

CHAMPLAIN

SPEAKER

JANUARY 1996

Vol 15 #6

A MAN AND HIS (NEIGHBOUR'S) DOG

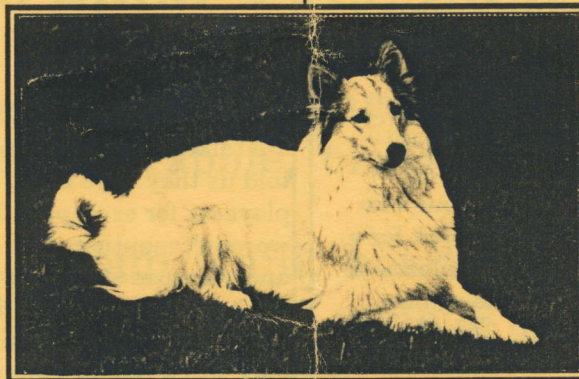
BY ALBERT TUNIS

Like many retired gentlemen in his neighbourhood, years of early rising to "go to the office" had engraved themselves upon him - he was still an early bird. Every morning, he would get out of bed between 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m., get dressed, and before breakfast, he would head out for his early-morning walk. To establish a worth-while objective for his daily foray for exercise, he would head for the nearest convenience store to pick up his morning newspaper, or in a moment of dietary weakness he would make for a hot bagel and coffee on Wellington Street.

During the months of summer, however, his habit was encouraged and sustained by a greater influence. One fine morning, he was introduced to a newcomer in the neighbourhood. Her name was Dinah. Not Diana, as he first thought, even though her aristocratic appearance and genteel manner would have suggested that name. But pure and simple Dinah - a name more in keeping with the direct and "no-nonsense" manner of her guardian; a name which reflected her "working class" collie heritage rounding up sheep in the Highlands of Scotland. And from that day on, he couldn't wait to get out every morning to keep his clandestine appointments with Dinah.

In fact, coming out of his door, he would look up the street to his neighbour's front porch to see whether Dinah was in attendance. If she was, he would hasten up the street, keeping his eyes on the resting figure on the porch. As he

approached, he could see the process of recognition unfold: Dinah's head would come up, her ears erect, her gaze fastened firmly on his advancing figure. At a certain point, her bushy tail would start to wag, tentatively at first, until full recognition released a frantic to and fro of her hairy appendage. Finally, a spoken salutation as he approached - "hello, Dinah!" - and the rendez-vous would be complete. She would lie on her side, waiting for the affectionate strokes he was anxious to bestow as part of his morning greeting. This would be followed by her demonstration of a new trick she may have learned the day before - chasing and retrieving a twig or a ball, or worrying one of her master's shabby slippers. Day after day this consummation took place, before most of the residents in the neighbourhood had roused themselves from their comfortable beds.



As winter approached and the early morning air became tinged with frost, the

meetings became less frequent. The gentleman in question was not quite as faithful in his resolve to exercise; in anticipation of the snowy winter months ahead, he had arranged to have his newspaper delivered to his home; Dinah appeared to spend less of her time on the porch with her guardian. "Is this a portent of things to come?" he wondered. "How winter isolates us all! Will Dinah remember me when the snows decay into streams and the rivers run again?"

But he smiles smugly to himself. He knows that Dinah knows that there's something special between them. And he can't wait for the return of the warming suns of spring!



Champlain Speaker Newsletter Staff

| | | |
|--------------------|--|----------|
| Newsletter Editor: | Don Monet | 728-1750 |
| Layout/Calendar: | Barb Robertson | 729-5439 |
| Distribution: | Neil Robertson | 729-5439 |
| Carriers: | Shelley Cornelius, Carole Johnson, Marie Laurence, Laurie McCormick, Philip Cutfield, Patrick Mates, Jim Croft, Laura Robin, Becky Rynor, Jean Wevill, Wendy Huculak, Heather Pearl, Monique Kerr, Carole Anne Copeland, Linda Steele, Beth Buist, Nancy Leigh-Smith, Karen Maser, Marlene Kells. | |

Champlain Community Association Executive

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|----------------------|-----------------|----------|
| President: | Tim Frank | 729-0882 |
| Vice-president: | Amy Kempster | 722-6039 |
| Secretary: | Brian Cornelius | 729-6525 |
| Treasurer: | Kaye Young | 722-7955 |
| Special Events: | Anne Doswell | 722-7705 |
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| Neighbourhood watch: | Michael Cheng | 722-3344 |



BULLY'S ON ICE?

