

CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER

May 1996

Vol 15 #10

The Remic A Hidden Gem by Mats Striegler



Graphic:
Don Monet

As the season of outdoor leisure approaches many of us are planning to travel great distances. Well, a little bit of solitude and nature is only a stone's throw away. The Remic and Champlain rapids may be the natural experience and getaway you are searching for.

I'm a flyfisherman and I've fished this stretch of river for almost a decade now. Over the past several seasons I've noted an increase in water quality thanks to recent government pollution controls and Quebec's sewage treatment initiatives. The wispy strands of algae have all but disappeared. The quiet backwaters and bays do not become as weed choked and brackish as they once were. There are healthier populations of several species of fish in this stretch of river including an exciting new resident, the ubiquitous brown trout.

At some point in the upcoming season don't zip by this hidden gem, stop and explore the area a little. If you happen to have a pair of hip or chest waders you can even escape completely the noise and disturbances of the 'urban environment.'

Once out in the rapids I've had the pleasure of seeing cormorants, blue herons, thousands of seagulls, hawks, various smaller birds and even the odd very large fish. I've enjoyed many a miraculous sunset before heading home. At dusk you can likely spot beaver, muskrat, raccoon, rabbit, fox, skunk, and for a real wilderness experience even stumble across a bear!

If you want to wade around in the river you should

learn some things about the topography. The bottom is rock for the most part with many clean and flat areas interspersed with more difficult and boulder strewn areas. The current flows vary from extremely strong and deep, to shallow and weak. A few inches of rain can change the whole picture. A nice feature is some raised rock faults that cross the rapids and can provide a safe retreat of calm shallow water that may lead you far out into the river.

I must caution all readers that although the Remic and the Champlain Rapids may appear friendly, there are many hidden dangers. A wading staff, good polarized sunglasses and foot and shin protection are a must. You will see several people wading in runners or even barefoot, **NOT ADVISABLE**. Some of the rock ledges are razor sharp, sharp enough to slice a 2 inch gash in a boot which I had to repair. There are also some deep holes close in to shore. Farther out in the river appears extremely shallow but if you wade into a hole you will certainly get wet and possibly take an unwelcome ride in the current.

Once the rapids come to an end at Parkdale Avenue there is an extremely steep drop off that runs the width of the river. Depths at this point exceed 35 feet and there are dangerous undertows that have claimed many an unsuspecting swimmer. Use extreme caution in the river.

This hidden gem of wilderness is not without its own vulnerability. There is increasing people pressure placed on this environment. On the weekends it can become crowded around the rapids with picnickers and mountain bikers (riding these contraptions through the river is not healthy for the ecosystem). As well, some unethical spin and bait fisherman are placing heavy pressure on the juvenile smallmouth bass, carting away shopping bags full of fish. They've even gone so far as to build stone weirs to trap fish. With the shrinking Ministry of Natural Resource presence we need to assist by reporting any poaching activities we see.

If anyone wants to know more about our community treasure they can contact me or come out to one of the flyfishing sessions at the fieldhouse. Believe it or not we find endless things to talk about, explore and generally have fun with on our Tuesday night sessions.



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, Kay Young,
Philip Cutfield, Patrick Mates, Jim Croft, Laura Robin, Becky Rynor, Jean
Weyill, Wendy Huculak, Heather Pearl, Monique Kerr, Carole Anne Copeland,
Linda Steele, Beth Buist, Nancy Leigh-Smith, Karen Maser, Marlene Kells.

Champlain Community Association Executive

President: Tim Frank 729-0882
Vice-president: Amy Kempster 722-6039
Secretary: Laura Muldoon
Treasurer: Kay Young 722-7955
Special Events: Laurie Fagan 728-1945
Membership: Jim Cocks 728-7881
Neighbourhood watch: Michael Cheng 722-3344

Aerobics Classes

There's still time to register for the spring session of beginner/intermediate low impact aerobics classes. Instructors are Patricia Cianci and Mickey Schenkel. Session runs Monday and Thursday evenings, 7-8 pm for 5 weeks, Apr 29 to May 30 at the Fieldhouse, corner of Cowley and Clearview.

