# CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER

December 1997 Vol 17 #5

### Loitering in the Park

This is a column whose author seeks anonymity. Her or his identity is known only to the Editor of the Speaker. The reader might extract the name of the author by subjecting the editor to excruciating torture. But given the civility of our gentle Champlainers (or is it Champlain Parkers?) this is unlikely to happen. Just as the author of restaurant reviews in the daily press eschews recognition in the interests of reporting things just as she or he sees them, so let it be with the Loiterer.

The Twilight of the Year. Now admit it, after the tattered, and sometime gruesome, decorations of Halloween decay and flap in the cold wind, November is the most depressing month of all (with the possible exception of February). The sun has gone from the sky; the days are dull, dim, and dejected; the municipal-election toadstools in the gardens and front-lawns show signs of decay - and in some cases demoralization - and remind us of successful or shattered campaign ambitions; once again we hear the scraping of oversized jeans and boots on the streets as reluctant students make their ways to re-opened schools; Armistice Day brings the sound of wailing pipes and trumpets at the cenotaph, the newspapers full of the sad and often heart-breaking recollections of the ageing veterans, bravely keeping alive the memories of glory and tragedy that defined their generations.

The Resurrection. Slowly November recovers as prospects for the Christmas season stimulate the gradual addition of colour to the scene. Red and green lights appear sporadically from houses and will soon create a riot of colour along the streets to replace the light of the shy sun that skirts our Park. Yes, Virginia, there is a Christmas, even though they've just announced the decision to widen the Champlain Bridge. That's why they're called the NCC - No Christmas

Commission.

Our Beautiful Downtown. If Champlain Park can claim its own "centre town" or "main drag" this would have to be Carleton Ave. It is, after all, one of our main links, obstinate red traffic light and all, to Island Park, Richmond Road, and points east and west. It is also the only street in the Park with a now desolate, shuttered "depanneur" and the occasional "high rise" building. But we digress. The Loiterer's spirits were lifted recently with the transmogrification of a structure which had all the features of becoming our own "haunted house". For years it has stood, tall, grey and foreboding on the east side of the street, frowning down at the passers-by, but this autumn it has been magically restored as a handsome prince, impeccably clad, its gentle features smiling out at the passing parade. Congratulations are due to those who engineered it!

Fixing the Depanneur? What will happen to the only "commercial" structure remaining on the west side of Carleton Ave., just north of Premier? The little "convenience" store has been through at least a couple of changes in ownership and orientation in the years the Loiterer has loitered along the street. Most recently, it appeared to specialize in food to cater to the community that frequented the Mosque, particularly on Fridays. Since closing its doors, its empty presence - at least on the main floor - has stimulated speculation about its future but no hard facts are available, as far as we know. There is no indication on

the faded-newspaper-lined windows along the street-front.

Loiter Along With Me! If you would like to share your own observations and thoughts about our neighbourhood, as you do your own loitering, why not pass them along to your neighbours through this column? Please convey them to the Editor of the Champlain Speaker, who, I know, will be happy to pass them along to me. In the meantime, best wishes for the holiday season, however you celebrate. And remember: it's always better to be carless than careless.

## Pussy cats, Pussy cats, where is your home?

I am writing this short piece in the hope that someone out there will step forward as the owner of either of two friendly, beautiful cats that have been gracing my premises on Daniel Avenue with their presence. You see, I have been providing these two cats with food over the summer months, not knowing whether or not they have a home (have you noticed that your cat has been looking a bit chunkier lately?) They eat, give thanks, and depart for parts unknown. Knowing the parts for which they depart has not concerned me while the weather has been warm. But with the icy finger of winter upon us (more like the back of a hand in this area), I would feel much better knowing that my two little friends are departing for a nice, warm home.

My strong suspicion is that my two friends do not have a home, which brings me to the second reason for writing this short piece. I am hoping that someone out there will want to

give either or both of these cats a nice, cosy home.

