
CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER



February 2009

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Change is in the air on Northwestern Ave.

A new Imam has assumed responsibilities at The Ottawa Mosque. And changes have been happening at Northwestern United Church. The Champlain Speaker reports on both faith groups.

The Ottawa Mosque

by Linnéa Rowlett

On the evening of Monday, February 9, 2009, Imam Khalid Syed and his wife, Amal, welcomed me into their home on Northwestern Avenue (where I also live).

L: Good evening, Imam; thank you for meeting with me this evening. How would you introduce yourself?

IK: My name is Imam Khalid and I come from Egypt. I graduated from Al-Azhar University, with degrees from two faculties: the Faculty of Islamic Studies (in English) and also the Faculty of Islamic Law. I have a diploma in

Northwestern United Church

by Debra Huron

As a member of the former Northwestern United Church since 1991, Neil Robertson of Cowley Ave. is one of the best sources for information about plans for his recently-relocated congregation.

Neil and his wife, Barb, have devoted long hours to the congregation. Barb printed the congregation's Sunday bulletin for many years. (She also assembled and printed the Champlain Speaker in the 1990s.) Neil was the congregation's Roll Clerk.

In that role, Neil was aware that attendance at Sunday services

Open House

The Imam of the Ottawa Mosque has invited all residents of Champlain Park neighbourhood to a potluck at the mosque.

**Saturday, March 7, 2009
4 p.m.–6:30 p.m.**

The food part of the event will take place after 6 p.m.

...both stories continue on page 3

Updates from the Community Association's executive

Baseball Diamond

The City of Ottawa's Parks and Recreation has received the following:

1. From Ottawa Internationals Soccer Club: an application for partnership funding to proceed in 2009 with the conversion of the Champlain Park ball diamond to grassed open space (backstop to remain).
2. From Councillor Leadman: a letter supporting the recommendation to convert the Champlain Park ball diamond to a grassed open space, but the backstop must remain.

If approved, funding would not be received by the soccer club until June, and given the fact that we do not sod during the hot months of July and August, construction would not likely proceed until after the 2009 soccer season in the early fall.

If you have questions or require further information, please contact:

Scott Johnson, M.Land.Arch., CSLA

Project Manager, Planning and Development, Parks and Recreation

Phone: 580-2424 x43042 e-mail: Scott.Johnson@ottawa.ca

...continued on page 2

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 (725-5488)

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

CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER your community newsletter

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Nancy Leigh-Smith, Benjamin
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basis with the generous support
of the Ottawa Citizen.

Update from association's executive (continued from page 1)

215 Carleton Avenue

Our Community Association
won at the Committee of
Adjustment last summer when
it opposed the development of
a semi-detached dwelling on an
undersized lot, but the developer
appealed the decision to the
Ontario Municipal Board (OMB)

The OMB hearing occurred on
Jan. 29 and was attended by Bob
LeDrew (backyard neighbour to
the property) and our Community
Association Co-Chairs, Heather
Pearl and Lynne Bankier.

The developer had delivered
to us a few days before the
hearing a revised design for the
semi-detached dwelling. Instead
of the modern symmetrical
semi-detached, with ribbons of
pavement separated by narrow
patches of lawn, the revised
design allowed for more
unbroken landscaping by moving
the garages to the outside. As
well, the building design was
asymmetrical. Much of the
developer's testimony at the OMB
hearing focused on how this new
design would "fit in" with the
existing neighbourhood.

To make the rest of a long
story short, although we still had
concerns, we ended up coming
to a settlement whereby the
development was allowed but the
approval was tied to the revised
design and landscaping plan.
This means the developer will be
inspected by the City to ensure he
abides by the plans he submitted
to the OMB.

I would like to thank Bob
LeDrew (who acted as the

CPCA representative at the
hearing) and Heather Pearl (who
prepared all the material and was
"communications central.") We
were well-prepared with materials,
had hired an independent planner,
and worked very hard on this.

Bob LeDrew adds:

By our opposition first at the
Committee of Adjustment and then
by preparing to defend our position
at the OMB, we sent a signal to
folks that ignoring the CPCA
is something that will cost you
a lot of money in the end. (The
developer hired a lawyer and two
expert witnesses, including a City
planner who was subpoenaed to
testify at the hearing. Even though
this was a business deduction for
him, it still comes off the top.

-by Lynne Bankier

TEENS

available for babysitting

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

Exterior locks improve home security

by Patrick Mates

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

Several types of locks are available for exterior doors. They include key-in-knob latch locks, deadbolts, and jimmy-proof (vertical deadbolt) locks. The first two are built into the door while the latter is a surface-mounted “rim” lock. The key-in-knob lock operates with a spring latch and is the weakest of the three. A door with this type of latch lock can be reinforced by adding a deadbolt to the door.

