

CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER

December 1996

Vol 16 #5

'THAR SHE BLOWS - OFF CHAMPLAIN PARK!' by Steve Cumbaa

Winter is slowly moving in to settle among us (or upon us, some would say) for the season. We know the signs as well as the timing: glorious but cooling October followed by a bare and brown November, hard-edged by frost and sprinkled with flurries; December rolling in faster than you can say Christmas; and our neighborhoods frozen over and brightened by snow until winter starts to lose its grip in March, or maybe April... If you count yourself with those who groan with resignation when Jack Frost kick-starts the furnace, cheer up, put on a sweater, and settle back in your chair with a nice hot cup of tea - have I got a whale of an Arctic tale to tell you!

At the end of the last Ice Age, about 12,000 years ago, the glaciers melted relatively quickly. The crushing weight of ice, that had blanketed northern North America a kilometer or more thick for tens of thousands of years, released its hold on the land leaving it bare and sunken. The land had not yet rebounded to its former (and present) height above sea level. Water from the Atlantic Ocean followed the retreating ice up the St. Lawrence Lowlands, filling the trough that extended well up the Ottawa Valley. This long tongue of the ocean was a major feature of the landscape of eastern North America. It covered our valley and parts of Quebec, New York and Vermont for 2,000 years or more and has become known as the Champlain Sea.

Cold arctic waters more than 100 meters deep would have covered our neighborhood during the maximum extent of the sea and lapped against the flanks of the Eardley Escarpment in the Gatineau Hills. Well, not just cold - frigid! Studies show that the water temperature probably ranged between -2 and +5 degrees Celsius in the *summer* - roughly equivalent to southern Labrador, some 8 degrees farther north in latitude than Ottawa. The icy wall of the retreating Laurentide ice sheet, diluting the sea with its glacial meltwater, would have been visible just a few kilometers to the

north.

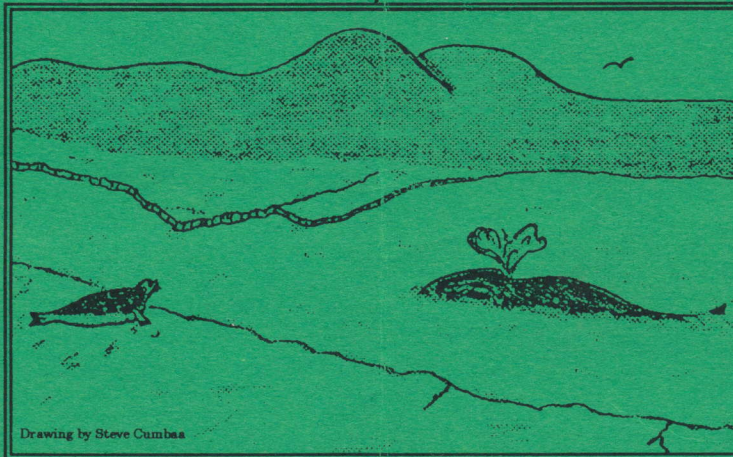
I will get to the part about whales! One of the reasons we know a great deal about the Champlain Sea is due to the wealth of well-preserved fossils found in the sand and clay deposits in our region. Although it took hundreds of years for the vegetation on the borders of the sea to recover from severe glacial abuse, the marine environment flourished. Marine mammals, birds, fish, and many invertebrates, such as starfish, barnacles, and clams, are among those species, known from fossils, to have lived around here in abundance. Marine mammal bones found include those of

bowhead, humpback, and finback whales as well as those of belugas and harbour porpoise. Imagine, a 60-foot arctic bowhead cruising along our ice-ringed shoreline! Ringed, harp, bearded and hooded seal fossils are also known, particularly from deposits in local sandpits.

The sandpit operations mine delta and beach sands from this ancient sea. Some of the sand brought in for the Carleton Avenue reconstruction this summer

contained small white Arctic clams characteristic of Champlain Sea deposits. Leda clay, the slippery, sticky blue-grey marine clay with a great affinity for footwear (and a disturbing propensity for landslides), is another source of information. Most Champlain Sea fish fossils, more than a dozen species to date, are found in nodules formed in this clay. The most common fish fossil found here is that of the capelin, widely known from the Maritimes today as a favorite food of cod. Now threatened with extinction, cod are also found in these ancient deposits!

An exhibit of fossils from the Champlain Sea, including complete skeletons of a ringed seal and a beluga from the Ottawa area, can be found at the Canadian Museum of Nature at Metcalfe and McLeod streets. Take a look at the bones of these Arctic creatures, found practically in our neighborhood, and imagine life in winter on the edge of a glacial sea 10,000 years ago. Shiver a little at the mental image you've conjured up and smile. Hey, it's not so bad now. By comparison, our winter's going to be a piece of cake!