Cost: \$30.

For information or to register, call Liz at 728-7160.
Last session before bathing suit season!



◆ ***** May 29 ***** ◆

Champlain Bridge Meeting
St Francis of Assisi Church,
St Francis Room

1062 Wellington Street

Open House: 5-7 p.m. ;

Presentation: 7:00 p.m.

7:30 P.M. Questions and Comments

Please attend! This meeting will decide the future of the Champlain Bridge and Island Park Drive!



Coming Soon Sign Campaign

Show that you support the campaign to protect our neighbourhood! The Communities Before Cars Coalition is organizing a sign campaign to show that neighbourhoods in West End Ottawa do not want a third lane on the bridge.

If you can give time to being on a sign crew for your area, or if you can help in any way please call us. To order your sign, call Amy Kempster at 722-6039 or Lynn Bankier at 729-0955. The price is \$5.00 donation to defray costs, (more if you can afford it).



RALLY

AGAINST A

THIRD LANE ON THE CHAMPLAIN BRIDGE!

Saturday, May 25th (Rain or Shine)

Entertainment starts at 1:30 p.m.

Rally starts at 2:00 p.m.

**East Side Parking Lot-
Champlain Bridge at Ottawa Parkway**

The National Capital Commission (NCC) is holding a public open house on May 29th where you can express your opinion on its recommendations for changing the Champlain Bridge. Let's get ready for it!!

The NCC's own engineering report states that traffic tie-ups and travel time will **NOT** decrease with a third lane - yet they still want to expand the Champlain Bridge. It will cost \$30 million more but won't solve the problem.

Worst of all, the NCC predicts that the third lane **WILL CAUSE** a lot more traffic on adjacent side streets. Community associations from Bronson to Britannia and Carling to the Ottawa River are united in their opposition to bringing more traffic into our neighbourhoods.

Walk, jog, run, ride. Bring your kids, bring your neighbours, bring yourself. Come and be heard. Sign the petition. Buy a sign for your lawn.

If you can't make the rally - or even if you can - tell your politicians what you think! Please call them and tell them our communities cannot afford a bigger bridge and more traffic.

NCC Chair - Marcel Beaudry (239-5039)

Regional Chair - Peter Clark (560-2068)

Mayor - Jacqueline Holzman (244-5380)

Regional Councillor - Linda Davis (560-1222)

Regional Councillor - Alex Cullen (560-1211)

City of Ottawa Councillor - Joan Wong (244-5363)

City of Ottawa Councillor - Ron Kolbus (244-5351)

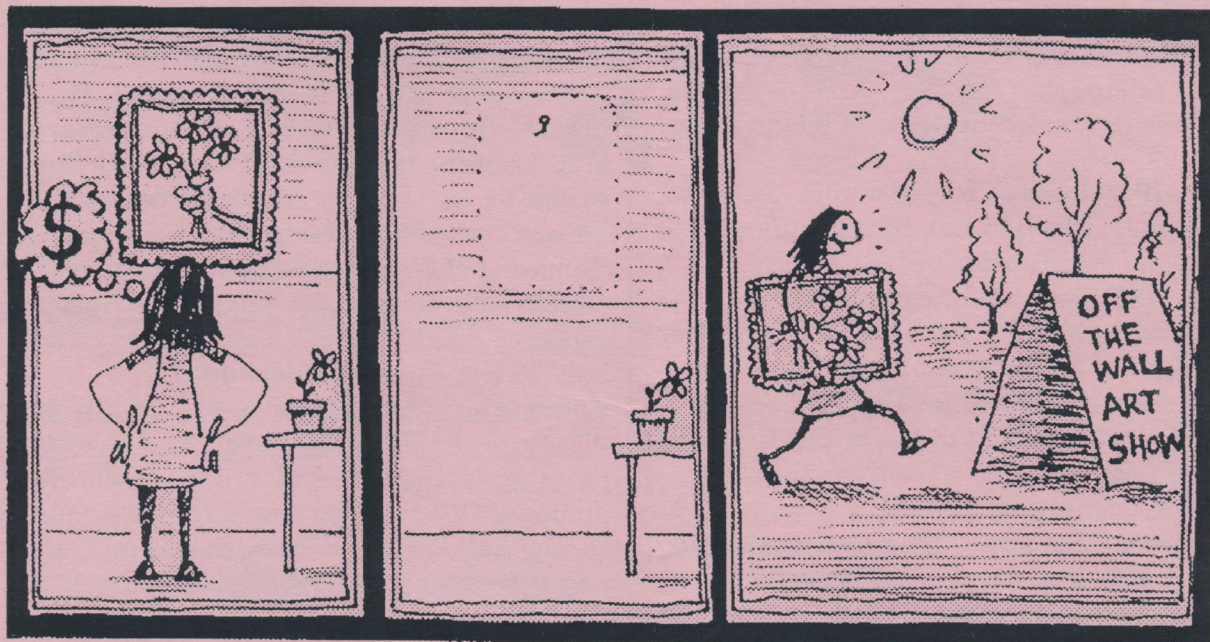
MP Ottawa West - Marlene Catterall (990-7720)

