



CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER

SEPT. 2011

MESSAGE FROM CO-CHAIR OF COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

1. Vacant Executive Positions

There are two vacant positions on the executive for the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM), to be held in late October. They are:

Secretary: Takes notes at executive meetings (infrequently, as we do a lot by e-mail) and at the AGM.

Treasurer/Business: Assumes most duties of Treasurer (bookkeeping and banking tasks are **not** involved).

Will involve: attending executive committee meetings; preparing the annual incorporation report and financial statement; updating insurance information; and performing other business functions that may arise.

2. Development Proposals

Information on this topic is usually very time-sensitive, such as meeting dates, deadlines for writing letters to Committee of Adjustment, etc. Therefore, if you are interested in following this, please sign up to receive e-mail updates via the Champlain Park listserv (see masthead of Speaker for details on how to sign up).

Committee of Adjustment proposals are advertised by signage and letters from the City of Ottawa to neighbours within the 60-metre notification circle.

However, we usually hear from developers well before that. Therefore, it's to your benefit to be on the listserv so you can become involved earlier.

3. Development Perspectives

It's important to emphasize that the Champlain Park Community Association (CPCA) supports urban renewal through infill, and that we also support the City of Ottawa's Official Plan in its intensification policies, while advocating for proposals that reflect the Official Plan's compatibility policies and Urban Design Guidelines. In this community, intensification is manifesting as development of new semi-detached buildings on a number of 50 foot-wide lots, whereas the zoning for our R2 (semi-detached) zone requires 60 foot-wide lots for such dwellings.

When development of this nature occurs through minor variances, the "compatibility" policies of the Official Plan come into play. Therefore, we work with developers and make presentations to Committee of Adjustment regarding such variables as bulk and massing, setback from the sidewalk, greenspace/trees, and any other site-specific variables that are relevant.

We have also been active participants in the City of Ottawa Planning Department's recent infill study discussions. Heather Pearl, myself, and Elizabeth Mundell attended the recent session describing the proposed by-law changes to improve the integration

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CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER

SEPTEMBER 2011

CHAMPLAIN PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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

Vice-chair: Jonathan Chaplan (728-7670)
Secretary: Linnea Rowlett (728-8221)
Treasurer: David Bartlett (301-9660)

Fieldhouse coordinator:
Laurie Fagan (728-1945)

Neighbourhood Watch coordinator: Vacant
Patrick Mates (722-4120)

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

Planning: Amy Kempster (722-6039)

Member-at-large: Connie Barrowclough
(724-7712)

Environment Committee: Nick Xenos
(719-7780)

Other roles

Membership: Barbara Borylo-Gourdie
(722-6829)

Banking: potter (728-4980)

CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER - YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Editing and layout: Debra Huron 722-8048
dhuron@sympatico.ca

Proofreading: Andrea Murphy

Delivery Chief: Kelly Egan

Listserv: To join the community
association's listserv and
also receive a monthly
e-mail with a PDF of
the Speaker, contact
Alexander Smith at:
agmsmith@ncf.ca.



Carriers: Kay Young, Terri Blanchard,
Sandy Milne, Philip Cutfield, Patrick Mates,
Rita Palin, Laura Robin, Becky Rynor, Jim
Hay, Wendy Huculak, Heather Pearl, Ann
Potter, Emma Morris, Linda Steele, Nancy
Leigh-Smith, Ian Holland, Lydia Holland,
Kelly Egan.

COVER photo: Debra Huron

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

MESSAGE FROM CO-CHAIR

(continued from page 1)

of new infill into mature communities. The focus
seemed to be on initiatives aimed at the preservation
of greenspace and control of height through grading.
Community support of this initiative will be important, as
the development community is expected to protest some
of the proposals.

I would like to welcome new residents who occupy the
infill houses that have been built already. When you
are new to a community, you may not be aware of the
context of the discussions described above. We think and
hope that our goals of preserving greenspace and other
attributes that likely drew you to this community in the
first place are relevant and important to residents of both
new and older homes. We welcome your participation in
discussions regarding infill that may be proposed near
your home, whether new or old.

—Lynne Bankier

AEROBICS CLASSES HAVE BEGUN

Aerobics classes started again at the Champlain Park
fieldhouse on Monday, September 12th at 6:45 p.m.
Classes are an hour long with a very experienced YWCA-
certified instructor. Workouts include aerobics and floor
exercises, set to lively and varied music.

The session runs until mid-December. Cost per person
is determined by the number of participants and is quite
reasonable. If you are interested, we look forward to
seeing you!

For more information, please call Cynthia Adam at
613-728-4457.

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

GARDEN CLUB SET FOR FULL SEASON OF TALKS AND SHOWS

The gardens of Scotland and Hawaii, and lectures on garden design and rose growing are part of the upcoming season for the Champlain Park Garden Club.

We meet the second Tuesday of every month at the fieldhouse at 7 p.m. Our slideshow talks are held September to June. We also do garden tours and the occasional hands-on workshop.



Our next meeting will be Tuesday, October 11. Richard Rogers from RJ Rogers Landscaping will present a slideshow on the Elements of a Successful Garden.

For details on how to join, please call Laurie Fagan at 613-728-1945.

YOGA CLUB RESUMES

A new session of the Champlain Park Yoga Club starts again this fall.

We meet at the Champlain fieldhouse on Wednesdays from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m.

This session will consist of 15 classes starting on September 14 and ending December 21.

A yoga mat is all the equipment you are required to bring.

The cost will be \$97.50 (\$6.50 a class, subject to change, depending on the number of participants).

You will pay \$10 extra if you are not a current member of the Champlain Park Community Association.

