

CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER

April 1997

Vol 16 #9

Some Sweet Some: Riverside Park, Nepean by Steve Cumbaa (Part 1 of 2)

Where do we live? Most would say in Ottawa, in a neighborhood named Champlain Park (a.k.a. "Ottawa West" on NCC and real estate maps). True enough now, but "Champlain Park" is a fairly recent moniker, and for the first half of this century, our neighborhood was officially part of Nepean.

Nepean Township, established in 1792, covered a large area, and gradually grew to contain several small settlements or villages, most of them without formal designation. Our part of the township was slow to be settled, but was boosted by a focus on development along Richmond Road from the 1830s on. In 1853, the "macadamization" of the road (a process of compacting the roadbed with gravel, sometimes using asphalt as a binder) was completed. By 1855, Bytown (also a part of Nepean) had become large enough to be incorporated as the City of Ottawa. It was selected as the capital of Canada two years later. Construction began on the Parliament and other federal buildings in 1859.

The Canada Central Railway Line opened in September, 1870, creating a route later 'appropriated' by OC Transpo's Transitway, and allowing commerce to flow westward from the new capital. Westboro gradually became a political and business hub, largely due to the influence of James Skead's lumber mill, located just north of the railroad on the shore of the Ottawa River at Kitchissippi Lookout, between Churchill and Westboro Beach. Lumber mills dominated the economy of Bytown and its neighboring villages. There was precious little in terms of housing or businesses between Skead's Mills (Westboro) and Mechanicsville, home to the workers of 4 timber mills near the Chaudiere Falls.

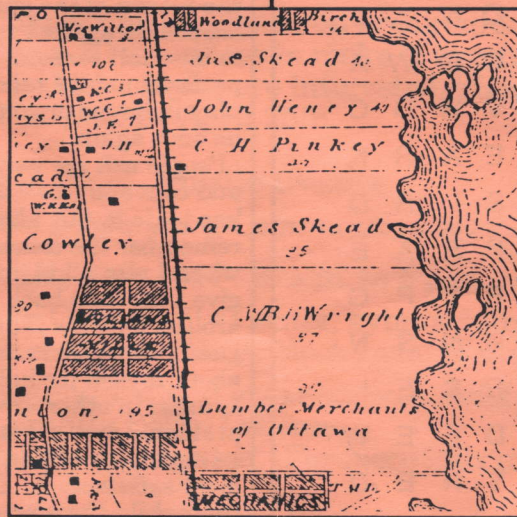
A map published in 1879 shows the large land holdings and dwellings of the day. James Skead, John Heney, C.H. Pinkey (probably 'Pinhey'), and C.B. Wright are shown as owners of the largely unimproved lots which ran between Scott Street and the river from the area of

Champlain High School east through Tunney's Pasture. To the south, property was held by Skead, Heney (who had farmed it since 1837), W.K. Hays, Daniel Keyworth Cowley, and a few others. Captain Cowley, who moved to the area from Bristol, Quebec, purchased his property in 1868 with proceeds from the sale of his fleet of Ottawa River steamers. It's not difficult to guess the source of at least 3 of our neighborhood's street names! Only one dwelling shows north of Scott Street on the 1879 map, roughly in the vicinity of Premier and Daniel. Cowley's own residence, which he called The Manor House, was a large stone home built by William Hamilton in 1852. It was located about halfway between Richmond Road and Scott Street, approximately in the vicinity of Rockhurst Rd. if my interpretation of the map is correct.

The first real settlement in our neighborhood

came about with the development of the Ottawa Electric Company's Britannia Line in 1900, running along the south side of Richmond Road. Electric streetcars moved people, and made commuting possible for the first time. Subdivisions then became viable, and Riverside Park was set up as a "cottager's subdivision" north of the railroad tracks in 1903. The prime mover was R.H. Cowley, son of Captain D.K. Cowley, and his associates. In 1906 there were 11 cottages and 4 houses in Riverside Park, and by 1911 there were 34 cottages and 18 houses, 9 of which were as yet unoccupied, built by builders on speculation. Most of the cottages, of course, were near the river.