MP Ottawa Centre - Mac Harb (992-71910)

MPP Ottawa West - Bob Chiarelli (596-2016)

MPP Ottawa Centre - Richard Patten (722-6414)

OFF THE WALL USED ART SALE



Looking for a piece of ART,
but can't afford a Picasso
or even a frame for the reproduction?

Come to the **OFF THE WALL USED ART SALE.**

Saturday, May 11, from 10-3 at the
Champlain Park field house.

*If you have something to sell call Laurie at 728-1945

All you have to do is drop off your art and we'll try and sell it.

Framed prints, posters and original art
will be on sale at great prices.

AMY'S CORNER

by Amy Kempster 722-6039

Champlain Bridge Rally May 25

What are the issues? The alternatives placed before the Public Advisory Committee on Wednesday evening, May 1 follow:

- 2-lane bridge with no modifications of Island Park Drive (IPD);
- 2-lane bridge-IPD closed to bridge traffic (access to and from Parkway with right hand turns only);
- 3-lane bridge, no modification of IPD;
- 3-lane bridge, IPD closed to bridge traffic;
- 3-lane bridge with ramp for left turn off the bridge.

As well several other 3-lane alternatives were presented including a proposal for High Occupancy Vehicles (HOV) only on IPD from the bridge to Scott.

The Communities before Cars Coalition (of which Champlain Park Community Association is a member) opposes a third lane. The consultant's study indicates that it will not solve traffic congestion problems without extensive High Occupancy Vehicles networks on both sides of the Bridge. While it would like to see a decrease in traffic on Island Park Drive the Coalition does not support measures which could have very negative effects on other communities.

The Coalition pointed out as did myself on behalf of the Federation of Citizens'