Please consider joining us for a free sample class to see if you would be interested. We also allow drop-ins for \$10 a class and subject to space availability. If you would like to try a class or drop in, please call before the class to confirm.

Contact Adrian or Suzanne Bradley for more information 613-722-2248 or write to adrian.bradley@sympatico.ca.

COME PLAY BRIDGE!

A small and friendly group meets at the Champlain Park fieldhouse on Wednesday afternoons at 2 p.m. to play “kitchen bridge.” We call it that because, while we do attempt to play well, we are not like duplicate where one is strictly business and silent. We enjoy conversation as well as bridge and tea or coffee and cookies. So do not be shy and do not worry if your bridge skills are rusty. We will help you get back into form. Even for more accomplished players, bridge is always a challenge. Learning or teaching new bidding methods is always worthwhile. For more info, call 722-6039.

–Amy Kempster

EDITORIAL: A “RED GREEN” KIND OF APPROACH TO LIVING TOGETHER

I miss the CBC TV show, Red Green. It was amusing and so Canadian. Something I really liked was the admonition from Red that ended every show. He’d tell viewers: “Keep your stick on the ice. We’re all in this together.”

This summer, I had two occasions to think about how “we’re all in this together.” One came when we heard the buzzing of chainsaws nearby. By the end of the day, a huge maple tree in a backyard on Keyworth had come down so that the owners of the property could build a new deck. What I’ve heard from neighbours nearby is that the raised deck allows sound to carry. Now everybody knows when the owners of the deck are entertaining.

Just as important, the loss of this large maple (healthy but branded as malevolent to City officials on the grounds that “its roots will destroy the foundation to our house”) has created a hole in the skyscape. Where we used to see autumn colours from our backyard, we now see the roof of somebody’s house, far removed from ours. For one neighbour closer to where the tree used to be, a shady Zen garden (complete with huge carp in a gurgling pool) has been destroyed because sunshine now fills the yard.

The second way that Red’s saying came into play this summer has to do with those scented sheets that people put in their clothes dryers. In the winter, we may not notice the scent that’s attached to our neighbour’s laundry habits. In summer, a friend with severe sensitivities told me that the smell of these sheets on the breeze sends her running from her lawn chair into the house. Truly, we are all in this together.

–Debra Huron

AMY'S CORNER



BY AMY KEMPSTER
722-6039

This is not my usual column but a copy of what I will send the National Capital Commission (NCC) for its forum called Horizon 2067 —Ottawa-Gatineau, to be held on September 27 from 1:30–4:30 p.m. To attend, you must register by Friday, September 23 at this address: protocol-protocol@ncc-ccn.ca.

First, let me say that all capitals are in some way representative of their country and its citizens, so by definition any future changes to Ottawa will meet that criteria. However, my experience with the NCC suggests to me it has more the idea that the Capital should reflect the various regions of the country in some way—not Canada as a whole. They seem to think that the Capital should aim to ensure that a native of the prairies or a fishing village would feel at home here...somehow! An impossible task.

I think we should celebrate the Capital for what is now and has been, as reflected by our history. Of course, it is not perfect; it has some warts, as does the country. What more iconic symbol of Canada exists than a canoe or kayak? And you can both canoe and kayak in the core of the Capital. We also find outdoor hockey in many parts of the metropolitan area. What we need is a real celebration and highlighting of Ottawa-Gatineau's history, its relationship first to the days of exploration and the fur trade and later to the timber and pulp industries' rise and fall. (That story is also found in many other parts of Canada.) Its greenspace aspects can be seen to reflect the ties to nature of many of its citizens. For example, the Experimental Farm can be seen as playing a role not only in the history of the country, but also to some extent as a central park, especially the arboretum. This partially makes up for the lack of a forested area near the centre of Ottawa, such as the Mountain (Mount Royal) in Montreal or Stanley Park in Vancouver.

An important but somewhat neglected aspect of our history, in my view, is the achievement of independence largely through negotiation and compromise. This history has influenced Canadian values and character but is much harder to paint or depict than a more violent history would be. Perhaps the Supreme Court building as well as the Parliament buildings could be seen as temples to this aspect. What other areas or means could be used to bring more attention to this history? Dramatizations of important moments (such as Newfoundland's entry to Canada in 1949) or a museum of history with relevant documents such as the BNA Act, the Statute of Westminster, etc. might help to add more emphasis on this aspect of the Capital.

Other visions for the future? Create a space downtown for a Speakers' Corner and buskers, perhaps by closing off an intersection (such as Metcalfe and Sparks) for short periods. Implement the idea of a connection from Bank Street to the Ottawa River and have boat rentals and perhaps taxis available. Build a forestry industry museum using existing industrial buildings to display the timber trade (white pine), and subsequent saw and pulp mills. Help create a Native Cultural Centre on Victoria Island. Showcase future industry in a new science industry centre devoted to displaying the latest technology using videos. Support the National Arts Centre (it is doing a good job), and invest in a new concert hall to assist the two local volunteer-run festivals (Blues and Jazz). Consider having an area where artists could display their paintings, perhaps along the canal. Encourage not only popular local artists but more traditional groups of singers and/or dancers from different ethnic groups at NCC-sponsored events. Above all, highlight local history and historical buildings as reflective of Canadian history.

Here are two final and important points:

- 1) Add greenspace to the core, if possible in the form of pocket parks. I believe there are suggestions of this type in existing reports. Plan for a great park on the Ottawa side of the Ottawa River to mirror Gatineau Park by using land in the South March Highlands and the Carp Ridge. Retain the greenbelt and reenergize its agricultural role.
- 2) Set up a coordinated transportation plan and system for both sides of the river including a "one ticket to get anywhere" in the national capital area, if necessary with a single transit commission for both sides of the river.