On December 7, 1912, the Police Village of Ottawa West was created, encompassing our neighborhood, and was governed by a board of trustees reporting to the Nepean Township Council. Things were quiet (especially with a 9:00 p.m. curfew for all children!) and our little village was reportedly a great place even then for kids to grow up. At the end of Carleton Street (or where it once ended, at the Parkway overpass), The Sons of England had a clubhouse with Friday night dances. There were also tennis courts and a bath house. In these early years, Northwestern was more a track than a proper street, and was called Skead Road. Clearview was named Bristol, and our park, unnamed, featured a huge tobaggan slide. A volunteer fire hall was located at the corner of Premier and Carleton. (Part 2 continued next month)



Champlain Speaker Newsletter Staff

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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

Zoning Update by Lynne Bankier

On March 25, Amy and I attended the Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting at City Hall. The staff report recommended to retain the revised zoning designation to allow semi-detached homes to be built on 50-foot wide lots. I presented two additional arguments against this: parking concerns (there is less room to develop adequate parking on the narrower lots), and green space (less green space will remain on the narrower lots which may result in the loss of some of our large trees.) Amy discussed the issue of affordable housing (new development of semis proposed for this neighbourhood in the past has been costlier than existing homes.) The committee will meet again mid-April to vote. Councillor Wong has asked one of the Committee members to put forward a motion on behalf of our community, requesting that we retain the status quo (semis only on 60-foot wide lots.)

Sue's Word Find

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

Mourning Dove, Canada Geese, Woodpecker, Raven, Vesper, Sandpiper, Crow, Ring-billed, Waxwing, Warbler, Chickadee, Red-Winged, Blackbird, Owl, Saw-Whet, Gull, Cardinal, Catbird, Sparrow, Finch, Blue Jay, Pigeon, Killdeer, Robin, Black, Duck, Nest, Hairy

Answer to last month's puzzle was:

Time To Plan Your Garden

Letter to the Editor:

Thanks are long overdue to the many residents of Champlain Park Community who have devoted many hours to the good of the area.

So many of them have given of themselves to bring our community together and help create a place where one wants to live.

The Club House is always busy with a variety of activities for young and old alike, be it playschool for the wee ones, garden club, nature walks, caroling at Christmas, the skating rink, etc. etc. It takes people to make these things a success and they have. This helps keep our community healthy and happy. This brings me to our local newspaper "The Champlain Speaker" which keeps us abreast of important issues such as zoning changes, the 3rd lane, etc. and provides us with information to fight for the good of our neighbourhood via City Hall.

The many wonderful articles that have appeared in the last few years have taught me much about this area, they have been so interesting I find myself waiting and wondering what the next issue will bring.

To all those who have been, and are, involved I say a simple but meaningful

THANK YOU

P.S. My sincere gratitude for the article written about my late husband, Doug Sprott (we moved here in 1964).

Alice Sprott



As I watch the blanket of white slowly melt to a carpet of green, I cannot help but be amazed at the change of seasons. Yes, that glorious change that many of us await; the budding of the trees,

the return of the spring and summer birds, the crack of horsehide against maple or ash - the change from hockey to baseball season. Well I know they overlap in the professional leagues, but for the numerous youngsters who play in house or community leagues, ball season is upon us once again.

People ask me why I volunteer to coach a softball team and convene t-ball teams. I could say because somebody has to do it, but I have more reasons than that. I remember the coaches who gave up their time to coach me when I was a kid and figure that now it is time for me to give that time back to the community. I enjoy being around kids (as if driving a school bus wasn't enough.) I guess the main reason that I volunteer is that I feel good about myself for helping kids who may not have a chance to excel in other areas. It's coaching the kids with medical problems and/or learning disabilities who can be treated as equals, or better, on the playing field that gives me the most satisfaction. To have a parent thank you for giving their child the opportunity to rise above a label, a problem, that hinders him or her in the classroom really makes me feel great.

As the neighbourhood and community leagues prepare for the 1997 season, please take the time to help. It could be as a coach, assistant coach, co-coach, or convener. Or it could be as simple as playing catch with your child(ren), kicking a ball around with her or him, helping to keep order on the bench, or keeping statistics. Any time you can volunteer to help out will always be appreciated by the league organizers, but moreover, the time will probably be appreciated more by your child and the memories it will create for both of you.

