

CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER

June 1996

Vol 15 #11

SIGHTS, SOUNDS AND SMELLS OF EARLY SUMMER by Albert Tunis

Water Music or Sewer Symphony? Our neighbours on Carleton Street are getting the full treatment. Heavy equipment, ear-splitting sounds, earth-covered walkways - the price of progress(?). The truck traffic spills over on the adjacent streets, piercing the calm and forcing conversationalists to pause in their brilliant oral treatises until the silence has returned. Will it all be worth it? Will they have spanking new sidewalks and pavement before the end of summer? Will Cowley Street be next? Perhaps the next edition of the Champlain Speaker will publish an "indepth" muck-raking story about all the muck-raking on Carleton. Such investigative reporting might stimulate Conrad Black to make an offer to the Speaker to become part of Hollinger!

Garage Sales and Sinful Cookies. He woke up at his usual early hour one fine Saturday, to find the street bustling with activity. It was June 1, kick-off date for the Garage Sale enthusiasts. Several families in his neighbourhood had obviously put in a great deal of thought and effort in their participation, and before they could get the folding legs of their tables straight, and their doo-daws and trinkets on display, small cars and pickups were lining the street - the "professional" contingent, with a sixth sense for the possible bargain, were here early to snap up anything of value. He was proud of the versatile exhibits and selection of one or two of the "flea markets", sponsored by his neighbours. At one such display, his attention was drawn to a jar filled with the most appetizing-looking cookies. He inquired of the hostess whether she might place a nutritional label on the jar for his benefit - to his disappointment, he was gently told that it would do him no good - the cookies were sinfully rich and definitely not on his diet!

Appetizing Afternoons. Speaking of diets, he finds it difficult to deal with one aspect of early summer, as he pursues his peripatetic way

through the neighbourhood in the late afternoon. This is the time when the atmosphere becomes pleasantly polluted by the odour of back-yard barbecues, wafting on to the streets. Judging from the stomach-pleasing smells that emanate, Champlain Park might well take pride in the culinary imagination and skills of its citizens which these smells must represent. His innate tolerance and acceptance permit him to extend a silent "bon appetit" to the unseen participants of the festivities.

Hard to Come By, Easy to Go. To add insult to injury, early summer is also a time for personal bankruptcy, thanks to Revenue Canada and the local Municipality, where the kings and queens in their computerized counting-houses keep tabs on all of us. Income tax, he thinks, should be renamed Outgo Tax, for now, to the average citizen, it's a question of giving back more than has been received. Early summer is the season of renewal and growth for all things but bank accounts, if you except those of corporate executives and government mandarins. But he hesitates to belabour the subject. We must all deal quietly and stoically with this financial reality, which is as inevitable as the wearisome weather of Spring.

Is There Anyone Finah? Thank goodness for Dinah, his (neighbour's) dog (see Champlain Speaker, January 1996). She doesn't rumble down the street, keeping us awake; she doesn't hold barbecues or garage sales; she doesn't expect any payment, like tax-collectors. But the queen of collies does spend more time on her front-porch throne, greeting her faithful subjects, young and old. She is holding open court for the season and her regal presence is appreciated. But to prove that at heart she's still a dog, her undivided attention occasionally gets diverted from humans to passing cats or dogs, even though she's anything but aggressive toward them. Peace!!



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Special Events:	Laurie Fagan	728-1945
Membership:	Jim Cocks	728-7881
Neighbourhood watch:	Michael Cheng	722-3344

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Welcome and thanks to Christine Uriarte, 761-9150, who has volunteered to serve as Block Captain for Block DH. We are now full staffed.

Please note that NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH does not endorse any particular vendor for security equipment. You should carefully assess your needs and budget before deciding to buy. Some vendors will give you free equipment but you will have to pay a monthly charge for a contracted period. Read your contract carefully, think about your budget commitment before you sign the contract. (Thank you neighbour Taillefer for alerting us of this event).

(1) Hawkers for charity may arouse your sympathy and support but be aware that there are fraudulent operators. Genuine charity volunteers will show you their organization logo, personal identification themselves, and give you a signed receipt for your contribution for tax purposes. Call your block captain A.S.A.P. if these requirements are not met by anyone seeking donations.

(2) This is the bicycle theft season, take special precautions, emboss your car license or SIN number on a hard point on the frame. If a new bike appears on your driveway call your block captain.

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators

Michael Cheng 722-3344
Nick Montaro 728-7545

CLEANING UP OUR ACT

by Steve Cumbaa

Archaeologists say, "Show me your garbage, and I'll tell you who you are." Well, after the wet, but enthusiastic Natural Area Clean-up on May 11, some of us know a lot more than we care to about the people who live in and pass through this neighborhood - at least the ones who litter!