Deadbolts are excellent devices when combined with a solid strike plate and are of either single cylinder (one key on the outside with a thumb-turn on the inside) or double cylinder (keyed on both sides). The bolt “throw” should be at least one inch long. Where there is glass in or adjacent to the door, the double cylinder type adds greater security in case the glass is broken. It is important to remember, however, that when people are at home, the key should always

be left in the lock to ensure easy escape in case of an emergency. The main advantage of a double cylinder lock is to protect a home from illegal entry when the residents are not at home.

A surface-mounted “jimmy-proof” lock has two vertical deadbolts that penetrate and lock into the strike plate, firmly linking the lock to the strike. This type of lock is particularly effective on French doors. (Strike plates were dealt with in an earlier issue of the Champlain Speaker. Glass treatments will be covered in a future issue.)

Doors that are accessed through a garage, solarium or basement should be treated and protected as exterior doors. Finally, do not rely on chain locks for security. They can be broken or dislodged with minimal force.

Making music meaningful for children

Do you have a child under four years of age? Making Music Meaningful offers baby, toddler, and pre-school music and movement classes at the Champlain Park fieldhouse every Wednesday morning.

The program is a wonderful way to introduce your child to the basic elements of music and to meet other parents and children in a warm and lively environment. You’ll have great fun learning lots of songs and rhymes and movement activities that you can also use at home, all while stimulating every aspects of your child’s development. Come out and try the floor drum, too!

You’re welcome to join us mid-term or to sign up at any time for a future session. The current term will run until April 22, followed by a nine-week term from April 29 to June 24.

A 5-week summer term will run from July 8 to August 5, and then we’ll be back again in September.

For full program details, please visit www.makingmusicmeaningful.com or call Nicole Wassink at 613-806-7464.

—by Nicole Wassink

Coordinator needed for Spring cleanup

Spring cleanup in our neighbourhood happens at the beginning of May. This year, we need a new person to coordinate this task.

Don't wait for spring...do it now!

Although this is not a big job, it is a very important one. Contact Debra Huron at 613-722-8048 for more information.

Interview with Imam (continued from page 1)

comparative religions, and have taken courses on how to encounter the non-Muslim world, how to invigorate my speech and sermons to convey the message to both the Muslims and to others, and how to lift all the community, in Egypt and in Canada, to bring them to love each other and to come to understanding and co-operation with each other.

L: Part of your education, then, is about how to reach beyond the Muslim community and to meet, in this instance, the Canadian community—the many Canadian communities—the Christian, the Jewish, the indigenous, all of these people, and to create bridges.

IK: Yes! Just before I came to this meeting with you, I was at an Interfaith Meeting in the Mosque, where there were people from different religions. When I arrived here in Ottawa, I found that there were only these two programs (community development and interfaith) and I continue to support them because they're both a very good idea.

L: You've been here for six months now. How do you enjoy living in Ottawa?

IK: Six months in Ottawa! (laughs)...Different people told me about this winter, and still, I feel, it's very good!

L: How is your family adjusting to Ottawa? Do

Report on NW United Church (continued from page 1)

had fallen to about 60 people. This was less than half the number that had attended during the days when a popular minister, Brian Cornelius, led the congregation. The Northwestern church can hold about 200 people.

Because of dwindling attendance, the congregation voted last year to amalgamate with two other United churches—Westboro United on Churchill Ave. (near Byron) and Kingsway United at 630 Island Park Drive. The new and amalgamated congregation is called **Kitchissippi United**. It is housed, temporarily, at the former Kingsway site. Sunday services attract in excess of 125 people and the choir averages 18 voices.

By amalgamating, the three congregations have been able to reduce staffing and energy costs. The new congregation is led by the Rev. David Sherwin with the Rev. Jenni Leslie as a half-time minister. Jenni led the Northwestern church through the summer of 2007.

Meanwhile, the building on Northwestern Ave. has been rented on weekends and some weekdays to a Pentecostal congregation. Another congregation has also expressed interest in renting space at times when the church is currently unused.

you have children?

IK: Yes, I have a little boy, now 13 months old, and my wife with me. I think they are enjoying this new environment. I am very busy, but many people in the Muslim community, many families, come to visit us.

L: Do you have any comments about the experience of leading a major Muslim institution in a non-Muslim community?