Sue

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWS by Michael Cheng

Window Bars Sale and Installation.

Basement and street level windows and doors are frequent entry points by break-and-enter thieves. A window bar can discourage attempts to break-in.

The Canadian Tire store at 119 Richmond Road has kindly agreed to give discounts of up to 40% on window bars to residents of this community. Furthermore, if you do not want strangers to install the bars, Neil Robertson, our faithful Distribution Coordinator of the Champlain Speaker, has agreed to provide the installation service for a nominal fee.

If you want to buy the window bars, please visit the Canadian Tire booth at the Security Fair on April 19th (see announcement below), or phone Michael Cheng at 722-3344.

If you want installation of the bars by Neil Robertson, please call him at 729-5439.

Security Alerts Through the Telephone:

On March 20, Neighbourhood Watch issued an alert through the Police auto-dialer (the PC-COPS). If you did not receive this message, your correct phone number is probably not on our updated resident's list; if you want future alerts to be transmitted to you, please inform Michael Cheng (722-3344).

Block Captains' Meeting

Date: Thursday, 17 April 1997

Place: Field House, Clearview at Cowley

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Topics: discuss any concerns or suggestions anyone may bring

Other residents are welcome if you have any concern about neighbourhood security in our community.
Contact Michael Cheng (722-3344)

Your Comments Please

Would you like me to invite a police expert on break-and-enter or other security topics to speak to us? We need at least 30 attendees to make it worth the time of the police expert. This meeting can take place in May. If you are interested, please call Michael Cheng, 722-3344 or Nick Montero, 728-7545 by April 25th.

Public Events

The Community Police and the Hintonburg Community Center are having a Security Fair:

Date: Saturday, 19 April, 1997 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: Hintonburg Community Center, gymnasium.
1064 Wellington St. (Three blocks east of the Grace Hospital).

Features: Security equipment and organizations, information booths and meet your Community Police Officers.

Residents of our community are invited. For more information call Michael Cheng.

The Crime Prevention Council of Ottawa is conducting a conference with the theme:

Safer Communities: Making them work.

Date: Wednesday, 23 April, 1997, 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm.
Thursday, 24 April, 1997, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.

Place: Ottawa City Hall, 111 Sussex Drive.

Features: Information booths, facilitated workshops, meet crime prevention workers from all walks of life.

No registration fee. Parking at City Hall is free on the evening of Wednesday, 23 April. For more information, call 244-5645.

AMY'S CORNER

Amy Kempster 722-6039

Community before Cars: After hearing part of the testimony before the Federal Court on April 1 and 2, I am hopeful we will do well in our case. The lawyers for our side have made points about the jurisdiction of the NCC (that they have not followed the policies in their own Plan for Canada's Capital,) and have suggested there were two types of bias, the first arising from Mr. Beaudry's perceived conflict of interest, and the second from the predetermination of results arising from staff treatment of alternatives. They have drawn attention to various problems with the process including the lack of using weighting on the criteria although this had been promised; the environmental review statement that there were no cumulative effects although documentation suggested that without intersection modifications at Island Park Drive the three lane option would provide little or no help to the traffic problem, and that such modifications might be required in the future, and various problems with the public consultation process. It is unlikely we will find out the final judgement before May at the earliest. *Our lawyers have done a good job and deserve to get more pay. Please contribute to the cause by attending the party for Daniel Stringer on Sunday, April 6 between 2 and 4 at Dovercourt or dropping off a cheque made out to Community Before Cars Coalition at 118 Clearview.*