Has this ever happened to you? Our family joined with some neighbours and went down to the park to enjoy a skate. We skated, (in my case wobbled), on to the ice. After a short time of enjoying the open rink some hockey players entered the mix. This was not a scheduled hockey event, just a few fellows and their pucks. What happened next was vexatious. Inside of about three minutes these guys were really banging that puck around, skating hard, and generally pumping the testosterone levels up. Pucks were smacked perilously near to eight year old kids, hockey players were power skating oblivious to the rest of us. We were forced off of the ice. It all happened wordlessly but we found ourselves on that small and bumpy little afterthought next to the real ice. We gave up soon after and went home.

A few weeks ago I was called up by a neighbour who had brought her kids down to our community rink for a skate on a Sunday afternoon. My friend had an almost identical story to tell. Not a scheduled hockey game ... just bullies badgering them until they left. They had to drive all the way to Nepean for a skate.

I went around to see the young man in charge of the rink — Tom Sauve. After I explained the situation his partner said, "I've tried to talk to some of those guys about the way they bully the skaters. Some of them just want to push recreational skaters right off the ice." Tom was quite understanding. He suggested that there could be open skating hours, (with no hockey allowed), as long as they were not in conflict with scheduled hockey. "On weekends would be the best bet, Thursday evening is right out though! The next step would be to get in touch with Tim Frank", our community association president.

I called Tim, and described the situation. He said that he felt the rink with the boards and all was really meant for hockey. He opined that "recreational skaters in our community would really rather go to the canal". I begged to differ and cited the many people I knew who wanted to skate on our rink. Mr. Frank agreed to try

and accommodate the request. He had a meeting with Tom and together they set aside three hours a week for exclusively recreational skating. One hour blocks on Tuesday evenings (6-7) and weekend afternoons (2-3). (see calendar) Hockey is booked exclusively on Wednesday evenings (6-7 + 8-9) and Thursday evenings (6:30 - 9) The rest of the time remains status quo...namely, the rink is to be shared courteously by hockey and pleasure skaters alike. If you have any problems or questions, speak with Tom at the rink. Tom is supervising from 4:30 - 9:00 pm Tuesday til Friday, and 9:00 am till 6:00 pm on weekends. Tim and Tom deserve our thanks for acting so quickly on behalf of family skaters. If the booked hours are used, and appreciated, we can increase them next month.

I should emphasize here that I am not against hockey. I want to see the rink used for both recreation/family skating AND hockey. I am, however, foursquare against ruffians on the ice endangering others to get their own way. As far as I am concerned the, (few), hockey players who do this deserve ZERO icetime on our rink.

One of the elders on the street told me of the days, not so long ago, when they heard music coming from the same rink on weekends. "Sweethearts would skate for hours and hours down in the park. They had the lights, and big band music playing real loud, you could hear it all through the neighbourhood". I wonder how they dealt with hockey players then? If you've got a story to tell ... call me.
Don Monet (728-1750)

P.S. Check at the rink for posted scheduled family hours.

LETTER

Complaint:

We recently had problems on the Champlain Park rink. We talked to other people about this subject. Our friends told us they were being called names by teenage boy hockey players, for example: Ballerinas, Wimps and other words we won't mention. The boys told them that they were girls and pleasure skating is not permitted on the main rink. We have heard of experiences where people were kicked off of the main rink and on to the smaller bumpier rink when only 2 to 4 people were playing a "game" of hockey, of course. We have been kicked off the rink even before setting foot on the main rink, because we are female. So in conclusion, we demand at least 3 days of pleasure skating on the main rink. If hockey players are wanting to play at this time, they may use the smaller rink, as we have in the past.

Thank you for hearing us speak.

(Editors Note: Hope to see you out on the booked hours for pleasure skating. If you have any problems at our rink - see Tom in the rink shed, he is our supervisor.)

A special note to a good friend of the Speaker who faces major surgery in this new year. Our prayers and thoughts are with you. Your convalescence has to be a short one — we have come to depend on your words and your good cheer.