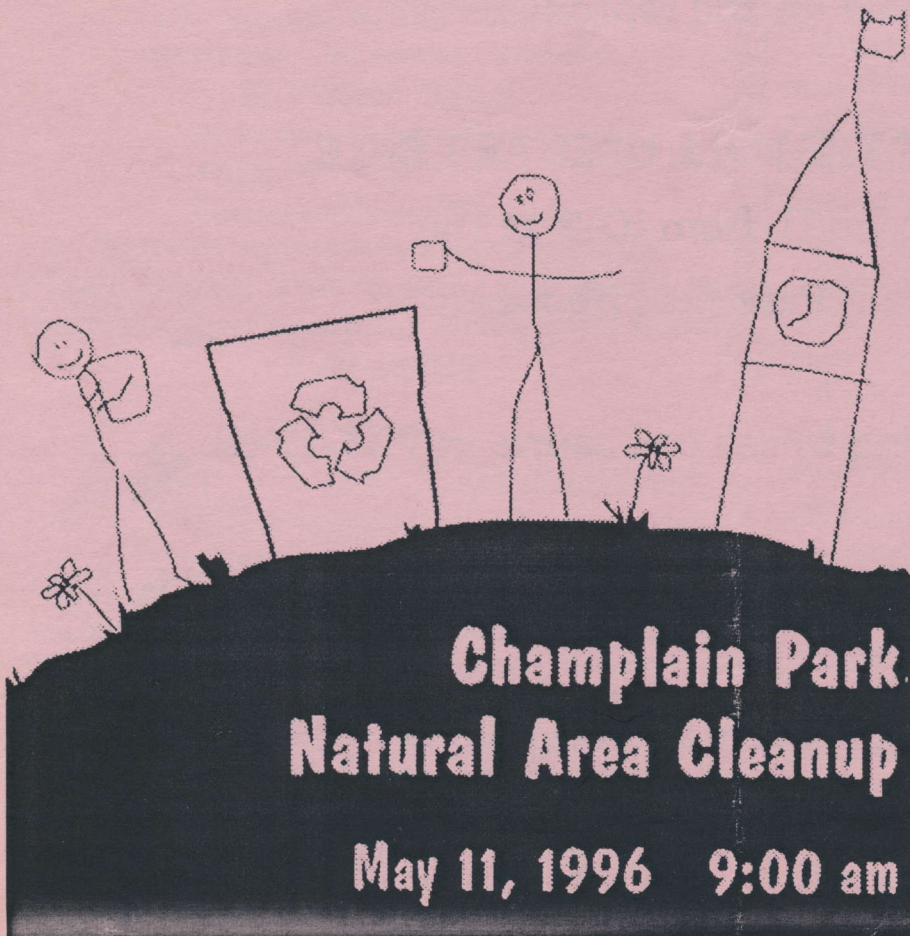
Associations that the option of a rebuilt 2-lane bridge combined with increased person capacity through public transit was not analyzed. The Coalition has not had time to study the proposal for HOV on IPD or of new connections from the Parkway to Scott/Richmond at Tunney's, Slidell/Bayview, Preston or near the Maplelawn Café.

I now urge you to become involved! The Communities before Cars Coalition is having a rally May 25 in the East side Parking lot at Champlain Bridge at 1:30 P.M. to protest against a third lane. We are also asking you to put up a sign on your lawn. (Donation of \$5 appreciated to defray costs). (See notices elsewhere in the Champlain Speaker for more details.) Finally we ask that you keep the evening of May 29 free for the public meeting

Federation of Citizens' Associations news (Champlain Park Community Association is a member):

The FCA has written to the city re the proposed Official Plan and Zoning Amendment re the Heron/Walkley corridor which was part of the secret negotiations last summer between the NCC and the City. The city promised fast action on rezoning this parcel in a high density area in return for preserving the northern portion. We do not believe that zoning should be for sale.

New Zoning By-law: The city may provide more information to help understand the changes in the by-laws. If you are interested in more information call.



**Champlain Park
Natural Area Cleanup**
May 11, 1996 9:00 am

As part of the neighbourhood's natural area rehabilitation effort - and in conjunction with the City of Ottawa's "Spring Cleaning the Capital Campaign 1996" - you are invited to help your neighbours clean trash and recyclables out of the woods and off the beach to the north of Champlain Park.

Please meet by the Field House (in the park between Cowley & Carleton streets) to receive clean up equipment and instructions and don't forget to wear appropriate working clothing and sturdy footwear.

This cleanup effort is supported by the RMOC, NCC, City of Ottawa, Canada Trust Friends of the Environment and the Ottawa Field Naturalists Club. For question please contact