Traffic Calming Study: This study is now in its final stages. On **April 15 at 7:00 P.M.** at Fisher Park School, the traffic calming plan will be presented to the community. There are three alternatives which do not differ for our streets except for Island Park Drive (IPD). Alternative 1 has traffic calming measures on Island Park Drive and a modification of the intersection of Island Park Drive and Island Park Crescent to allow only right in and right out turns from the crescent to IPD. Alternative 2 has traffic metering which will reduce the traffic on IPD and a more ambitious modification of the intersection of Island Park Drive and the Merivale Road. Alternative 3 would allow only right in and right out access from the Ottawa River Parkway to IPD. The consultant is recommending Alternative 1 largely because the other alternatives would cause problems on other streets such as Parkdale and Woodroffe. The Steering Committee (Community Members only) is recommending a version of Alternative 2, which they have modified to try to reduce costs. Attend the meeting and give your opinions on the alternatives and the priorities for measures. *For your information the proposed measures for our area are shown below. Only the measures for Clearview, Northwestern, Carleton, Patricia and Sunnymede would be part of Phase 1. Implementation of the measures on Premier, Daniel, Keyworth and Cowley might depend on monitoring to see if they were experiencing increased speeds and volumes of traffic because of the measures elsewhere. Signal metering at Scott and Island Park Drive could increase cut-through traffic in our community significantly. Expressing your opinions on priorities and the alternatives by attending the meeting will make a difference, because if no one from this neighbourhood goes they might not give priority to measures for this neighbourhood which will be required particularly if signal metering is recommended.*

Regional Draft Official Plan: For an overall view of the draft Official Plan attend the information session on April 7 at RMOC (Ottawa-Carleton Centre) 111 Lisgar Street Rotunda from 4-7 p.m. with a presentation at 7 P.M. The Official Plan will determine the location for growth in the region and could affect all neighbourhoods.

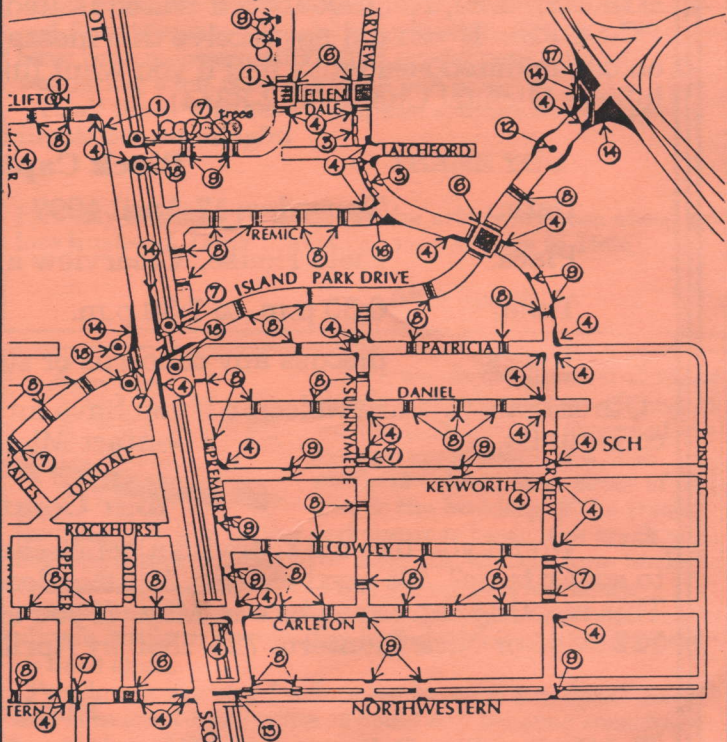
You could also attend a working session on April 26, 9 a.m. at RMOC to suggest possible changes and comments to the Region. For more information contact Amy Kempster.

One-Tier?: Hopefully the process recommended by the municipalities and the Region for solving this problem may have been accepted by the Minister by the time this is published. It will provide for public input so your opinion will matter.

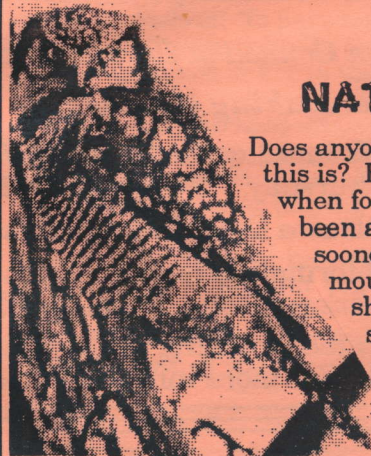
New Zoning By-Law: A further presentation on this was made by Lynne Bankier on Mar. 25. It may be some time before we know the result. Meantime, thank you Lynne!