I already have two female cats and, as anyone who has had experience with (spayed) female cats knows, they do not enjoy the company of other cats. The phrase "the more the merrier" is not a phrase that is uttered by (spayed) female cats. In fact, my two cats cannot even get along with each other, despite having shared the same accommodations and food-bowls over the past two-and-a-half years. So they have absolutely no intention of getting along with another cat.

Having said that, I would be prepared to open my home to my two new friends. However, I have been informed by the municipal powers-that-be that the legal limit of cats per household in Ottawa is three. And being the upright, lawabiding citizen, I would not want to do anything above the legal limit. So I could only open my home to just one of my friends. That still leaves the other one outside, shivering in the cold and

the dark.

Please do not suggest that I take one or both cats to the Humane Society. That is out of the question. I could not

possibly take my friends to their Ultimate Fate.

For those of you who have not yet discovered the joy of felinehood, allow me to give you the highlights. Cats do not have to be bathed. They do not have to be walked. They rarely have to be paid attention to. In fact, most of the time they would prefer it if you would not pay any attention to them at all, outside of mealtime.

Cats are great at playing hide-and-seek. But, a word of warning; do not play hide-and-seek with a cat if you like to win. Cats always win at hide-and-seek. They are somehow able to disappear without a trace. I have heard it said that cats can travel to another dimension. You may not believe that (I am so far not convinced), but it would explain why cats are so good at playing

hide-and-seek.

Now, let me tell you about the two particular cats that are the

reason for this short piece.

First, Whitey. Whitey is all-white. Whitey is looking to team up with a human who has a great deal more originality that I when it comes to cat names. Anyone who thinks Snowball or Snowflake is a good name for an all-white cat, need not apply. Whitey is a he. I have taken him to my trusted vet, who has given Whitey his shots, and tested his blood and his stool, and pronounced him fit as a fiddle. However, Whitey is still all-man, if you get my drift. If you don't, let me spell it out: Whitey has not been neutered. I informed Whitey in my most authoritative tone, soon after we first met, that if he wanted to stay inside my house, he would have to go from male to neutral. Whitey responded by settling down in a comfortable spot in my back yard.

Whitey is very friendly and very gentle. He also purrs at the slightest touch. And I am not talking about your run-of-the-mill

(continued on page 2)

#### Champlain Speaker Newsletter Staff

Newsletter Editor: Sue Robertson 724-5871 Barb Robertson Layout/Calendar: 729-5439 Distribution: Neil Robertson 729-5439 Carriers: Shelley Cornelius, Kay Young, Sandy Milne Philip Cutfield, Patrick Mates, Jim Croft, Laura Robin, Becky Rynor, Jim Hay, Wendy Huculak, Heather Pearl, Monique Kerr, Carole Anne Copeland, Linda Steele, Beth Buist, Nancy Leigh-Smith, Karen Maser, Marlene Kells,

Jackie Crawford.

#### Champlain Community Association Executive

| President:           | Lynne Bankier     | 729-0955 |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Vice-president:      | Elizabeth Mundell | 728-7598 |
| Secretary:           | Amy Kempster      | 722-6039 |
| Treasurer:           | Kay Young         | 722-7955 |
| Special Events:      | Laurie Fagan      | 728-1945 |
| Membership:          | Jim Cocks         | 728-7881 |
| Neighbourhood Watch: | Michael Cheng     | 722-3344 |

## Sue's Word Find

QQUADRAGESIMAQYQO QUANDARYTITN QUARTZQQUEAS UCITOXIUQUE OUQUESTIONNA RQUDNRQNBTEE ROUCCTQESA ITQESEUEUQH UNOQI ERAUQUITOUL MTSACAUNQZAG SUILOUBSNR EOEQFMISHAINYAU NKILTARDAU CRLRGDYERI AIEIAOAUQUANT UUUUUUQUATERNIONS QQQQUADRILATERAL

Quatercentary, Querimonious, Quarter-Master, Queen, Quadragesima, Questionnaire, Qualification, Queer, Quo Quadrilateral, Quintessence, Quadrangle, Quenchless, Querulous, Quixotic, Quince, Quite, Quiz, Quote, Quartz, Quagmire, Quicksilver, Quarter, Quay, Quantity, Quadrat, Quash, Quells, Quality, Qualm, Queues, Quid, Quirk, Quaternion, Quill, Quoit, Queasy, Quandary, Quantum, Quotation, Quip, Quarts, Quito, Quilts, Quest, Quit, Que.