IK: My goal is to build bridges between the Muslim and non-Muslim communities which can support ourselves and each other in good times and difficult times. Our life passes day by day. Every day, if we don't get a new friend, we don't feel true happiness. Old friends also give you a special taste of happiness because we can close the gaps and build up the bridges between us. When I arrived, I hoped to meet everyone living near the Mosque personally...we planned to meet most of the neighbours, but you have preceded me and come to visit. Now, I hope to have a monthly meeting or seasonal meeting with the members of the small community where we live, both Muslims and non-Muslims.

L: This community? Here in Champlain Park?

IK: Yes, here. We can share tea or water, and it's a good way to begin.

“You're going to see regular activity around the site for at least the next eight to 10 months,” says Neil. “There will be very little change from how things were.”

The church is still owned by the United Church congregation. “We have not abandoned it,” says Neil. “In fact, the congregation is considering its options and hopes to decide this year where to house itself on a more permanent basis.”

“If the building on Northwestern is sold, it will be to another congregation,” he says. “I don't think the neighbours need to worry about a condo project.”

Built in 1964, Northwestern United Church has many excellent features: it is wheelchair accessible, has beautiful acoustics, and daylight floods the sanctuary through tall windows. Neil believes that despite the Northwestern campus being the newest building, the lack of office space might be the biggest obstacle to it becoming the choice for the permanent location.

Kitchissippi United has Sunday Service at 10 a.m. at 630 Island Park Drive at the Queensway. Phone 613-722-7254 weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Amy's Corner



by *Amy Kempster*
613-722-6039

Official Plan Review amendment: The five year review of the City's Official Plan (OP) has resulted in a proposed amendment to the current OP. One controversial change involves proposed extensions of the urban boundary in several areas by a total of 850 hectares. The staff report has tried to evaluate a selection of areas in a factor-related manner, resulting in a ranked list of areas for expansion. Of the top five areas, three are near Stittsville and the fourth and fifth are near Orleans. The choice of these expansion areas may take some negotiation as the land is often held by developers and the development industry is suggesting that even more expansion is required. On the other hand, there is a question as to why such an expansion is required, given the Plan's emphasis on intensification. However the Provincial Policy Statements require a sufficient supply of land destined for single-detached homes and the staff calculations are that the expansion is needed to ensure this. Note that in future the urban boundary expansion may depend on whether the target for intensification has been achieved.

Provide your feedback in writing, no later than March 5, to lesley.paterson@ottawa.ca. Or attend the final public meeting, where residents can make presentations to City Council, on Tuesday March 31, 9:30 a.m. at City Hall.

Intensification policies in the amendment are probably of most interest to our community. The definition of intensification in the Provincial Policy Statements is being proposed for adoption, with some slight modification, to recognize that it can apply to a property, building, or area. The target for the number of units provided by intensification as compared to those from development in greenfields is given and target areas for intensification are identified, along with the City's commitment to good design in the public realm, implementing a capacity management strategy, and other efforts. Outside target areas, there is an

increase in densities proposed for single-detached lots in greenfields. In the Urban Design and Compatibility section of the OP, reference is made to investigating the establishment of design review panels and there is a requirement that proponents must indicate how they have addressed design objectives and principles. A new section on Demonstrating Urban Design and Compatibility proposes that without good design, a proposal might be rejected. It also suggests where high-rise buildings will be considered and emphasizes that taller buildings must be integrated with the community. Another section of interest to this community is that the policies re Mixed Use Centres (e.g. Tunney's Pasture) for maximum parking limits have been clarified. While not directly of interest to this community, one element of the Plan is to continue the allowance of country lot estates. These are a form of urban sprawl but placed in the rural area. Allowing this type of development seems in contradiction to the policies re: intensification.

Neighbourhood Plan for Mechanicsville and Hintonburg and Wellington Reconstruction Phase 2: On Wednesday, March 4 an Open House will be held on these topics at Odawa Native Friendship Centre's gymnasium, 12 Stirling Ave., from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Topics addressed in the report on the Neighbourhood Plan include community safety and security, housing, community services, greenspaces, economics, and arts. With regard to reconstruction plans for Wellington West, construction plans and detailed designs for the work from Parkdale to Bayswater will be available for review, including traffic detours and mitigation plans during construction.

Development Charges: Development charges are designed to have growth pay for growth—at least to some extent. Some proposed changes to existing practices are to be discussed on Tuesday, May 24 by the Planning and Environment Committee. Development charges are now split by area, namely within the greenbelt, outside the greenbelt, and rural. Some changes to recovery of growth-related costs will see more roads recovered on an area-specific basis rather than city-wide. Costs for arterial and major collector roads will be distributed by kilometres travelled. Many of the existing exclusions from development charges will be discontinued within two years (notably for building in the downtown core and for hospital construction). Note that the higher the development charges, the higher the cost of new homes, but the more the cost of growth is paid for by growth.