

CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER

DECEMBER 2010

CHAMPLAIN PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Co-chairs: Lynne Bankier (729-0955)
and Heather Pearl (725-1422)
Vice-chair: Jonathan Chaplan
(728-7670)
Secretary: vacant
Treasurer: David Bartlett (301-9660)

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

Neighbourhood Watch:
Michael Cheng (722-3344)
Patrick Mates (722-4120)

Spring cleanup coordinators:
Ian Reid and Andrea Murphy (715-9504)

Planning: Amy Kempster (722-6039)

Other roles:
Membership: vacant
Banking: potter (728-4980)

CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER - YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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basis with the generous support of the
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UPDATES FROM YOUR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

I would like to extend thanks on behalf of the
executive to Craig Wells, who has recently resigned
from the Membership Coordinator position.
Craig worked diligently to ensure we had a high
participation rate in the community, recruiting and
organizing the canvassers, who in turn were very
successful at collecting membership money.

Thanks also to the canvassers. As a result of your
efforts our association is in a healthy financial
situation!
-Lynne Bankier

Volunteers Needed:

The following positions are currently vacant. If you
would like to consider one of them, please contact
the people listed below.

Membership Coordinator: Organizes the
membership drive routes, recruits and
communicates with canvassers, tallies and submits
collected funds.

Contacts: Heather Pearl, Co-chair 725-1422 (to
volunteer)

Craig Wells, former Membership Coordinator 725-
5488 (for information on tasks)

Secretary: Takes and distributes executive and AGM
meeting minutes and other executive involvement
(or not) as per your personal interest. Meetings are
organized on an ad hoc basis according to need, as
some communication occurs by e-mail, which the
secretary is not responsible for.

Contact: Lynne Bankier, Co-chair 729-0955

TEENS AVAILABLE FOR BABYSITTING

Charlotte-----729-5677
Emma J. ----- 728-6681
Berlin----- 722-2248
Leigh ----- 715-9473
Anastasia ----- 728-9014
Emma M. ----- 728-4642
Alexandra ----- 722-7482
Emma I. ----- 728-1063
Fiona ----- 761-9262
Elisabeth (bilingual) ----- 722-0454
Hanna L. (bilingual)----- 792-1891
Will----- 728-1945

AN OPINION ON CLEANING UP AFTER DOGS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD



Editor's Note: Ottawa's Animal Care and Control By-law requires dog owners to Stoop and Scoop when walking their dogs and to dispose of the results in their home toilet. Champlain Park resident **Patrick Mates** has written to a by-law enforcement officer and to Councillor Katherine Hobbs (now representing Kitchissippi Ward at City Council) with the following suggestion. Here are excerpts from the text of Patrick's letter, used with his permission. If you wish to contact him, you may do so at 722-4120. You may also contact the Editor with your views on any article in the Speaker, either by e-mail or phone.

“ The problem seems to get worse during the colder months of the year perhaps because it becomes more visible when there is a snow base on the ground. Well, another winter has arrived and I'm seeing the beginning of a repeat of last year's problem. As a result, I've been giving some thought to what we can do about it and I've come up with what I think is a workable solution. While it is clearly not feasible to ask you to follow dog walkers around to observe them, there is perhaps a simpler solution worth considering.

My solution would be easy and inexpensive to implement and will involve the cooperation and participation of By-law Enforcement Officers (it is really not a police matter). What I propose is that you and your enforcement colleagues simply do occasional random stops of dog walkers and ask them to produce evidence that they are equipped and prepared to pick up their dog's waste (just as a police officer might stop a car to ask to see a driver's licence, etc.). Such evidence could take the form of a dog waste bag or a shovel or trowel and receptacle that they are prepared to use for this purpose. If the person has no such equipment available, then they could be fined or they could first receive a formal warning and if ever caught again, they should

receive the prescribed fine. I would invite you to try out a pilot project right here in Champlain Park where I sometimes think there are probably half as many dogs as there are residents! You could count upon my full cooperation if I could be of any help. I often see parking enforcement personnel in this area checking for illegally parked cars. Why could they not also stop the occasional dog walker to check on their preparedness to handle the waste problem?

Before beginning this enforcement program, I suggest that you would have to publicize the program widely in the media to warn dog owners of the possibility that they could be stopped. Indeed, this warning could well be sufficient to produce the required results...

Finally, they should be advised that they should carry more than one disposal bag in case they are stopped AFTER having already picked up their dog's waste and disposed of it in a public waste basket—just to prove that they are prepared to pick up a second time if necessary...It seems to me that if dog owners are made aware that they could be stopped at any time by a By-law Enforcement Officer, they are more likely to be prepared to clean up after their animal.”