Answer to last month's puzzle was: Homonym sound alike words (continued from page 1)

cat purr. When Whitey purrs, he goes to town. In fact, if you rub his nose in the right spot while he's purring (which he really enjoys), he begins grunting. It is not very gentlemanlike, to be sure, but it is guaranteed to make you chuckle.

My second cat friend is Orangey. Orangey is an orange tabby (I am not very original with cat names. In fact, lack of originality with pet names runs in my family. I have a brother who named his dog Doggie.) Orangey is a she. Orangey looks very much like the orange tabby pictured as the "calendar cat" for the month of November in the 1997 calendar from the House or Pizza. Funny thing, too, because Orangey loves pasta. When forced to choose between a pile of linguini and a pile of chopped meat (a choice she does not like to make), Orangey will always go for the linguini.
Perhaps Orangey was a "calendar cat" for the House of Pizza

a kind of pet calendar supermodel -- but her love of pasta caused her to put on weight, which spelled the end of her modeling career, which caused Orangey's agent to show her the door. We may never know the real story of her past, but I do know that

Orangey loves pasta.

Orangey is very calm and ladylike. She likes to talk, but she keeps her voice down. I am certain that I have detected a slight Italian accent in her "meow". I have not taken Orangey to my vet (yet), so I do not know the state of her health or whether she has been spayed. I do know that she and Whitey have been spending a lot of time together in my backyard over the past several months, and there is no sign whatsoever that she is pregnant. So either Orangey is spayed, or she is celibate. So there you have it: Whitey and Orangey. Are they yours?

Would you like them to be yours? Please let me know. I can be

contacted through this paper.



"Tis the season to be jolly. For those of us who are fortunate enough to have family and friends near us to share in the joy of the season, we should count our blessings and take the time to appreciate all we have to be grateful for. For some, however, the Christmas season is not the most joyous time of the year. If you happen to be among the fortunate, take the time this year to make a small difference in the life of someone who may not have the same advantages that you have.

'Tis also the season for Christmas parties and get-togethers. If you are imbibing in holiday spirits, please drink responsibly. If you have too much to drink take a cab, designate a driver, call a drive home service or stay the night. Whatever you do, please don't drink and drive. Don't become a statistic.

To one and all, enjoy the holiday season, whatever holiday you may be celebrating. Best wishes to everyone this season and best of luck in 1998.

## CHRISTMAS SLEIGH RIDE!

Tuesday, December 23nd, 6:15 to 8:00 p.m. Starts from the fieldhouse

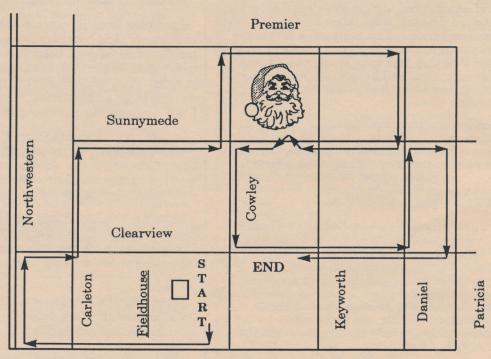
Everything is set for the third community sleigh ride and carolling evening to celebrate the holiday season and Christmas! The sleigh ride will start weaving its way through the Champlain Park community at about 6:15 with stops along the way to pick up people and to decide on the next carol! Hopefully 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!





Pontiac

## AMY'S CURNER

Amy Kempster 722-6039

2020Z, New Zoning bylaw: The final session on the new zoning by-law will now not be held before near the end of January. The mediation process between the Federation of Citizens' Associations and the development community have concluded but, because of the mail strike, the city has not been able to communicate the staff's recommendations for changes as a result of this process to communities. They wish to give all parties time to study the proposed changes. One probable change which will affect our community is the elimination of street-oriented planned unit development from the zone which allows doubles and duplexes.