CHAMPLAIN PARK'S ANNUAL

WINTERFEST

SATURDAY

JANUARY 27, 1996

11:30 AM TO 5:00PM

*Champlain Park Field House
& Skating Rink*

Noon to 2pm: Free Sleigh Rides

Skating, tug-of-war, face painting, crafts, races, parachute, card games, euchre, scrabble, bridge...bring your own cards!

Soup, chili, hot dogs,
refreshments, wine & beer

Shoot to win contest
Broomball at 3pm

Special Guest Appearance by:
DEXTER the Dinosaur!

A GREAT COMMUNITY EVENT!

AMY'S CORNER

by Amy Kempster 722-6039

January is filled with events of importance to this community!

CHAMPLAIN BRIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

In a mockery of proper public consultation the National Capital Commission has decided to hold open houses rather than public meetings on the evaluation of "a two-lane bridge with bicycle lanes as well as a three-lane bridge with a reversible high-occupancy vehicle lane plus bicycle lanes" as well as "suggestions for changes to the intersections providing access to the bridge". These will take place on Wednesday January 17, 1996 4 P.M. to 9 P.M. at the Multicultural Centre 381 Richmond Road and on January 18 at 4 to 9 P.M. at Aylmer City Hall, Council Chamber, 115 Principale, Aylmer. Please attend one or both and make your comments in writing not orally and ask for a copy for yourself. Alternatively if a large group goes at the same time, say 7:30 and asks for a public presentation and explanation at 8:00 P.M. (this gives you a chance to view the alternatives) perhaps they will allow this.

ANNUAL "MEET THE NCC" PUBLIC MEETINGS:

Plan to attend one or both of these meetings on Jan.25 at the Oblate Centre 153 Laurier Avenue East, Ottawa at 7 P.M. and January 24 at La Cabane en bois rond, 331 Boulevard de la Cité des jeunes, Hull. This may be your chance to express your opinion re the Champlain Bridge options in a public forum.

REGIONAL OFFICIAL PLAN:

Planning and Environment Committee has delayed consideration of the options of concentrating growth within the Greenbelt until Jan. 9. Attend if you are interested.

ISLAND PARK, KIRKWOOD AND CHURCHILL AREA TRANSPORTATION ASSESSMENT AND TRAFFIC CALMING STUDY:

The first public meeting will take place January 30, 1996 at the Multicultural Centre, 381 Richmond Road. There will be an Open House from 4:00-7:00 P.M. followed by a Presentation

from the consultants and public discussion beginning at 7:00 P.M. The consultants have gathered lots of information about the community and now its time to hear from you.

Traffic calming uses physical measures to change the look and feel of a street so that drivers will want to slow down. Some of the techniques used in traffic calming include, for example, raising the roadway at an intersection so that pedestrians stay at the same level and it's the cars that go up and down. Another technique is to provide alternate side parking on neighbourhood streets to break the long straight vista that is so inviting to the speeding driver.

The key to a successful Traffic Calming plan is the involvement of the people living and doing business on the street. The consultants will be asking for your opinion on what traffic issues are of concern to you and what should take priority in the traffic calming plan. The next step after this, will be neighbourhood workshops where you can actually take pen to map and design the streets!

This will be your first opportunity to participate in the development of a Traffic Calming plan for our area so plan to attend on January 30. If you can't attend and would like to make comments or participate in the street planning workshops, then contact either John Braaksma, J.P. Braaksma & Associates Ltd. (phone 723-1264/fax 723-2653) or Nancy Mitchell NJM Management Services Inc. (phone/fax:234-3413)

DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT TRANSITWAY STATIONS STUDY:

An open house/discussion session to review design concepts for the Tunney's Pasture and Baseline station areas will be held Thursday, Feb.1 at Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton Headquarters, 111 Lisgar Street. Open house from 7:00 to 8:00 P.M.; Presentation and Discussion from 8:00 to 9:30 P.M.

2020 ZONING BY-LAW REVIEW:

The draft of the new zoning by-law has now been released. An open house to discuss the draft will take place on Monday, Feb. 12 at the Hintonberg Community Centre from 6:30 to 9:00 P.M.