Our education in "garbology" started at the fieldhouse, where Jim Cocks and Charles Hodgson rallied the troops and fortified us with doughnuts. Then, armed with garbage bags provided by the City of Ottawa, rubber gloves, and containers for disposal of sharp or otherwise hazardous materials, we picked our zones and set off into the woods. Unfortunately, it didn't take long to start filling up the bags. We began to notice patterns. Next to empty potato chip bags, probably the most common "artifacts" were from gardening - the little plastic "Grown in Canada" tags, styrofoam flats, and little plastic starter pots. Ironic that someone would spend time and effort to beautify a yard, then dump the debris across the fence, spoiling the beauty of the woods along Pontiac! We also found plastic bags full of leaves and grass clippings dumped in the woods - very perplexing since the city picks up yard debris placed in containers or paper bags at curbside every "Blue Box" day!

Among the more unusual items: a cat's leather collar, complete with tag, an empty container of birth control pills, a "No Dumping" sign, half a manhole cover, the frame for a hockey net, and in the woods near the school, a small aerosol can labelled "Fart Spray". In the "wish we hadn't found it" category: several syringes, a small cache of identification, credit and health cards that were probably stolen, and evidence that people, as well as dogs, relieve themselves in the woods. We left an old engine block still largely buried in the woods, took all the recyclables home to our blue boxes, and lugged the rest, bags and bags of it, to the gates along the fence, where Phillippe Lauzon had arranged for the NCC to come pick it all up. All in all, it was a very satisfying day for the dozen intrepid volunteers, as the visual improvement was immediate.

In assessing patterns, we know we have some trouble spots in the neighborhood. The syringes and cards were in the woods between Northwestern and Carleton. Gardening debris and occasional dumps of household garbage were concentrated near the fence, from the area between Northwestern and Carleton to the gate near the school, just west of Keyworth. Cups, bags, and general litter from lunches decorated the curve on Pontiac near the school. On a brighter note, a lot of what we picked up was several years old, so maybe it will be easier to keep our natural areas clean now that most people have a little more environmental consciousness.

Charles Hodgson has been spearheading the Natural Area Clean-up project, which will now focus on the waterfront of our community. Charles has been very successful in getting funding to support this work, with contributions so far from Canada Trust and the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton. Other sponsors may be announced soon, and we'll read and hear more about this worthy project as the summer progresses. Look for a small work crew, under the general supervision of botanist and environmental consultant Dan Brunton, to begin the beach clean-up in early July.

CHAMPLAIN PARK - THE PLACE TO LIVE

by Jim Hay

Our family has lived in this neighbourhood since 1990. After scouring Ottawa for a neighbourhood that suited our income, our future plans for children, and our notion of what a "neighbourhood" should be, we settled on Champlain Park.

For us the area is ideal: it is reasonably close to downtown, with direct access to the bikepath and close to a major identifiable feature of the landscape that neither developers or government could singly or together demolish or ruin. I'm talking of the river, of course. We really like the fact that there are only four entrances to the neighbourhood; the streets are devoid of heavy traffic, consequent noise, and danger to children. Shopping is close by, as are good schools, a nice little park with a wading pool and community building, churches, a mosque, Canadian Tire, some great restaurants, Trailhead, blah blah blah. All of this one could see by looking.

What we found out by living here—what one could only discover by living here— was that there is such a sense of community in this community. Our neighbours are quite neighbourly! They help each other out, they help us out, and we in turn are happy to help them out. There are artists, horticulturists, lawyers, journalists, computer experts, gardeners, landscapers, musicians, bike mechanics, and home maintenance experts, as well as many highly experienced parents and grandparents living on all sides of us. The sense of community is strong and seems to grow stronger as the years pass.

Unfortunately, the recurrent desire on the part of the NCC to not only repair the Champlain Bridge but to widen it to three lanes threatens the character and tranquility of our community. The expressed desire of the NCC is to accommodate the motorists of Aylmer who commute to Ottawa. Years of traffic studies have reaffirmed the futility of adding a third lane to the bridge, because all of the north-south streets from Parkdale west to Britannia are already carrying their maximum capacity in cars per hour. In short, automobile traffic

cannot be speeded, nor consequent waiting time in traffic jams lessened, by adding a third lane to the bridge.

Our delightful little neighbourhood is sitting in the path of the NCC, the present head of which, Marcel Masse, represents Aylmer in Parliament. With thinking from the 1960's, the NCC is again trying to bulldoze their way through our neighbourhood, imagining that widening the roads will solve the problem of lack of land use planning for public transportation in West Quebec. Approximately 5% of people in West Quebec who commute to downtown Ottawa do so on public transportation. On the Ontario side, the figure is close to 50%. If people want to live in Aylmer and work in Kanata or Ottawa that is just fine with me, and the opposite is fine with me too. The problem is not with people getting to work, but with people trying to do so in cars.