NOSS study: A further workshop will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday Apr 23 at Lakeside Gardens, Britannia Park. This workshop will look at targets for open space retention, standards for guiding future land use decisions and sample plans to guide future management.

Variance for the Mosque: The Mosque has been granted its variance for one year.



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|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. New Sidewalk | 10. No Entry to Parkway Sign |
| 2. Landscaped Boulevard | 11. Lateral Roadway Shift |
| 3. Parking | 12. Mini Traffic Circle |
| 4. Intersection Narrowing | 13. Centre Boulevard |
| 5. Contra-flow Bike Lane | 14. Turning Channel Removed |
| 6. Raised Intersection | 15. Lane Removed |
| 7. Flat-Top Speed Hump | 16. Intersection Realignment |
| 8. Speed Hump | 17. Major Gateway |
| 9. Mid-Block Narrowing | 18. Minor Gateway |



NATURE CORNER

Does anyone know what type of owl this is? He visits us some winters when food is short up north. If I'd been able to get my camera ready sooner you would have seen a mouse at his feet. The picture shows him just after he swallowed it.

(Doesn't he look like the cat that got the mouse.)

Photo by
Barb Robertson

APRIL/97

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

		1 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. <i>Fly Fishing</i> 7:00 p.m. April Fool's Day	2 Aerobics Class 7-8 p.m. T'ai Chi 8:10-9:15 p.m.	3 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Children's Step Dancing 4 to 5:30 p.m.	4	5 Ching Ming Festival
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← April is Cancer Month →

6 Party for Daniel Stringer Dovercourt 2 to 4	7 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. <i>Social Group meets at Fieldhouse 2 to 4 pm</i> Aerobics Class 7-8 p.m. Fly Tying 9:00 p.m. Regional Draft Official Plan: RMOc 4-7 p.m.	8 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Garden Club Meeting 7pm	9 Aerobics Class 7-8 p.m. T'ai Chi 8:10-9:15 p.m.	10 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Children's Step Dancing 4 to 5:30 p.m.	11	12 Kids used Clothing/Toy/ Equipment Sale Elmdale P.S. 49 Iona St. 9:00 till noon
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13 Vaisakhi	14 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. <i>Social Group meets at Fieldhouse 2 to 4 pm</i> Aerobics Class 7-8 p.m.	15 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. <i>Fly Fishing</i> 7:00 p.m. Traffic Calming Study Fisher Park School 7:00 p.m.	16 Aerobics Class 7-8 p.m. T'ai Chi 8:10-9:15 p.m.	17 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Nature Walk 9:30 a.m. Children's Step Dancing 4 to 5:30 p.m. Block Captains' Meeting 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.	18 Idu'l Zuha	19 Security Fair, Hintonburg C.C.
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← Secretaries' Week →

20	21 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. <i>Social Group meets at Fieldhouse 2 to 4 pm</i> Aerobics Class 7-8 p.m. Fly Tying 9:00 p.m.	22 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Passover Earth Day	23 Aerobics Class 7-8 p.m. T'ai Chi 8:10-9:15 p.m. Spring workshop on the Natural and Open Spaces Study Secretaries' Day	24 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Nature Walk 9:30 a.m. Children's Step Dancing 4 to 5:30 p.m.	25 RUMMAGE SALE Northwestern United Church 10am to 8pm	26
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MAY/97

27	28 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. <i>Social Group meets at Fieldhouse 2 to 4 pm</i> Aerobics Class 7-8 p.m. Mahavir Jayanthi	29 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. <i>Fly Fishing</i> 7:00 p.m.	30 Aerobics Class 7-8 p.m. T'ai Chi 8:10-9:15 p.m.	1 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Nature Walk 9:30 a.m. Children's Step Dancing 4 to 5:30 p.m.	2	3
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***Playgroup will run every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

***Aerobics Class Monday & Wednesday evenings, 7-8 p.m. for 19 weeks, Jan. 6 to May 14, 1997.

***T'ai Chi Classes Wednesday evenings, 8:10-9:15 p.m. for 10 weeks, Mar 26 to May 28, 1997.

***Children's Step Dancing 4 to 5:30 p.m. for 12 weeks, April 3 to Jun 19, 1997.

TO ADD ITEMS NEXT
MONTH - CALL 729-6439

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Local Teens Interested in Work:

Tom Arnason 729-6639 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

Come and Join us for Tea and Entertainment Saturday May 3rd, 1997 at 2:30pm in support of "Jessica's Journey"

Sponsored by the Northwestern United Church Women
at the Northwestern United Church,
241 Northwestern Ave.

