

CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER



<https://champlainpark.org/>



Winter Carnival on Saturday, Jan. 21

@ Park, Fieldhouse, **noon to 3 p.m.**

We're thrilled to share the news the annual Winter Carnival is back!

Everyone is welcome at the free event, which will feature a Chili Cook-Off, a children's entertainer and horse-drawn sleigh rides. The agenda:

12:30 to 2:30 p.m.: Horse-drawn sleigh rides and outdoor games.

2 p.m. to 3 p.m.: Children's entertainer **Derek McKinley** in the Fieldhouse.

The rink will be operating as per normal rules. Organizers urge everyone to mask while indoors and follow other public health guidelines.



Of course food and drinks!

There will be a **Chili Cook-Off**, baked goodies, juice, hot dogs and more for sale in the Fieldhouse kitchen. Cash only please.

Help Make it Happen:

We need volunteers for setup and cleanup, at the lunch counter, with ticket sales and donations of baked goods. Consider this a call-out for chefs to bring their best chili dish.

Thank you to the **Wellington West Business Improvement Area** for sponsoring the sleigh ride.

To help out, contact **Erin and Kelly** at erintopping@hotmail.com or 613-799-1770.

Volunteers sought for outdoor rink operations

We're gearing up for another rink season — if only the weather would co-operate!

This year, there are no COVID restrictions from the city. Indoor facilities will be open during supervised hours, for warming, skate changing, washroom use, and access to the first-aid kit. Our student volunteers will oversee the use of the change-rooms and rink during these hours.

Students, if you're 14 or older, this is a great way to earn your community volunteer hours. We're always looking for more help. Sign up is easy with our google form (see our website for link):

<https://forms.gle/EmpbS7UVRit5y7fg9>

Contact us at champlainparkrink@gmail.com if you have questions.

Supervised Rink Hours for 2023:

Monday to Friday — 6 to 9 p.m.

Saturday — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sunday — noon to 4 p.m.

Requests to the city for ice-time permits will continue to be forwarded to the rink operators. We encourage all users to review the City of Ottawa's outdoor skating rules.

See our Facebook page for the latest rink news. Here's how you can help us have a great season.

- 1) Respect others.
- 2) Leave the rink in better shape than you found it.
- 3) Please keep snow off the boards (one foot away or more is preferred).
- 4) Have fun!

So, about that new Vacant Unit Tax....

What's happening?

The City of Ottawa is imposing a tax on vacant residential properties as a way to encourage homeowners to "maintain, occupy or rent their properties, thereby increasing the housing supply," and help address the "affordability housing crisis."



How much is it?

The tax would be one per cent of the assessed value of the home and net revenues from the program would go towards affordable housing initiatives.

My house isn't vacant. Does this affect me?

Yes, and this is the issue causing concern. Owners must make a mandatory declaration by March 16 (or April 30 with a waived late fee) about the status of their properties. Failure to do so could result in the tax being imposed incorrectly.

How is the declaration made?

Property owners are being directed online to ottawa.ca/VUT. Use the roll number and access code that were included in the November/January notices. Your roll number and access code are also at the top of your property tax bill.

Does this really matter to Champlain Park?

Yes. As everyone knows, we are a neighbourhood in transition and have experienced a good deal of house replacement. The Community Association's **Heather Pearl** has put together a valuable summary of our recent history with vacant properties. To read her insightful piece and view some photos, please check out our website.

Want to know more?

The City of Ottawa has put together a detailed explanation at ottawa.ca/VUT. For those who need it, it provides details on what qualifies as "vacant," what exceptions are allowed and how to handle multi-unit properties.

Now, a giant thank you...

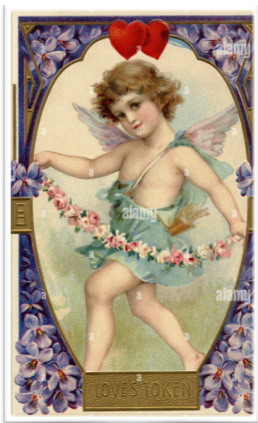


Daybreak board member **Laurie Fagan**, a Champlain Park resident, would like to thank the community for its tremendous generosity over the holidays. The supportive housing agency was looking for 47 gift cards (\$20) to support vulnerable residents at Xmas. The target was achieved, then surpassed. Wow. Well done, you good souls.

So, about the Fieldhouse...

It's open for bookings again and some regular programs are returning to in-person activities. To book the venue for birthday parties and the like, contact Laurie Fagan at lauriefagan59@gmail.com.

Cashmere, Chocolate, Vintage Sale on Sat/ Feb. 11



Just in time for Valentine's Day, an afternoon that combines some of our favourite things for that special one in your life.

For sale will be high-quality vintage cashmere scarves and designer handbags. Several vintage and antique dealers will be hand as well. Expect to also find knitted hats and scarves, linen sachets, yummy chocolates and other tasty sweets, including a slice of double fudge chocolate cake with a cup of tea.

Drop by the **Fieldhouse**, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, 613-728-1945.