City budget: Discussions on the City Budget will commence on Thursday, Dec. 11, 1997 at 9:15 A.M. at the meeting of the Policy, Priorities and Budgeting Committee. Documents to be reviewed at that meeting are the Long Term Capital Needs and Financing Strategy and the 1998 Budget Guideline & Workplan Priorities. The Core Services Review document was used as a guideline in drafting these two submissions. All three documents can be obtained at City Hall, Community Centres, Public Libraries and Fire Stations. Pick up a copy to find out how the City intends to spend your money. Note that because of provincial downloading the city may have to cut back on services if it wishes to avoid raising taxes. Even if the City does not raise taxes, your own taxes may increase because of changes in assessment, or increases at the Regional level.

Champlain Bridge: The NCC met and decided to operate the reconstructed bridge with three lanes, the third lane to be for high-occupancy vehicles (Buses, taxis and cars with at least two persons). Since the intersection of Island Park Drive and the Ottawa River Parkway will remain unchanged and can not accommodate all the cars that can use the bridge, it may become a parking lot in the peak hours. The right turn lane onto the bridge will be lengthened, and an entrance to Tunney's Pasture from the Parkway will be constructed. This latter may help relieve some of the increased traffic. Our main hope is that the transit authority on the other side of the river will provide good service and that this may convince some drivers to use the bus. Meantime we still have to pay our lawyers. The Community Before Cars Coalition is investigating further fund-raising efforts.

Adopt-a-River-Bank: This organization encourages stewardship of rivers and their banks. Since Champlain Park made some efforts to clean up the beach area, we are being asked to participate by continuing such efforts to improve the environment along the river. If you have any ideas as to what actions we might take to improve the woods and river area, please let me know.

Coming up: The Citizens' Panel on Local Governance will be consulting the public on how they wish to see the Region governed, one-tier, three cities, etc. Watch the papers for their announcements of public meetings etc. The Region will be looking at its budget sometime soon. Again watch the papers for announcements. Finally we hope that the Island Park Drive/Kirkwood Traffic study will be coming to the City and Regional Committees soon. Another study should also reach the city for action soon: the Natural Open Space study.

## PRESIDENTIAL PRUSE

Lynne Bankier, 729-0955

Why does the fall fly by so fast? It seems that we went from the very successful Hallowe'en party directly to the snowy weather I see outside my window today.

It's been a busy month in our community, and I'd like to dedicate this column to the many volunteers who have kept things humming in Champlain Park. In fact, I had a conversation with the new President of the Westboro Community Association, which really highlighted for me what an active association we have. He is struggling to put into place some activities that we take for granted here- an annual membership drive and a community newsletter. When I told him about the field house classes, play group, gardening club etc. that we have, he was down right envious!

So, thanks to all of you volunteers who make it happen- to those of you who deliver the Speaker, go door-to-door for the membership drive, organize clubs, classes and play groups, and help out for special events. There isn't enough space allotted to this column to mention all of your names, but I'd like to mention a few of the organizers of recent events and activities.

Laurie Fagan and Heather Pearl deserve hearty thanks for organizing the very successful Sneezy Waters/Silent Auction Fund-Raiser to offset legal costs for the fight against the third lane on the Champlain Bridge. Laurie did yeoman's duty in Oct/Nov because she also organized the Hallowe'en party. Thanks to all of the volunteers who worked with Heather and Laurie to make these events so successful.

Thanks also to the always active Amy Kempster who has her fingers in many pies that keeps our community connected to what is happening in the broader community and who also donated a week at her cottage for the fund-raiser. In fact, when I call Amy, her husband, Robert usually says something like, "She's at City Hall right now. Can I take a message?"

Jim Cocks annually organizes the membership drive, and is in charge of field house bookings and the skating rink, tasks he has done faithfully for a few years. Kay Young, another multi-term executive member, as treasurer, makes sure the books are in order. Elizabeth Mundell offers her home monthly as a cosy meeting place for the executive and is always available to offer her wisdom on issues affecting the neighbourhood.

