Co-coordinator, Champlain Park Neighbourhood Watch
and Volunteer Coordinator, Home Security Inspection Program
Wellington Community Police Centre

Strong doorways are a home's best defence against burglary. Most break and enters are attempted by attacking an entrance door. To minimize the potential for break-ins, a doorway should be seen and designed as a multi-component, interdependent security system made up of the door, frame, lock, strike plate, hinges, and fasteners. The system should be strong enough to withstand the application of considerable force and is only as strong as its weakest part.

The best doors are constructed of solid wood, at least 1¼ inches thick. Metal-clad doors, which have become popular in recent years, have narrow wood frames under the metal and around the circumference. This is filled or insulated with Styrofoam. Their multi-layered construction makes them vulnerable to splitting when attacked. Both types of doors can be reinforced and protected against splitting by adding a metal U-shaped escutcheon plate or "door reinforcer" which is mounted under the lock or latch surrounding

the door's edge.

Doors should fit snugly into their frames with no more than a 1/8 th inch clearance on both sides and top, and not more than 1/4 inch at the bottom. A larger gap on the lock side can expose the lock, making the door more vulnerable to attack with a crowbar or other tool. In such a case, the gap can be covered by installing a metal "latch guard" or piece of angle iron mounted on the door jamb.

Exterior doors should always open inward to ensure that their hinges are not exposed to the outside. These doors should also be hung with at least three 3½ inch hinges. The screws used to fasten hinges to jambs are often quite short and can be a weakness in an otherwise secure door. In such cases, strengthen the hinges by replacing one or two of the short screws in each hinge with 3- or 3½-inch screws. The screws fastening the hinges to the door should be at least one inch long. *Next month: Locks on exterior doors.*

Report on Annual General Meeting (continued from page 1)

the Ontario Municipal Board and the hearing is scheduled for January 29, 2009. These variances, if granted, would set a precedent that could cause a radical change in the community's character. The association has allocated up to \$3,500 for this appeal.

- **Executive and committees:** Lynne Bankier presented the new executive (many returning from last year) and other supporting committees. See the side panel of the Speaker (page 2) for names and contact numbers.

- **Membership drive:** The 2008 drive was very successful; about 71 percent of households in the community purchased memberships. Membership fees are now \$7 for senior households and \$10 for all others.

- **Financial report:** The Association closed the period ending August 31, 2008 with about \$15,350, most of it held in a Money Market Account.

- **Parking:** In the spring, residents on Cowley and Keyworth will be canvassed to see how they feel

about changing the parking limit on those streets to two hours, to discourage parking by Tunney's Pasture employees.

- **Role of the executive in dealing with issues affecting the community:** The CPCA executive facilitates discussion in the community by bringing people together and gathering and sharing relevant information. It will take a position on behalf of the Association if there is consensus in the community but cannot do so if there is not. The executive is a small group of volunteers and needs community participation and assistance if it is to take on issues that arise.

The complete minutes of the meeting are available from Karen Maser at 613-722-6700 or kmaser@rogers.com.

Amy's Corner



by *Amy Kempster*
613-722-6039

FCA Activities: Champlain Park is a member of the Federation of Citizens' Associations (FCA) of Ottawa-Carleton. I thought it might be of interest to indicate the kind of work that the FCA does. As a member of the Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods (FUN), the FCA is the forum for community associations and related non-profit volunteer groups in Ottawa. Member associations share information about issues facing their communities and, when appropriate, take joint action for Ottawa's community associations. The website is www.fca-fac.ca. Heather Pearl now attends FCA meetings as the Champlain Park representative and I attend as the Greenspace Alliance representative. Some of the issues discussed at the meeting on January 5 were as follows:

- The City's Transportation Master Plan was discussed briefly. The significant lack of certainty regarding certain portions was noted (e.g., the NCC has not agreed to use of the Parkway).
- The Property Tax committee reported that the new assessments were out and that appeals can be made if there are objections to the amounts. The FAC representatives were informed of a meeting being held in the Glebe on January 7, where the appeal process would be discussed. That meeting featured a forum on reform of the Market Value approach now being used.
- The Official Plan review was discussed, with emphasis on the importance of making submissions at the public meetings if appeals are to be made.
- The FCA sent a letter to the NCC questioning parts of the process being used to choose the site for a new interprovincial bridge. The FCA chair read the consultant's reply, which did not really respond to the questions that had been raised. There will be a City meeting next week to discuss the choice of Kettle Island. Since FCA does not support a specific site, it may present the same material at that meeting.
- With regard to Lansdowne Park redevelopment, the FCA voted to partner with developers and architects to send a letter to the City asking that the design competition be launched again.
- It was announced that public consultation on the transit tunnel will take place in late January.
- FCA and Greenspace Alliance are both represented on the Advisory Committee on Development Charges, as is the development industry, including non-residential developers. One representative of this latter group seemed to indicate that differentials in development charges were not that important for industry in deciding where to locate.
- FCA is also participating in the Manotick OMB case on the grounds that the size of the proposed housing development by Minto constitutes an unauthorized expansion of the urban boundary. As such, it does not follow the Official Plan.
- The FCA agreed to indicate their support for the Chiarelli/Cullen motion asking the City to not request costs resulting from litigation by community groups on planning matters as this would discourage their participation.
- Under new business, Heather Pearl reported on the urban tree conservation strategy and the proposed tree-cutting by-law.
- The representative from Westboro Beach brought up the subject of municipal election reform and suggested we ask our councillors to follow the example of Toronto City Council, which has asked that the Municipal Act be changed to prohibit contributions to election expenses by corporations and unions, as well as a few other measures such as carry-over of monies raised but not used in a previous election. A small committee will look into this matter.
- The final item was a short discussion on the Claridge Towers decision. The FCA will put out a press release indicating our unhappiness with the lack of fair treatment of City Council's position by the developer and the OMB.

From the above, you can see that the FCA is a very active organization involved in the larger issues of the city. Some of these matters are complex.

The need for agreement between most members ensures that FCA cannot normally be accused of promoting NIMBYism (Not In My Backyard-ism). I'd like to thank Heather Pearl for her helpful input into this report.