

# CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER



December 2009

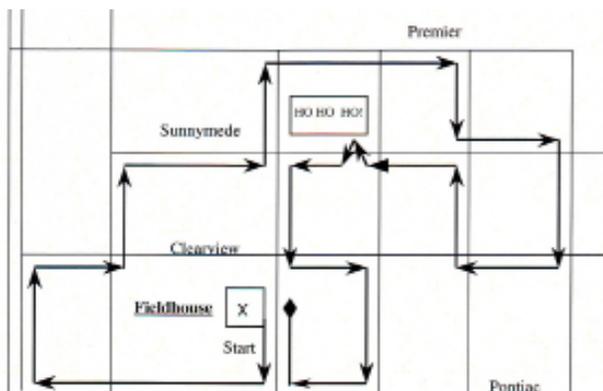
Vol. 29, No.7

## Sleigh ride and Songs of the Season

Wednesday, December 23  
6:15 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.  
The ride begins at the fieldhouse!

Everything is set for the 15th annual sleigh ride and carol songfest. The event will be held the night before the night before Christmas and our sleigh will weave its way through the neighbourhood, with stops along the way to pick up people and to decide on the next carol. Song sheets will be provided.

A special request has been made again this year, asking Santa Claus to join us, so there will be a special stop halfway to try to find him. HO, HO, HO! We should arrive at the home of a friend of Santa's at about 7:00 p.m. The house is on Sunnymede Avenue. Just look for the reindeer on the roof and the blazing lights.



The sleigh ride will return to the fieldhouse for some Christmas cheer and hot chocolate—courtesy of Bridgehead on Wellington Street, once again. We are looking for donations of cookies and Christmas goodies. Please call Jim Cocks at 728-7881 if you can help.

If the weather is extremely poor, the backup plan is to meet at the fieldhouse for some indoor festivities and to then sing carols as we make our way up to Sunnymede Ave.

In the spirit of the season, donations to the Ottawa Food Bank will be accepted. A container will be provided at the fieldhouse for your donations.

## Report on community association's annual general meeting (AGM)

Our City Councillor, Christine Leadman, and our Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP), Yasir Naqvi, were guest speakers at this year's annual general meeting, held on Nov. 19 at the fieldhouse.

Ms. Leadman ([www.kitchissippiward.com](http://www.kitchissippiward.com)) discussed the loss of local transit service, the parks and recreation white paper and its impact on the ball diamond, and a recent change in zoning in the R2 part of the neighbourhood. Champlain Park residents formed a committee to develop a strategy for reinstating the off-peak-hour bus service formerly provided by the #18 bus on Scott Street. Ms. Leadman's office will support them in this initiative.

Mr Naqvi ([www.yasirnaqvimpp.ca](http://www.yasirnaqvimpp.ca)) discussed transit, Lansdowne Park, and the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST). His website contains more information on the HST. (...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: Vacant

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

## Neighbourhood Watch:

Michael Cheng (722-3344),

Patrick Mates, (722-4120),

Neil Robertson (729-5439)

## Spring cleanup coordinator:

Ian Reid (715-9504)

**Social convener:** Vacant

## Planning:

Amy Kempster (722-6039)

## Other roles:

Membership: Craig Wells (725-5288)

Ex-officio Past President:

Jonathan Chaplan (728-7670)

## CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER your community newsletter

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**Proofreading:** Andrea Murphy

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Cutfield, Patrick Mates, Rita Palin,  
Laura Robin, Becky Rynor, Jim Hay,  
Wendy Huculak, Heather Pearl, Ann  
Potter, Emma Morris, Linda Steele,  
Nancy Leigh-Smith, Benjamin  
Holland, Marlene Kells, Kelly Egan.

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

## Report on AGM (continued)

The Champlain Park Community Association's (CPCA) executive positions and volunteers were approved as presented. Draft minutes of our meetings will be provided on request to any CPCA members. Contact one of the executive volunteers for this.

