
CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER



September 2009

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New rules for renting the fieldhouse

The Champlain Park Community Association is finalizing a user agreement with the City that has taken months to negotiate. Part of that agreement extends to those who rent the fieldhouse.

As of September 1, those who rent the main hall of the fieldhouse for an event such as a birthday party, bridal shower, or hockey or soccer party will have to pay \$15.00 an hour in rental fees.

While this might seem high to some, it is actually less than half the City of Ottawa rate. We were able, after considerable discussion, to get the City to agree to a lower rate than it would otherwise charge. The person renting the fieldhouse must have a current membership in the Champlain Park Community Association. We were fortunate that the City agreed to grandfather all the existing regular weekly meetings at the same rate we have been charging in the past.

Under the new agreement, the Community Association will be able to keep 50 per cent of the new rental fees. This is important revenue that funds things like the winter carnival, Halloween party, legal fees, and fees associated with OMB hearings on development issues.

If you have any questions about this, please contact Laurie Fagan, Fieldhouse Coordinator, at 613-728-1945.

Three membership routes lack volunteers

This spring's Community Association Membership Drive met with mixed success. The good news is that for the 15 routes that were canvassed, our hard-working volunteers did even better than last year. Unfortunately, we didn't have any volunteers for three routes. This means that 61 homes were not canvassed. Hopefully, next year some volunteers will step forward to fill these gaps (see routes below).

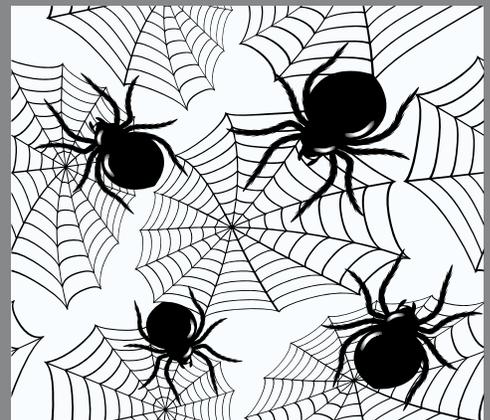
ROUTE 2 Northwestern 160 to 204 (24 homes)
ROUTE 11 Keyworth 169 to 206 (19 homes)
ROUTE 15 Daniel 200 to 238 (18 homes)

Let me end my report by again thanking all our canvassers for their dedicated work and for having given up several evenings of their time.

—Craig Wells 613-725-5488

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So proudly they sit
in the hubs
of their fragile creations.

—Debra Huron

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: Ian Reid
(715-9504)

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.

Walk around the block...tonight

by Ella Mar

I'm hoping to start a walking group in the neighborhood. The goal is to schedule one or two evenings a week where there will be a set time and place for people to meet and hoof around the neighborhood. My hope is that by making it very easy (since the time is agreed upon and there are neighbours who will be there waiting), more of us will be inspired to do a bit of a power walk in the fresh air and in good company. If this becomes popular, we can easily form several groups, each of which may have different exercise objectives.

Charles Hodgson (my husband) whom you might know from his podcast at www.podictionary.com, has created a website called the GuideGatineau and I propose that we use it to organize our walks.

If you think you might be interested, please check out <http://guidegatineau.com>. Have a look around the site as there is a lot of good information on Gatineau Park. Please join as a member on the HOME page and then go to the GROUPS tab and join the Champlain Walkers.

Exercise, anyone?

A new session of the Champlain Park Exercise Club starts this fall. We meet at the fieldhouse from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m. for aerobics on Mondays and yoga on Wednesdays. Interested in joining us for one/both nights? Contact Linda Steele for more details at 613-724-6679 or linda.steele@sympatico.ca.

By doing this, you will

- get information on where and when the Champlain Walkers will be setting out
- make it easy to invite friends to join you and us. The more the merrier and the safer the walk will be

If enough of us want this to happen, we'll have a group going by early October. I look forward to meeting you around our wonderful neighborhood!

Garden Club

Champlain Park Garden Club is starting another season of wonderful talks and sideshows on all aspects of gardening.

We meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the fieldhouse beginning at 7:00 p.m. We have talks on the perfect shade plants for your garden, how to create ponds and water features. We also have wonderful slide shows of gardens in Tuscany and France, and workshops about making garden trellises and other garden forms.

Membership is only \$30.00 per year. If you have a current membership to the Champlain Park Community Association, it is only \$20.00.

For more information, call Laurie Fagan at 613-728-1945.

TEENS

available for babysitting

will return next month

News from the community association

Baseball diamond at Champlain Park

Christine Leadman has made a request to Parks and Recreation that conversion of the Champlain Park Ball Diamond be put on hold for now. Parks and Recreation is reviewing its mandate regarding City Parks via a series of white papers that are currently under review, and Christine would like to ensure that any proposed projects fall in line with the outcomes of this review.

Do you like numbers?

Due to some administrative requirements for our non-profit corporation, we are looking for a volunteer to do our on-line annual incorporation report and the T2 tax form. The annual incorporation filing doesn't require any specific expertise; it's basically an update of the executive's names and positions. The filing of the T2 tax form would require some expertise. Please contact Heather Pearl at 613-725-1422 or Pearhea@aol.com.