AEROBICS CLASSES TO RESUME

Aerobics classes will start again at the Champlain Park fieldhouse on Monday, Jan. 10, 2011 at 6:45 p.m. Classes are an hour long, taught by an experienced YWCA-certified instructor, and set to lively and varied music. The session runs until May. The cost per person is determined by the number of participants and is very reasonable. If you are interested, we look forward to seeing you on Jan. 10th. For more information, call Cynthia Adam at 728-4457.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WILL HOLD FIRST MEETING IN NEW YEAR

The Champlain Park Community Association will be starting an Environment Committee for Champlain Park. The first meeting could be a brainstorming of issues that the committee can look at, including exploring municipal and other environmental programs/activities that could benefit our community, trees, climate change, waste/recycling; or any other environmental issue of interest.

If you would like to attend the first meeting, please contact Nick Xenos, the Environmental Issues Coordinator, at xenosn@yahoo.com. All are welcome and the time commitment can be minimal. All ideas are welcome!

AMY'S CORNER WILL RETURN IN JANUARY 2011



BY AMY KEMPSTER
722-6039

Here's a note from Amy: People interested in the issue of the Western Corridor Light Rail Transit may wish to visit the part of the City of Ottawa's website where the latest planning and environmental assessment is available for public viewing:

http://ottawa.ca/residents/public_consult/lrt_west_corridor_ea/index_en.html

THE NEW URBAN HUNGER FOR LEAFY GREENS HAS TO BE CURBED—NOW!

This is an opinion piece by the editor of the Champlain Speaker. It was not endorsed by nor does it necessarily reflect the views of the Champlain Park Community Association.

I am a tree lover. This puts me at odds with many of the new home builders and developers in our community. We are at odds for a very simple reason: they seem to believe that it's okay to cut down trees as part of filling a lot with house. I do not.

Champlain Park's main attraction

If you've just moved into this neighbourhood, you know that one of our main attractions is Champlain Park itself. It's a hub for community events, for skating and hockey, for babies taking their first slide or swing with mom or dad close by, and for squirrels. The magnificent oaks, maples, ash, and linden trees that grace Champlain Park offer our furry friends a place to call home. They also add a green elegance and dignity to our neighbourhood.

As I sit in an upstairs office writing this piece, the view from a window overlooking our backyard offers a silhouette of tall trees stretching east to Tunney's Pasture. The 80-foot basswood that used to tower over our back yard is no longer there—it fell to the ground in July 2009 during a violent wind and rain storm. We mourned that tree. Its demise changed

not only our backyard environment but the view, shade, and privacy of our three neighbours' backyards, too. Backyard trees have a huge impact on many property owners, not just the ones who "own" those trees.

Trees are a real connection to life

When our family moved here in 1996, we felt that we were blessed to find a home that met our modest needs. Our street was a good place to raise a son, to meet neighbours raising their children, to chat with the elders of our community, and to delight in the variety of birds and animals that also make their homes in this little ecosystem. The sparrows and the chickadees were as welcome as the blue jays and cardinals. We have managed to coexist with groundhogs and racoons while delighting in the scampering squirrel families.

All of the non-human residents of the Champlain Park community depend on trees for food, for shelter, for life. I feel that nobody has a right to disregard their needs. In fact, I'm committed to defending their right to be here.

City planners have now recognized the problem

A recent article in **Newsweek** says that city planners are hoping to convince City Council that the intensification rules currently in place need to be more stringent. In other words, they have raised an alarm over the style and impact of infill housing in Ottawa's near-downtown core. A study they conducted this summer characterizes much of the willy-nilly intensification as having these impacts:

"...the loss of mature urban trees, creating gaps in previously green residential neighbourhoods; the elimination of front doors; and a prevalence of ground-level garages located below the residential portion of infill properties as opposed to stand-alone garages or backyard parking spaces."

On December 13, the Wellington Village Community Association will have full results of the study on hand at its regular meeting (7:30 p.m. at Fisher Park School).

Time for action

I think it's time for those of us who are concerned about the natural world to connect with other community groups across Kitchissippi Ward—and in other parts of the city—to get our views to politicians. I am in favour of healthy trees arching over the front yard streetscape and creating shady enclaves in backyards.

In my opinion, too many corner-to-corner homes are being built. The victims in this feeding frenzy to create big interior spaces or big profits are tall, established trees. The planners have documented the problem. Now it's up to citizens to make sure that our politicians heed the warning and do what is right: make front yards and backyards safe for trees again. —Debra Huron