The CPCA is a volunteer organisation composed of people who care deeply about their neighbourhood. This year, it is great to see that a number of new volunteers will be sharing their expertise. Welcome and thank you to:

Dave Bartlett	Business Liaison
Veronica Sigurdson	Champlain Speaker design and layout
Alan Gordon	Membership canvasser
Nick Xenos	Membership canvasser and development issues
Connie Barrowclough	Development issues
Ian Reid	#18 Bus Strategy Session
Dennis Van Staalduinen	" " "
Daniel Buckles	" " "

Special thanks went to all volunteers present at the meeting. They were asked to stand and were recognized by the membership for their valuable work. In particular, the CPCA executive thanked:

- Karen Maser, who has moved to Wolfville, N.S. Karen was a tremendous asset in her role as Secretary to the CPCA. She is still keeping the CPCA membership list up to date.
- Craig Wells, for organizing another successful membership drive. It raised almost \$2,400 for the association in 2009.
- Jean-Paul Poissant, who went above and beyond the call of duty to successfully canvass several membership routes this fall for which there had been no membership canvassers in the spring.

## TEENS available for babysitting

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	Karah P.	722-6039
Elisabeth (bilingual)	722-0454		
Hanna L. (bilingual)	792-1891		

# Karen may have moved east but she has left her heart...in Champlain Park

I LOVE Champlain Park!

I bought a house here in 1989 and hardly a day has gone by since then when I have not thought myself to be very lucky indeed. This is so for many reasons: because I could walk to my job at Tunney's Pasture (when I was still working); because it was like country living in the city; and because I have such wonderful neighbours. And that's just scratching the surface!

How many neighbourhoods are just steps from the Ottawa River, have such easy access to bike paths, have their own fieldhouse/skating rink/ball diamond, are so sheltered from the hustle and bustle of the city, and yet are so close to the centre of the city and all that's available there? I am a jogger and have often thought that I bought not only a house but my own personal jogging track. I don't have kids, but I couldn't think of a more perfect neighbourhood to raise children for those who do.

Despite all this, I am not living in Champlain Park right now. I was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and although I have not lived there in decades, I recently discovered what I had so easily and willingly left behind a long time ago. The ocean was something I took for granted; it was just blocks from my parents' home. But it must get into your blood, and much to my surprise, I missed it.

As a teenager, I wanted more than I thought was available in Halifax. Recently, I have recently found myself wanting less. Perhaps that's just part of the life cycle.

Wanting less has also meant wanting less stuff, so part of my aim in moving was to rid myself of so many of the things I have acquired over the years, and hardly ever used, or no longer needed. That in itself was so liberating!

I chose to move to Wolfville, a town of less than 4,000 about an hour from Halifax, at the eastern end of the Annapolis Valley. It is the home of Acadia University, and because of that, it's quite unique. It is also a very "green" community that takes things like recycling very seriously. My biggest challenge so far has been in devising an easy-to-use recycling and garbage system! Although I know almost no one here, I hope that will change quickly.

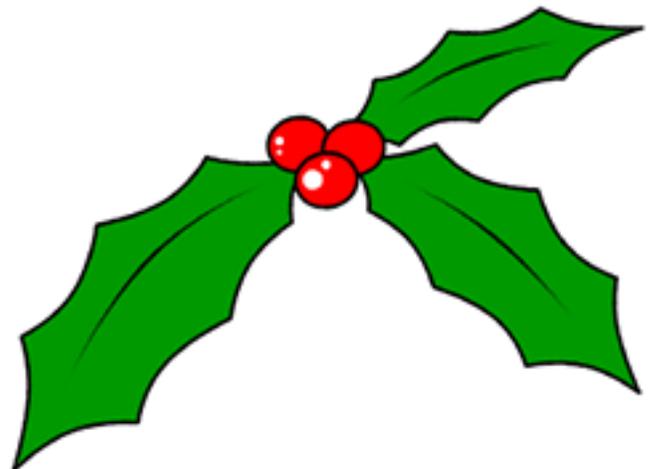
My house in Champlain Park is now home to a delightful couple, and is filled with many little ones, which makes me very happy indeed. I hope they, too, find Champlain Park to be the welcoming and wonderful place I came to know.