Champlain Speaker Newsletter Staff		
Newsletter Editor:	Sue Robertson	724.5871
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 Wevill, Wendy Huculak, Heather Pearl, Monique Kerr, Carole Anne Copeland, Linda Steele, Beth Buist, Nancy Leigh-Smith, Karen Maser, Marlene Kells, Sandy Milne.	
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

Editors Notes

Well I survived my first edition and I'm still here. Thanks to everyone who volunteer their time to make the SPEAKER the success that it is. In this hurried holiday season there never seems to be enough hours in the day to accomplish everything that needs to be done. That is why all the contributions - whether it is an article, a drawing, a note of thanks or encouragement, or even taking the time to deliver the newsletter - big or small are so thoroughly appreciated. Without your input there would be no SPEAKER.

I think it is important to remember, despite the hustle and bustle, the true reason for the season. No matter which holiday you may be celebrating at this time, it truly is better to give than to receive. Please take the time to give something back this year - a donation of a toy, food, money, or even your time to a charity this December would go towards making the community a better place for all. Enjoy the season - and please - if you drink don't drive.

B E G T S E K A L F S K A T E S P
 B E L O W Z E R O T S W S I S K R
 R S O B A E H P D N I A R W N E E
 O H V O R E A R E H I C E A O S C
 O O E G M R I T I S S T B X W L I
 M C S G K F T B T A A W S H M E P
 B K I A T I E S N L O N K F O E I
 A E H N M R B D O N F O I R B T T
 L Y R T N U O C S S O R C A I I A
 L O L A I W O O D N E T O C L C T
 D A T Y N H T A H P O H L S E I I
 S E S H C R S J L O O W D A T C O
 W H I T E H A A E D A L B W S L N
 E L O T I C C S N O W B L O W E R
 L H N V K E A R M U F F S N A A S
 O I E E E E R T E T I B T S O R F
 W R T N L L I H C D N I W S L E D

winter, hat, cold, icicle, precipitation, ear muffs toboggan, blade, snow, mittens, snowboard, wax, rain, gloves, ski, white, ice, scarf, downhill, tree, sleet, wool, cross-country, warm, frost, flakes, skate, north, windchill, shovel, hockey, wood, freeze, snowblower, broomball, sled, below-zero, salt, fireplace, hibernate, sand, snowmobile, boots, snowbank, frostbite, parka, drift, shiver, jacket, plows, hotchocolate

KID'S CORNER



This picture was sent in by Charlie Clark, age 5, and he wants to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. Thank you Charlie.



ZONING PRESENTATION AT CITY HALL

Lynne Bankier 729-0955

On November 5 I presented a report to the Committee of Planning and Economic Development regarding the proposed zoning changes for our neighbourhood. I appreciated the attendance of some other neighbours (Elizabeth Mundell, Alice Sprott, Patrick Mates, Laura Champagne). Thanks also to the neighbours and executive members who signed the petition. Councillor Joan Wong wrote a letter of support and also attended the meeting. (which was chaired by Mayor Jacqueline Holzman).

The highlights of the report were explained in the last Champlain Speaker. Basically, the zoning change would allow semi-detached homes to be built on 50-foot wide lots (versus the current 60-foot requirement) on Northwestern, Carleton and Cowley. I presented statistics compiled by myself and my husband, Mike, from the Land Use Maps, which showed that 93% of the dwellings in this neighbourhood are single detached. Only 2% of the dwellings are currently semis built on 50-foot wide lots. The primary argument against the zoning change was that it would "change the character of the neighbourhood", which the city's zoning report says should be preserved under the new 2020 Zoning By-law. I asked for them either to zone the entire neighbourhood for single-detached only or to provide the existing exception, which would allow semis to be built only on 60-foot wide lots. (Existing non-conforming dwellings would be "grandfathered", as is always the case.)

If you wish to see the full report or sign the petition, give me a call.

Christmas Sleigh Ride!