**Charles Hodgson 728-2016
or Jim Cocks 728-7881**

MAY/96

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

			1 Nature Walk 9:30 A.M.	2 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Aerobics Class 7-8 p.m.	3	4
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5	6 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Social Group meeting at Fieldhouse 2 to 4 pm Aerobics Class 7-8 p.m.	7 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. <i>Fly Fishing</i> 7:00 p.m.	8 Nature Walk 9:30 A.M.	9 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Aerobics Class 7-8 p.m.	10	11 Champlain Park Natural Area Cleanup 9:00 a.m. Used Art Sale 10:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.
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12	13 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Social Group meeting at Fieldhouse 2 to 4 pm Aerobics Class 7-8 p.m. Fly Tying 9:00 p.m.	14 BLUE BOX & YARD WASTE Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Garden Club Meeting 7pm	15 Nature Walk 9:30 A.M.	16 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Aerobics Class 7-8 p.m.	17	18
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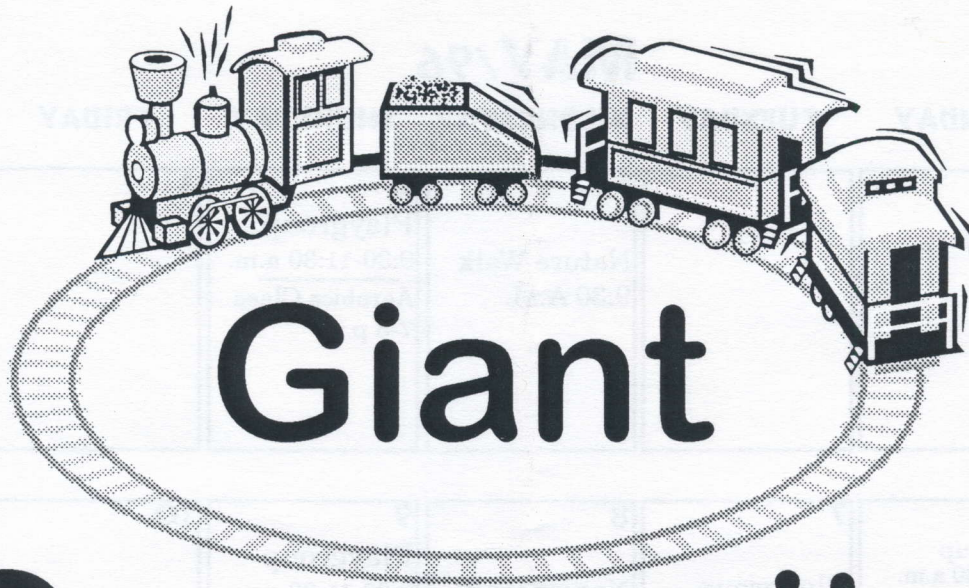
19	20 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Social Group meeting at Fieldhouse 2 to 4 pm	21 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. <i>Fly Fishing</i> 7:00 p.m.	22 Nature Walk 9:30 A.M.	23 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Aerobics Class 7-8 p.m.	24	25 Rally Against Third Lane on Champlain Bridge 1:30 p.m.
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JUNE

26	27 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Social Group meeting at Fieldhouse 2 to 4 pm Aerobics Class 7-8 p.m. Fly Tying 9:00 p.m.	28 BLUE BOX & YARD WASTE Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m.	29 Nature Walk 9:30 A.M. *Champlain Bridge meeting at St Francis of Assisi Church* Open House 5-7 Presentaion 7:00	30 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Aerobics Class 7-8 p.m.	31	1 Yard/Garage Sale Champlain Park and West Wellington Community
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***Playgroup will run every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30a.m.
 ***Aerobics Classes Monday and Thursday evenings, 7-8 p.m. for 5 weeks, April 29 to May 30, 1996.

TO ADD ITEMS NEXT MONTH - CALL 729-5439



Giant Community

GARAGE SALE

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1996

Do you need space in your garage or basement? Wonder what to do with those outgrown or still-useful-but-no-longer-used items?

The Champlain Park Community Association is having a giant garage sale. This great community event will be advertised with posters and signs. All you have to do to join is put up a table on your driveway or a blanket on your lawn on the morning of Saturday, June 1st. Haul out the stuff you never need or use anymore, make a thermos of coffee and sit back and wait for customers.

The West Wellington Community Association (bound by Scott, Island Park, and the Queensway and Holland) is having its community sale the same day. We expect that many sales in this area will generate lots of interest. Take advantage and join your neighbours in Champlain Park and West Wellington to make this year's sale the biggest and best one yet!

We ask that 10% of the proceeds be donated to the Champlain Park Community Association to cover our cost and help with good works.

If the weather doesn't cooperate the rain date is Saturday, June 8.
Questions or volunteers call Kay Young at 722-7955