Of course, I find myself missing my neighbours and friends, but I know that this is something that I simply had to do. I'm here in Wolfville for one year. I don't know how I will feel at the end of that time. But that's part of the adventure. I'll keep you posted!

-Karen Maser

## Notice to the Community

With Karen's departure for Nova Scotia, the community association is looking for someone to fill the role of Secretary. Duties are "light" and the rewards are many! Contact Heather Pearl at 613-725-1422 to volunteer or to learn more.



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# Amy's Corner



by *Amy Kempster*  
722-6039

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**The Green Bin:** As a community with a lot of people who already compost, many may be wondering, “why the green bin?” I was, too, until I looked at the items that are allowed in the green bin. To my astonishment, not only do they allow meat and fish, but also kitty litter and other pet waste (no plastic bags). I’m not sure of the logic of allowing this, but not diapers. However, those who walk their dogs and pick up after them now have a place to put the contents of the plastic bag they carry. Perhaps this will increase the number of those picking up after their dogs, and thus decrease contaminated storm water runoff to the river (see below). Other animal items allowed include animal bedding, fur, hair, and feathers, as well as pet food.

We have the black box for paper but some paper items seem to be allowed in the green bin. You can use the green bin for microwave popcorn bags; paper plates and cups (waxed or unwaxed); paper towels, napkins and tissues; wax-coated paper; food-soiled pizza or cardboard cereal boxes; and paper bags that held sugar, flour or potatoes. So, when you are looking at your paper waste, if it does not go in the black box, put it in the green bin. For me, the tissues were a surprise, as used tissues are often a fairly common item in winter waste and I doubt many of us would think of them going in the green bin and not the garbage.

With regard to food waste, some of the items you may keep out of your own backyard composter because of their tendency to attract animals include meat, fish, shellfish, poultry and bones. The green bin allows for leftover food scraps; cooking oils; lard, shortening, and fat; butter and margarine; and other dairy products. Some items you may not associate with composting also go into the green bin. They include baked goods, bread, cereals, grains, pasta, rice, coffee grounds and tea bags, nuts and their shells, snack food, salad dressings, and sauces.

Besides yard waste, such items as cold fireplace ash, dryer lint, floor sweepings, vacuum bags and their contents, wood chips, and sawdust all can be put in your green bin. In fact, you could say that if it is organic it can probably go in except for diapers and sanitary napkins, etc. To check if an item is acceptable, go to [www.ottawa.ca/greenbin](http://www.ottawa.ca/greenbin) or call 311.

If the green bins are well used, it will reduce our garbage considerably and delay the need for a new landfill (which would be a very expensive project). I encourage all to use them even if you save the good food waste for your backyard composter. Just do not put any plastic in them (even compostable plastic). Also, between the green bin and the black box, your garbage should be paper-free.

With regard to the proposed separate item on your tax bill, the final word is not in, as public consultation has yet to take place. I understand that the Audit, Budget and Finance Committee suggested putting it within the regular tax bill and not as a separate item.

**Ottawa River Action Plan:** While this plan contains more than the three options presented here to solve the combined sewer/storm water problem of rainstorms causing sewage to pour into the Ottawa River, they are the focus of public consultation. The first two options consist of providing storage capacity for the storm water. The more expensive of the two will provide more capacity in a linear form and entail more disruption while this storage is provided because this linear storage is being added underground.

Option A will cost between \$40 and \$60 million and take four to five years to implement. Option B will cost \$95 to \$140 million and take five to six years. Complete separation of the sewer and storm water systems, which is Option C, would take \$1.3 to \$2.2 billion and up to 50 years. Given that this option would not solve the problem completely—since storm water itself can be polluted when it enters the river—it seems unlikely that many will support it. The larger storage capacity represented in Option B seems better, given that it provides more surety that spills of sewage into the river will not happen often, even in wet years.

The City website ([www.ottawa.ca](http://www.ottawa.ca)) will give you more details and allow you to input your opinion in a survey. (Under Residents, go to Sewage and that will take you to the Ottawa River Action Plan.) I also suggest visiting the Riverkeeper’s website ([www.ottawariverkeeper.ca](http://www.ottawariverkeeper.ca)) to see her viewpoint on the issue.