Monday, December 23rd,

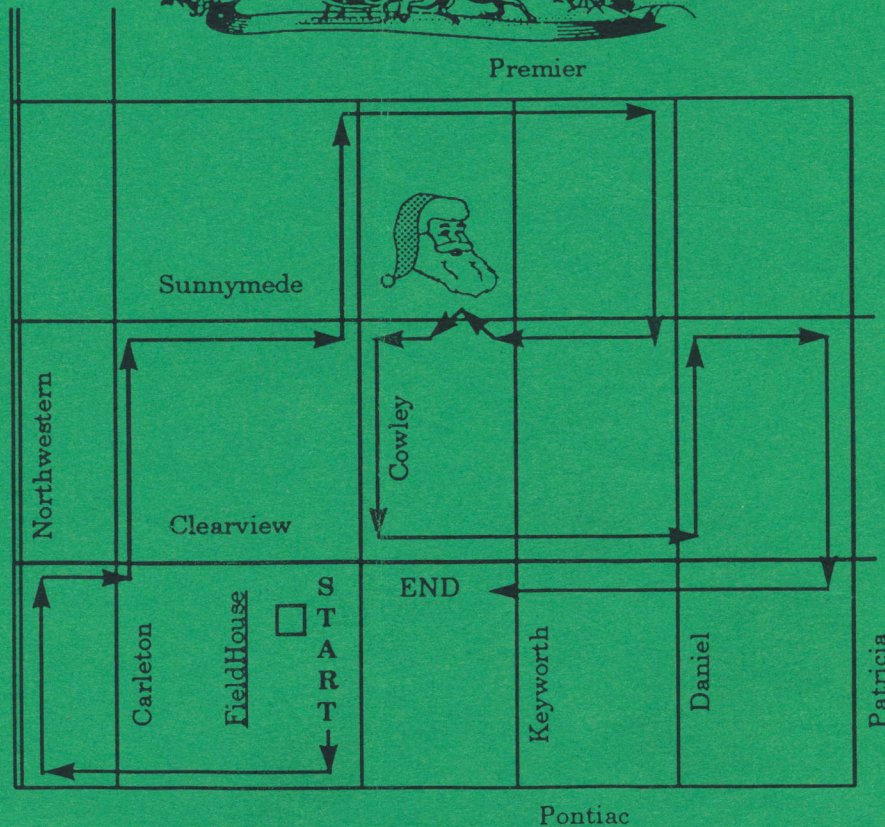
6:15 to 8:00 p.m.

Starts from the fieldhouse

Everything is set for the second community sleigh ride and carolling evening to celebrate the holiday season and Christmas! The sleigh ride will start weaving its way through the Champlain Park Community at about 6:15 with stops along the way to pick up people and to decide on the next carol! Hopefully we'll have a bigger sleigh this year which will hold more than 30 children. The map below shows the route that will be taken this year. Feel free to either come to the fieldhouse at the start or join in along the way. Song sheets will be provided. A special request has been made again this year asking Santa to join us, so there will be a special stop half way to try and find him, Ho, Ho, Ho! The sleigh and carolling will then continue through the community and back to the fieldhouse for some christmas cheer and hot chocolate around 8 o'clock. If you can volunteer to bring cookies or christmas goodies call Laurie Fagan at 728-1945.

So plan to join your neighbours for a festive couple of hours - or even just a song or two - of carolling and good cheer on the night before the night before Christmas!

DO NOT MISS THIS!



AMY'S CORNER

Amy Kempster 722-6039

Champlain Bridge: The Community Before Cars Coalition is pursuing its case against the Champlain Bridge Environmental Assessment process and fund raising for this is continuing. The case is unlikely to come to trial before February at the earliest. The lawyers are trying to combine two actions: first on the legality of the environmental assessment and last on the legality of NCC's decisions of Oct. 15, including the split decision (build three but possibly operate two) and the request that RMOC and the Communauté Urbaine de l'Outaouais to work out a solution instead of asking for a Public review Panel. Any suggestions for fund-raising ideas would be gratefully received, call 728-0427.

City Budget: Councillor Joan Wong will be holding a meeting Dec. 5 at 7:30 P. M., Dovercourt Community Centre. For your information a summary of the operating budget is given below:

<i>City Department</i>	<i>1997 Recommended (Net)</i>
Community Services	\$59,609,700
Engineering and Works	\$39,008,300
Planning, Econ. Dev. & Housing	\$ 9,484,900
Corporate Services	\$16,460,200
Chief Administrative Officer	\$ 635,200
Audit	\$ 623,200
Committee of Adjustment	\$ 234,500
Mayor's Office	\$ 445,500
Councillors' Offices	\$ 1,523,900
Non-Departmental	\$12,885,300
Debenture Debt	\$36,286,300
Ottawa Public Library	<u>\$12,020,600</u>
Total	\$189,217,600

The City Council will be hearing submissions on the budget on Dec. 12 and 13. Cuts include elimination of the noise control program, elimination of replacement and Do-it-Yourself Tree Planting, reduction of winter sidewalk clearing, reduce outdoor rink program by 30%, eliminate operation of Britannia and Westboro beaches, increase fees in Aquatics and Sports programs. It is interesting to note that no reductions in the Mayor's Office costs from 1996 are suggested although the Chief Administrative Officer's office charges are projected at less than 1996. The Council has suggested no tax increase at the expense of significant reduction in services and perhaps some opportunity to pay off more of the debt. Your opinions can be expressed to your Councillor on Dec. 5 or by telephone or to the Council itself on Dec. 12 and 13.