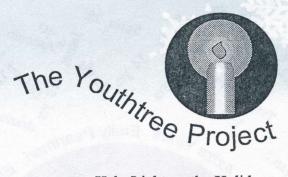
We are very fortunate to have Barb Robertson offer us her professional services free of charge in producing a superior community newsletter. And let's not forget Neil Robertson who makes sure that the newsletter gets delivered, and Sue Robertson, who rounds out the Robertson team as editor.

Thanks to Michael Cheng, we have an active Neighbourhood Watch program. During the Teachers Strike, Brian and Shelley Cornelius made life easier for a number of parents by organizing a children's day camp at Northwestern United Church.

I hope that I have not forgotten anyone. But if I have, it's because there are just so many good volunteers out there, that I have trouble keeping track of you all!

Have a happy holiday season, come out to the Sleigh Ride and I hope Santa is good to everyone!







Help Light up the Holidays for a Teen in your Community

The holidays are fast approaching; this is a time we celebrate with family gatherings that include gifts, food, light and warmth. Youths in the care of the Children's Aid Society who may not have the same advantages often miss out on these celebrations. A group of adults and teens in Champlain Park are working in cooperation with the Children's Aid Society, to provide these youths with gifts this season, and to raise funds through the Youthtree Project.

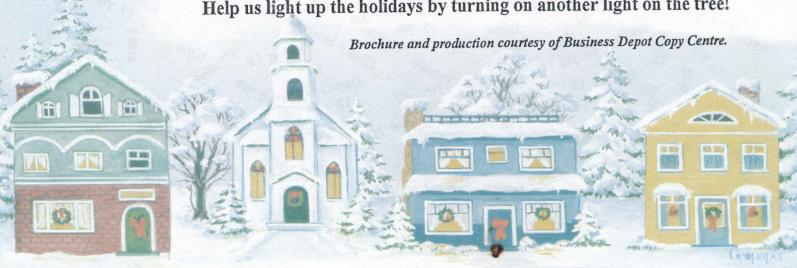
A tree trimmed with lights and coloured ribbons is being erected at the corner of Daniel and Clearview, every light representing a youth in care. For every gift donated another light will be lit on the tree. This year the Youthtree Project is targetting to reach 250 youths.

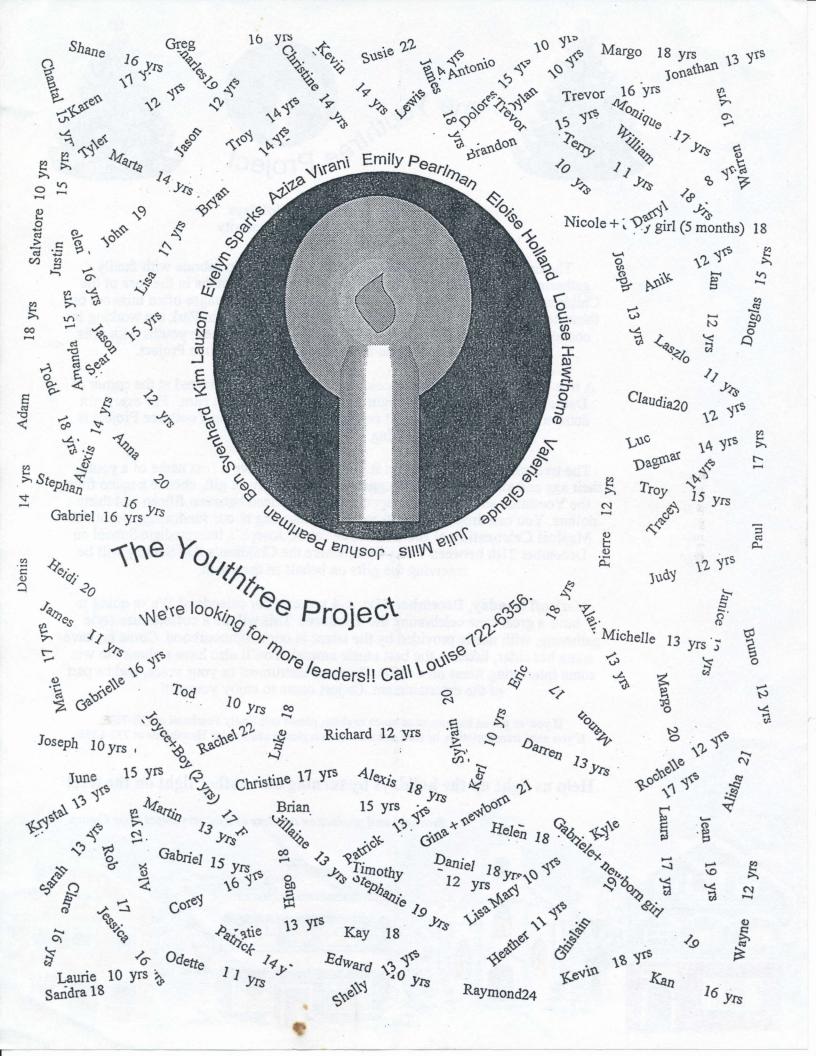
The tree will have 250 cards on it. Each card will have a first name of a youth, their age and size, and a list of suggested gifts. To give a gift, choose a name from the Youthtree and buy an age-appropriate gift priced between fifteen and thirty dollars. You can drop off the gift in a Christmas bag at our fundraising event, "A Musical Celebration of the Youthtree" at St. Joseph's Intermediate School on December 21th between 1 and 4 pm, where the Children's Aid Society will be receiving the gifts on behalf of the youth.