Thank you, Karen Maser

Karen Maser has retired as secretary of the CPCA, as she is moving back to her home territory, the Maritimes, for a year at least, to test the waters for future retirement living. I have worked with Karen on the executive for the past few years, and want to thank her for all she has done. Karen was always quietly efficient, offered sensible opinions, and most importantly, was a real pleasure to work with. She put our papers in order after years without a secretary, helped Craig Wells with the membership drive, and sorted out the revised government reporting requirements for our non-profit corporation. Thanks Karen, and best of luck as you start on this next phase of your life.

If anyone would like to take on the role of Secretary for our community association, please contact Heather Pearl at 613-725-1422 or Pearhea@aol.com.

—Lynne Bankier, co-chair of the CPCA

Neighbourhood Watch (NW) Matters

Karen Maser has served since 1992 as a Block Captain (Liaison Person) for our Neighbourhood Watch (NW) Program. She contributed to the security of our community and at the same time made many friends with her neighbours. We wish Karen well in her move to her native Eastern Canada. Many will miss her but Karen hinted that she might return to us as she has so much enjoyed this community.

I would like to take this opportunity also to invite residents to actively participate in our NW program. NW is a community and police co-operation program—a very simple but effective way to prevent crime in a community. Here's what you can do: 1) become knowledgeable about making your home and property safe (Patrick Mates can help you by conducting a home security audit); 2) report to the police any suspicious persons or activities in your neighbourhood; and 3) keep an eye on your neighbours' properties, especially when they are away.

The NW coordinators liaise closely with the Community Police Centre that looks after our district. An active NW program greatly discourages potential vandals and thieves from visiting or being active in our community. To have the police recognize our Community as having an established NW program, we need to have a network of Liaison Persons in place so that in case of emergency, messages and assistance can be passed onto your immediate neighbours.

We now need more residents to serve as Liaison Persons. This role can be assumed by anyone and it will not consume a lot of time. In the past 17 years, an emergency situation has not happened to us. As Karen has witnessed, it is a great opportunity to get to know your neighbours and maintain the high level of security that our community enjoys.

If you would like to participate as a Liaison Person (Block Captain), please e-mail or phone Michael Cheng at cheng12@sympatico.ca or 613-722-3344. You may also call Patrick Mates at 613-722-4120.

—Michael Cheng

Amy's Corner

*will return in
October*

On behalf of the community association and residents, I would like to wish Amy Kempster congratulations on her 80th birthday. Some of us had the pleasure of offering our personal congratulations at the Open House she had on Sept. 12 for friends, family and neighbours.

Thirteen years ago, I received a phone call from Amy saying that she was on the nominating committee for the community association, and she wondered whether I would consider running for an executive position. I agreed, and that began a very rewarding involvement with our association that continues today. I offer my heartfelt thanks to Amy for extending that important invitation to me 13 years ago.



Photo by Heather Pearl

—Lynne Bankier

Day curling can help you defeat the winter blahs

by Tim Weir

It's a fact. Canadians are less physically active in winter than they are in summer. And who can blame them? Not everyone is up to polar trekking across desolate snowscapes in frozen February. The alternative? Unfortunately, southern beaches just don't fit everyone's lifestyle OR bank account. That's why many Canadians, especially those who live in the Ottawa area, are discovering Day Curling.

Available at about a dozen clubs throughout the city, Day Curling appeals to people of many activity levels, from novice to expert. It is emerging as the wintertime activity of choice for a growing number of retired Ottawans.

The Granite Curling Club, located at 2026 Scott Street in Westboro, is an example of Day Curling at its best. Starting October 19, the public is invited to drop

We want our bus back!

We have lost the #18 bus on Scott Street. Champlain Park no longer has one-bus access to the downtown core. Students who used to be able to take the #18 to Nepean and Notre Dame high schools also are affected. The #18's replacement, bus #150, runs less often and only during rush hour. Its route finishes at Lebreton Station.

Last spring, the Champlain Park Community Association learned that OC Transpo was planning to cancel bus service along Scott Street between Tunney's Pasture and Churchill Avenue. Christine Leadman's office went to bat for us and OC Transpo agreed to look for a solution. What they came up with still leaves us with significantly reduced service.

The Community Association considers it unacceptable that the citizens in this area can no longer take one bus to the downtown core throughout the day and evening. We will be asking Councillor Leadman to help us convince OC Transpo that this new arrangement isn't working.

Some of you have already complained to OC Transpo and members of City Council. We would like to hear from those affected. Only by speaking with a strong, unified voice can we hope for meaningful change. **We want our bus back!**

Please e-mail your comments to Laurie Fagan at: lfagan@magma.ca or call 613-728-1945.

in any Monday morning (9:00 to 11:00) to inspect the facility as well as learn more about the sport of curling. Visitors will be invited to get a feel for the sport by venturing out on the ice under the guidance of trained coaches. Follow-up sessions will be available which lead to participation in any number of regular league events.

At the Granite Club, Day Curling is open to both men and women, five days a week, October through April. A central location and free parking make the Granite easy to access. Add to that a variety of social activities such as cards and billiards, regular events such as luncheons and banquets, and you'll find yourself enjoying the winter period as never before—and getting physical activity while you're at it.

Interested? Check out the Granite website at: www.ottawagranite.com or call the Club at (613) 722-1843 and ask to speak to the manager.