Life With Triplets

by Charles King & Joyce Mortimer

On October 1, 1996, 234 Cowley Avenue underwent a transformation, and life thereafter was never to be the same again. Added to our first-born (Smudge the cat) came Benjamin, 4lbs 9oz, Karyn, 2lbs 12 oz, and Stephanie, 4lbs 1oz.

Triplets in Champlain Park!

Ben and Stephanie came home first, at 2 1/2 weeks, and Karyn followed 3 weeks later. Thus began our lives as the parents of triplets.

And what exactly does life with triplets entail? Well, in the past month we have:

- changed 700 diapers
- served up 600 meals (for the babies, not us, we eat about once a week)
- elicited 3000 burps (still polite at this age!)
- slept about 3 hours a day (day, not night. Our little ones happen to enjoy Jay Leno and the late late show)
- had one busy crib (they share it right now!)
- boiled 300 bottles
- made 36,000 ml. of baby formula
- nursed 300 times, for a total of 200 hours (yes, I am also nursing; no, I don't have 3 breasts)
- received triple the smiles, and triple the bright eyes
- enjoyed every second of being the parents of triplets (yes, they're all ours, and yes, we're also glad they're ours and not yours!)

Triplets are rewarding, but also a lot of work. We are currently considering having a few part-time volunteer mother's helpers to help feed, burp or cuddle a baby during feeding times. If you have experience with babies, or perhaps you are a teen who has taken a baby-sitting course and would like to gain some experience to add to your resumé, drop us a line at 725-2952, ask for Joyce, and we'll talk!

DECEMBER/96

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1	2 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Social Group meets at Fieldhouse 2 to 4 pm Aerobics Class 7-8 p.m.	3 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Tai Chi 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Fly Fishing 7:00 p.m.	4 Aerobics Class 7-8 p.m.	5 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Yoga 7:30-9:00 p.m.	6 BLUE BOX Hanukkah	7
---	--	---	---------------------------------	---	-------------------------------	---

→ CHAMPLAIN PARK ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DRIVE HAS BEEN EXTENDED. ←

8	9 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Social Group meets at Fieldhouse 2 to 4 pm Aerobics Class 7-8 p.m. Fly Tying 9:00 p.m.	10 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Garden Club Meeting 7pm	11 Aerobics Class 7-8 p.m. Northwestern United Church Blue Christmas Service at 7:30 p.m.	12 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m.	13 BLUE BOX	14 The annual neighbour holiday potluck supper at Northwestern United Church 5 p.m. Call Cathy at 728-6193 for information
---	--	--	--	------------------------------------	--------------------	---

15	16 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Social Group meets at Fieldhouse 2 to 4 pm Aerobics Class 7-8 p.m.	17 Playgroup Christmas Party 9:30-11:30 a.m. Fly Fishing 7:00 p.m.	18 Aerobics Class 7-8 p.m.	19 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m.	20 BLUE BOX	21
----	---	---	----------------------------------	------------------------------------	--------------------	----

22 Northwestern United Church Christmas Pageant at 10:30 a.m. Winter Solstice	23 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Social Group meets at Fieldhouse 2 to 4 pm Christmas Sleigh Ride 6:15 p.m. Fly Tying 9:00 p.m.	24 Northwestern United Church Christmas Eve Service at 7:30 p.m.	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE FROM THE STAFF OF THE SPEAKER	26 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Kwanzaa	27	28 BLUE BOX
---	---	---	---	---	----	--------------------

JANUARY/1997

29	30 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Social Group meets at Fieldhouse 2 to 4 pm	31 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Fly Fishing 7:00 p.m.	1 Happy New Year	2 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m.	3	4 BLUE BOX
----	---	--	--------------------------------	-----------------------------------	---	-------------------

***Playgroup will run every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30a.m.

TO ADD ITEMS NEXT
MONTH - CALL 728-5439

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Playgroup Newsletter

Wow! Christmas is nearly here! Playgroup party is Dec 17th. Santa will be coming. Arrive no later than 10:30 a.m. Welcome to Playgroup members only. Thank you to Barbara Minish for doing an excellent job on repairing our tables.