Mark off Sunday, December 21st, 1-4 pm on your calendars! We're going to have a great time celebrating the Youthtree. This will be a coffeehouse-style gathering, with music provided by the talent in our neighbourhood. Come in, have some hot cider, listen to the best music around. You'll also have a chance to win some interesting items on a raffle. Bring an instrument or your voice, and be part of the entertainment. Or just come to enjoy yourself!

If you've got an instrument or voice to share, please call Emily Pearlman at 728-7698. If you need transportation, or for more information please call Louise Hawthorne at 722-6356.







## DECEMBER/97

YACINIZ YACINIM TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY BLUE BOX Social Group Aerobics Class Kingsway United Playgroup Playgroup meeting at Fieldhouse Church Computer 9:30-11:30 a.m. 7-8 p.m. 9:30-11:30 a.m. 2 to 4 pm Garage Sale 9-2 р.т. Aerobics Class Fly Tying Yoga 7-8 p.m. 9:00 p.m 8:00-9:30 p.m. Good Companions Seniors' Centre Christmas Bazaar 10-2:30 р.ш. 10 12 BLUE BOX 13 Playgroup Playgroup Social Group meeting at Fieldhouse 9:30-11:30 a.m. Aerobics Class 9:30-11:30 a.m. 2 to 4 pm 7-8 p.m. Garden Club Aerobics Class 7-8 p.m. Meeting 7 p.m. Fly Fishing 8.15 p.m 14 15 16 19 BLUE BOX 18 20 Social Group Northwestern Playgroup The annual meeting at Fieldhouse Playgroup neighbour holiday **United Church** 9:30-11:30 a.m. 2 to 4 pm Blue Christmas potluck supper at 9:30-11:30 a.m. Service at 7:30 p.m. Northwestern Aerobics Class **United Church** Fly Tying 7-8 p.m. 4:30 p.m. Call Cathy at 9:00 p.m Aerobics Class 7-8 p.m. 728-6193 for information. 21 22 23 24 27 BLUE BOX 25 26 Social Group Northwestern Playgroup MERRY Northwestern United Church meeting at Fieldhouse United Church Christmas Pageant 9:30-11:30 a.m. 2 to 4 pm CHRISTMAS Christmas Eve Fly Fishing A Musical Celebration Services at **Boxing Day** 8.15 p.m CHRISTMAS 7:00 p.m. & of the Youthtree at St TO EVERYONE Joseph's Intermediate 11:00 р.т. School SLEIGH RIDE FROM THE STAFF First day of Time 1 to 4 p.m. OF THE SPEAKER Hanukkah WINTER SOLSTICE JANUARY/98 28 31 **BLUE BOX** Playgroup Social Group 9:30-11:30 a.m. meeting at Fieldhouse HAPPY 2 to 4 pm NEW YEAR \*\*\*Playgroup will run every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