Proceeds to Jessica Clifford's China Journey
with the "World Wide Dance for Peace"

Tickets \$5.00 per person, Children under 12 \$3.00

Available from:

Alice Spratt, 722-2645
Jackie Clifford, 722-2687
Josie Smith, 729-9257

Bake Table and Crafts, Advance Sales Only

The Champlain Park Garden Club Meeting

Do you have a problem with shade plants? With a wonderful collection of over 50 types of hostas, join **Suzanne Patry** from Whitehouse Perennials in Almonte. She will discuss the use of hostas and their companion plants. The meeting is at the Champlain Park Fieldhouse on **Tuesday, April 8th at 7:00 p.m.** Guest fee of \$5.00 for non members.

Ottawa West Community Support: Income Tax service for seniors, during the months of March and April. Call Rita at 728-6016 for appointment.

Kids Used Clothing /Toy/Equipment Sale
Elmdale P.S. (49 Iona St.) Saturday, April 12, 1997.
9:00 till noon

Even If It Rains Food Co-Op

Anyone who is interested in ordering bulk natural foods from the Ontario Natural Foods Co-Op should contact Eloise Holland at 729-1218. Currently, about six families in our neighbourhood are placing regular orders with the Toronto-Based Co-Op.

April is Cancer Month

please be generous when the canvasser calls.

Ottawa Newcomers Club: Women who have recently moved to the National Capital Region are invited to attend the May meeting of the Ottawa Newcomers Club which will take place on Wednesday, May 7, at 7 p.m.. To register for the meeting or to obtain further information about their many activities please phone 860-0548.

The Savoy Society of Ottawa presents:

PRINCESS IDA

by Gilbert and Sullivan

April 18, 19 and 23 to 26 at 8 pm.

Matinee: Sunday, April 20 at 2 pm.

Centrepointe Theatre.

Contact Box Office for tickets, 727-6650.

Spring Workshop on the Natural and Open Spaces Study (NOSS)

The third of three Workshops for the City of Ottawa's Natural and Open Spaces Study is being held on Wednesday, April 23, 1997 at Lakeside Gardens, Britannia Park, Greenview Ave., 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

THANK YOU

Those of us who have gone to the trouble of clearing the snow from around fire hydrants on or near our property received a thank you note from the Region. This acknowledgement of our efforts is a nice touch and is greatly appreciated. I would like to thank the Region for their thoughtfulness.

Neil Robertson

Spring Cleaning the Capital, May 5 to 11

Women interested in playing SOCCER this summer?
Call Sandy Milne - 728-6004 or Kay Young - 722-7955.

Nature walks will start April 17/1997 9:30 a.m. with Amy Kempster leading the group. Come one come all to see and learn more about the wonderful plants and birds in our neighbourhood.

Children's Step Dancing starts April 3 and will run 12 wks every Thursday 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the Fieldhouse. Call 728-7881 for information.

Northwestern United Church spring rummage sale to be held on April 25, 97. 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Block Captains' Meeting April 17, 97. Held at the Fieldhouse. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Citizens' Commission on Work & Working

Are you concerned with the issues of work & working? So is the Citizens' Commission on Work & Working. The Commission will be holding its first community meeting on April 10, 1997 in Old Ottawa South. For more information phone/fax (613) 730-2796
Email - aa750@freenet.carleton.ca.

Fabric Lovers! Join us for the First FABRIC FLEA MARKET!

Clean up your sewing room and sell your surplus fabrics, knitting yarn, needlework supplies, notions, and patterns. Sewers, knitters, and needleworkers - pick up some new treasures for your next project. Tell all your friends about this unique opportunity. This event is being held as a fund raiser for the Champlain Park Community Association.

Date: May 10 Time: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Location: The Champlain Park Fieldhouse

For more information contact: Gail Cariou 722-6874,
Kay Young 722-7955 or Laurie Fagan 728-1945