Local Teens Interested in Work:

Tom Arnason	729-6639	Snow Shoveling
Rachelle	722-6303	Babysitting
Jessica	728-8413	Babysitting
Sarah	722-2687	Babysitting
Paul Ratsch	728-2583	Snow Shoveling
Rory Taylor	798-0036	Snow Shoveling



NORTHWESTERN UNITED CHURCH

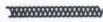
241 Northwestern Ave.,

Advent and Christmas Events

Wednesday, December 11 - Blue Christmas Service at 7:30 p.m.
This service acknowledges loss and pain experienced by many during this season of "good cheer".

Sunday, December 22 - Christmas Pageant at 10:30 a.m.
"What name will we give Mary's baby?"

Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Service at 7:30 p.m.
"Walking in the Light of God"



Part-time care giver required for 2 children:
6 months and 3 1/2 years. Call Kim at 798-8301.



WOMEN'S HOCKEY

The ice has been booked for the second season of woman's hockey in Champlain Park. All women are welcome to come out and play any Tuesday night (8 - 9 p.m.). No experience is needed. You must have a stick and skates and a helmet is recommended. For information call Kay Young at 722-7955.



Attention All Champlain Park Garden Club Members!

Our Wine and Cheese Party is all set for Tuesday December 10th. Linda Thorne of Thorne & Co. will be our guest speaker and will have lots of garden books and garden related items from her store for sale. Do your Christmas shopping and don't forget to get one of our special members photo calendar that will also be available to purchase.



Frank and Joan were the first to let us know the answer to Sue's Word Find: "A Really Great Place To Live."

ASK NOT WHAT YOUR COMMUNITY ASSOC. CAN DO FOR YOU...

The deadline for another issue looms (I missed the last one). It always underscores for me what a difficult job it is to write under a time constraint, to do it consistently, and to do it well. I'll be lucky just to beat the clock!

So, albeit a month late (see above) I would like to thank Don Monet for his stewardship of the Speaker during the past 2 plus years. When one considers the pay scale, the benefit package, and the other parts (none as far as I know), it is a wonder that Don accepted the challenge, let alone did it as well, or for as long as he did.

Thanks Don, and good luck in your studies.

To our new editor, Sue Robertson welcome, good luck, and thanks for volunteering.

While I'm at it, I should also thank Neil and Barb Robertson our long suffering publishers / distributors / and news hounds. (Barb always hounds me for any news.)

To all the carriers who volunteer their time to deliver the Speaker, thanks also. It wouldn't happen if you didn't.

The Speaker is a volunteer production on behalf of the Champlain Park Community as a vehicle to try to keep residents informed of important issues and events. This site is becoming increasingly important in the present fiscal climate.

In the face of increased cuts in public funding of various programs and facilities community groups will need to find ways to pick up the slack and do more for themselves.

This requires an increasingly active and participating community association plus good communication within the community.

We need more members. Please support our current membership drive. We need more volunteers.

Where we need help:

We need people to attend various briefings / meetings / hearings on behalf of Champlain Park. The current executive attend as many as we can but we still miss a lot. Many are held during normal City Hall working hours which poses a conflict for some of us.

If you can spare time to attend an occasional meeting etc., concerning any of the following areas of interest, please call me at 729-0882:

1. Transportation
 - OC Transpo?!
 - Champlain Bridge issues
 - Traffic Calming
2. Zoning / Development
3. Security / Policing
4. Finance / Budget

If we can develop a cadre, of a reasonable number of people, to attend some of these sessions it will spread the load thinly and evenly. Amy Kempster can not attend every meeting!

If you can help with special events such as the upcoming winter Carnival, Laurie Fagan would love to hear from you. The more people that we have to help, the more of these events we can stage. They do not happen on their own!

This year, rink funding has been cut 12% and may be cut next year by as much as 30% more. This will result in reduced hours of operation unless we can manage to put together a pool of volunteers to fill the gap.

If you and / or your children regularly or irregularly use the rink, can you help out?

Call Jim Cocks at 728-7881 or Tim Frank at 729-0882 if you can help even for an hour here and there.



Before Halloween becomes a distant blur, I want to give a warm thanks to all those who helped out organizing, and cleaning-up at the kids Halloween party. The event was a success because of great volunteers. The community spirit in Champlain Park is tremendous and I'd encourage more people to get involved. A special thank you to Anne Doswell for all her great help in passing over the party organizing.
Thanks again Laurie Fagan