Let the people come, but let them leave their cars at home. I get to work by bus in the winter and by bike the other months, and we moved so that we could minimize time spent getting to and from work. Let others do the same. If the NCC wants to be a good influence on the region and on national unity, they should lobby to plan land use on both sides of the river to improve mass transit. A light rail transit system with appropriate bus feeder lines could deliver commuters from Shawville and Gatineau to Lebreton flats where they could connect to OC Transpo. The NCC will have to begin to think in modern terms of mass transit, in terms of moving people, and not in terms of moving cars. We are not going to let them destroy our neighbourhoods by bulldozing homes to widen roads for more cars.

If you appreciate this neighbourhood as I do, you will understand why there are so many signs on lawns that say "**NO THIRD LANE**". I hope you will respond to the threat to the community by writing to the NCC before 14 June 1996 to express your disagreement with the idea of widening the bridge to encourage more car traffic. Please send your comments to the following address:

Marie Carter
McCormick Rankin
1145 Hunt Club Road, Suite 300
Ottawa, Ontario K1V 0Y3

AMY'S CORNER

by Amy Kempster 722-6039

Champlain Bridge Environmental Assessment:

As those who attended the June 29 meeting are aware, the consultants report seems at first glance in favour of a two-lane bridge due to the fact that Island Park Drive is already congested and that neighbourhoods near the Champlain Bridge cannot absorb additional traffic.

However they also suggest that the NCC consider building a three-lane bridge to take account of possible future changes. We don't want the possibility of a third lane hanging over the future of our communities - **TELL THE NCC NO THIRD LANE ON THE**

CHAMPLAIN BRIDGE. Call Mac Harb (992-7191) and tell him the same. Enclosed with the Champlain Speaker is a copy of the Comments sheet given out at the meeting. If you did not yet fill one out use this sheet and either return it to Amy Kempster at 118 Clearview Ave. by June 12 or if you prefer send it by June 14, 1996 to McCormick Rankin, Suite 300, 1145 Hunt Club Road, Ottawa, Ont. K1V 0Y3 (fax 736-8710).

Workshop on Greenways and Open Spaces in Our Neighbourhood, June 12:

The City will be conducting a workshop on Greenways and Open Spaces in our area and the nearby west end on June 12 between 6:30 and 9:30 P.M. Children 12 and over as well as adults are welcome to attend. The reason for the workshops is to better understand **what open spaces people value, why and what their visions are for the future of these spaces.** If you value the NCC lands along the river and near our community, the Scott Street green strip along the Transitway, the Byron strip, the Hydro corridor west of Island Park Towers and Hampton Park please come out to this workshop. The city would like to know how many to expect so please telephone Anna Hercz (244-5300, ext. 3824) if you plan to attend or for more information.

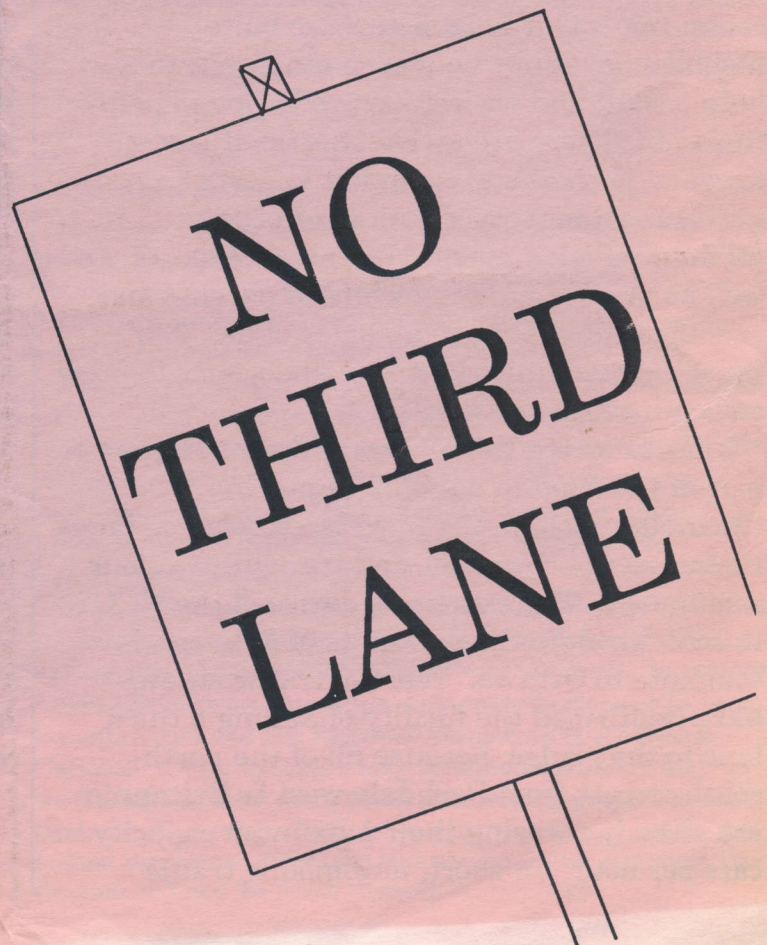
Traffic Calming: Plan to attend the meeting on the draft Traffic Calming Plan on **June 18**

(Open House 7:30P.M.; Presentation and Discussion 8:00P.M.) at the Multicultural Centre, 381 Richmond Rd.