> TO ADD ITEMS NEXT MONTH - CALL 729-5439

BEFORE THE 25TH OF THE MONTH

\*\*\*Aerobics Classes Monday and Wednesday evenings, 7-8 p.m. for 15 weeks, Sept. 8 to Dec. 17, 1997.

\*\*\*Yoga Classes Thursday evening, 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. for 12 weeks, Sept. 18 to Dec. 4, 1997.

# ANNTUNCEMENTS

#### Local Teens Interested in Work:

Tom Arnason
Rachelle
Jessica
Sarah
Kim
Paul Ratsch
Rory Taylor

729-6639 Yard Chores
722-6303 Babysitting
728-8413 Babysitting
722-2687 Babysitting
729-5439 Babysitting
728-2583 Yard Chores
798-0036 Yard Chores

## Caregiver Available Immediately.

Island Park & Scott St.

Caregiver Available Immediately.

Experienced - Non-Smoker.

By the hour, day, or week.

Call: Kathy 728-4938

## The Youthtree Project

Help Light up the Holidays for a Teen in your Community. Sunday, December 21st, 1-4 p.m.

For more details read insert on the Youthtree Project.

### Christmas at Northwestern United Church

November 30 - First Sunday of Advent

December 17 - Wednesday Blue Christmas Service

December 20 - 10:00 a.m. Sunday School Christmas Party 4:30 p.m. Community Christmas Pot

Luck

December 24 - Christmas Eve

7:00 p.m. Family Candlelight Service

11:00 p.m. Choral Candlelight Service



## THE KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF CANADA

Eastern Ontario Branch

## PEANUTS, JELLYBEANS & GUMDROPS GET YOURS NOW!!

DISCOUNT PRICE \$30.00/CASE! 25 bags/case with 16 snack packs/bag!

(GUMDROPS CONTAIN ONLY 10 SNACK PACKS)

THEY MAKE GREAT TREATS!! (stocking stuffers, meetings, lunches!!)

CALL NOW (613) 724-9953

### LESS POLLUTION!

Recently, a nearby neighborhood gave my Mom and I an idea. If we were to put the trash cans on the west side of the street and the recycling bins on the east side it would save the garbage and recycling trucks lots of money for gas. It would also cause less pollution in our air. So, next week please put the trash bins on the west side and the recycling bins on the east side. Thanks for your cooperation,

Jess Robin & Laura Robin

P.S. If you put your name on your bins they won't get mixed up with your neighbours' bins.

#### DO YOU NEED A BABYSITTER

With the holiday season right around the bend Parents/ Guardians need time to visit Santa. (hint, hint). So for your convenience Jennifer (15) & Joanna Pakuts (13) and Jessica (12), & Kirsten Cole (10) are available for babysitting services at anytime. We also do group babysitting, mother's helper and birthday parties.

Just give us a call!

Jennifer & Joanna - 728-3062

Jessica & Kirsten - 728-0300

## A LIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT.

Beautiful birds.

Budgies, a lovebird, doves and more.

566-8777 leave message

## NEW BOOK RELEASE

How Do Crocodiles Fly?
Sylvia Helen Vincent
0-9681414-0-4
\$9.95

is the first book of ten in the new Sera Book series for children aged 3 to 8, published by GWEV Publishing (founded in 1996).

Each quality story subtly promotes positive morals and values in a unique way, through the example of different characters' personalities.

COMING SOON TO A FIELDHOUSE NEAR YOU!!

## THE POST CHRISTMAS

#### AEROBICS SESSION

Aerobics classes will be held Monday and Wednesday evening at 7 pm starting January 12.

For information, call Liz at 728-7160