Check Newswest for details on the plan. This plan is important for the quality of life in our neighbourhood.

Regional Official Plan Review: An open house will be held on June 20 at RMOC (watch Sunday paper advertisements for time) to explain and discuss the Regional Development Strategy. This is the plan which suggests which areas of the region should develop and thus largely determines which roads should be widened or built, transit plans, etc.. Come out and get informed as to the proposals.

New Zoning By-law: If you are interested in a meeting to explain the new zoning by-law and to determine what our response should be call Tim Frank or myself and we will try to arrange one. Doubles will now be allowed on 50 foot lots as will also street oriented group buildings on Cowley, Carleton and Northwestern. Currently group buildings are not allowed nor are doubles on 50 foot lots in that area. There is still quite a bit of time on this one but if you have concerns please let Tim or me know.



JUNE/96

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

2	3 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m.	4 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. <i>Fly Fishing</i> 7:00 p.m.	5 Nature Walk 9:30 A.M.	6 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m.		8
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9	10 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Fly Tying 9:00 p.m.	11 BLUE BOX & YARD WASTE Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Garden Club Meeting 7pm	12 Nature Walk 9:30 A.M. Greenways Open Spaces Workshop 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.	13 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m.	14	15
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16	17 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m.	18 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. <i>Fly Fishing</i> 7:00 p.m. Traffic Calming Multicultural Centre 7:30 p.m.	19 Nature Walk 9:30 A.M.	20 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m.	21	22 Gould Street Party 4 p.m. to 11 p.m.
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23	24 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Fly Tying 9:00 p.m.	25 BLUE BOX & YARD WASTE Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m.	26 Nature Walk 9:30 A.M.	27 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m.	28	29
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JULY

30	1	2 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. <i>Fly Fishing</i> 7:00 p.m.	3 Nature Walk 9:30 A.M.	4 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m.	5	6
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***Playgroup will run every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

TO ADD ITEMS NEXT MONTH - CALL 729-5439

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ladies Bowling League In Urgent Need Of New Members

We meet at 9:15 on Wednesday mornings starting in September at the Queensway Bowling Lanes at Hampton Park Plaza, Kirkwood at Carling. All ages welcome, from young mothers to seniors. Free babysitting is provided. Please join us for a morning of fun and exercise. At the present time three members of our league are Champlain Park residents. We would like to have lots more. For further information please call Ann Roberts at 728-9055



Looking for a house to Rent

We are a Champlain Park couple who are renting but must move because the owner is returning from abroad. We would like to stay in the area and are looking for a nice 2 bedroom house for July 1st in the \$900.00 range. If you know of anything, please call Katie or Gilles Cholette at 724-4898. Thank You!



Lost

Skyblue flowered jacket lost possibly at field house Call Amy 722-6039



Loving caregiver needed 5 days a week, for 10 month old boy starting just after labor day. Call 728-1945 References required.

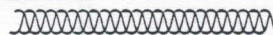


As team Captain for the Champlain Park Area Cancer Society this year I would like to extend a special thank you to all of the wonderful people who helped with the door to door campaign. One day with your help we'll beat cancer. Barb Robertson.

Local Teens Interested in Work:

Tom Arnason	729-6639	Yard Chores
Eric Stafford	729-0463	Yard Chores
Rachelle	722-6303	Babysitting
Jessica	728-8413	Babysitting
Sarah	722-2687	Babysitting
Paul Ratsch	728-2583	Yard Chores
Rory Taylor	798-0036	Yard Chores

Greenways and Open Spaces Workshop, including N.C.C. Lands, Wednesday, June 12, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Fieldhouse.



Traffic Calming Tuesday June 18 at 7:30 at the Multicultural Centre, 381 Richmond Rd.



Neighbourhood Street Party

Circle the date on your calendar...

When: Saturday, June 22 from
4 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Where: Gould Street, between Carleton
and Rockhurst

Please bring something to barbecue, beverages, plus either a salad or dessert to share.

Once again, we are arranging to have sound equipment. If you would like to perform - or you know someone who would - please contact Hazel (729-8669) or Cathy (728-6193). We welcome singers, dancers and musicians of all kinds.

We also welcome help with face-painting and children's games.