

CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER

March
2000

Vol. 19
#7

Fun on The Queensway by Andy Robertson

My job, albeit not very glamorous, requires me to be all over the city of Ottawa because I deliver automotive parts to a wide variety of locations. Seeing as I am on the road from 8am to 5pm, quite often I see a lot of accidents and incidents on the roads. Now this story took place just before Christmas and I was left wondering..., what next??!

On Monday Dec. 20th I had to make a pick up on St. Laurent Blvd. The time was around 2 pm, the freezing rain had just started, and the roads were pretty slippery. I proceeded to get on the eastbound Queensway at Pinecrest. As I got onto the on-ramp, I started to press on the gas pedal but the wheels would just spin fast with no noticeable increase in momentum. This was going to be a slow trip. I noticed a van in the slow lane that was going fairly slow so I got in front of him and went the same speed with a marginal space between us. (This was to safeguard my backside from some lunatic thinking he/she can still do 150Kmph). As I finished getting into the slow lane, I happened to look up and saw a small red car doing some donuts at the OC Transpo Woodroffe transit exit. Soon after I passed this treacherous spot, I proceeded to go under the Woodroffe Ave. bridge. When I came out from underneath it I happened to check my rearview mirror and noticed an unmarked police cruiser in the fast lane start spinning out. Now mind you, this in itself doesn't seem too bad, but, it was what happened next. At this location, there are three lanes of Queensway and I was in the far right lane minding my business trying to keep the car straight on the ice. The cruiser was in the far left lane and slightly behind me so I thought I was in the clear should he really lose it. Wrong! His rear end started to fishtail in my direction and his front end was going towards the cement median. I can only guess that he must have hit the cement barrier with the front

end (probably a glancing blow) because I had looked up to make sure the area in front of me was clear; I was looking for a way out in the event that the situation got worse. As I was looking up and checking my surroundings, the cruiser and hapless occupant went sailing by me sideways (now with his front end pointed towards the shoulder of the Queensway) and crossed over in front of me. For a brief moment I was chasing him down the Queensway with his passenger door inches away from my front bumper! Well, he wound up on the eastbound Woodroffe on ramp facing west. At this point, after nearly suffering a coronary, I noticed an 18 wheeler getting on the on-ramp and was headed for the cruiser! Seeing as I still had to clear the area, I started to pump on the gas but the wheels only did the useless spinning thing again. Somehow the cop managed to get onto the shoulder before being creamed by the rig. I vowed to get off at the Carling exit and try my luck on the streets where I figured I might have a better chance of not being hit by some maniac who insists on thinking they are Mario Andretti of the north. As if to prove my point, as I approached the Carling exit I noticed in my rearview mirror (this is a very useful piece of equipment, just like turn signals, and I wish that everybody would learn how to use them properly) that there was a fire red car screaming up the Queensway in the fast lane only to find the traffic going really, really slow! (DUH!! considering the ice on the Queensway eh?) I have no idea how he/she was able to slow down in time but luckily for everyone there they were able to slow down and stay in control. And I thought they had stopped giving licences out in Cracker Jack boxes!

*Read my adventures with
Simon next month.*

Champlain Speaker Newsletter Staff

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Champlain Community Association Executive

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

SUE'S WORD FIND

E T E N R T N E M T C E J E E
 V E N K E E K D E T C E R E E
 E D H E E V E E R N E T C P L
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 S E C N E C S E R C X E E E R
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Effervescence, Elsewhere, Empressement, Eche,
 Erected, Entrenchment, Extremeness, Emeer.
 Excrescence, Esker, Ember Week, Elders, Elk,
 Eke, Excellence, Emcee, Emergence, Epee, Ell,
 Emblems, Eleve, Ejectment, Element, Erg,
 Ejectment, Eleven, Evergreen, Epergne, Exceed,
 Eschew, Entree, Eve, Erse, Excess, Emmer,
 Ender, Emend, Erne, Exert, Een, Edh, Ewe,
 Elves, Egest, Elm, Elect, Esteem, Ebb, Egg,

Answer to last month's puzzle: What a great game this year!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spring session - Hatha Yoga at the fieldhouse

The spring yoga session begins Monday, March 20 and ends the week of June 26.

Peter Beacham is the instructor.

Classes are as follows:

All levels of students: Mondays, 8:15 - 9:45 p.m., 12 weeks, \$90/members & \$95/non-members
 Intermediate students: Wednesdays, 8:00-9:45 p.m. - 14 weeks, \$105./members & \$110/non-members
 All levels of students: Fridays, 1:00-3:30 p.m. - 13 weeks, \$97.50/members & 102.50/non-members

Please note, there will be no classes the week of April 10. No class on Good Friday. No class on Easter Monday or Victoria Day. The cost per class for members of the Champlain Park Community Association is \$7.50.

Refund Policy: No refunds after you pay for the session.

To register or for more information, please call Debra at 722-8048.

Karate Classes in our Neighbourhood!!

Tim Leonard, a third degree blackbelt, is offering karate lessons for those over the age of 15. Classes are every Wednesday at 5 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Come out and try a class. There is no charge for your first visit.

Contact Tim at 596-2740 for more information.

The Parkdale Food Centre (424 Parkdale Ave.) - why not give something to those finding life a little difficult right now? It's open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tel: 722-8019

There may be an intruder lurking in your home from which no burglar alarm can protect you. Carbon monoxide is invisible and odourless and it can kill you in no time. Your fire department urges you to have your chimney, furnace and gas-fired appliances checked annually by professional technicians. And remember, only a carbon monoxide detector can alert you to the presence of this deadly gas. Install one today! For further information, please contact Inspector Michael Daigle of Fire Prevention at 798-8825.

Looking for feature articles for the Champlain Speaker. Do you have a story that might be of interest to our neighbourhood? Current or historical. Give us a call, 729-5439

What are you doing over the lunch hour? Meals on Wheels is looking for volunteers. For information or to volunteer, please call the Dinner Wagon office at 233-2424.

MARCH/00

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

5	6 Black Box Aerobics Class 6:40-7:40 p.m. Yoga 8:15-9:45 p.m.	7 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Fly Fishing 7:15 p.m.	8 Ash Wednesday Bridge Club 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Karate Classes 5:00-6:30 p.m. Aerobics Class 6:40-7:40 p.m. Yoga 7:50-9:20 p.m.	9 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m.	10 Yoga 1:30-3:00 p.m.	11 Computer Garage Sale Kingsway United Church 9a.m. to 1p.m. 6:30 Island Park Drive \$2.00
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Cancer Month: Remember to give generously when the canvasser calls.

12	13 Blue Box Aerobics Class 6:40-7:40 p.m.	14 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Westboro United Church 9:30-12noon Nearly New Shop \$ A BAG SALE Garden Club Meeting 7 p.m.	15 Bridge Club 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Karate Classes 5:00-6:30 p.m. Aerobics Class 6:40-7:40 p.m. Irish Dinner 5p.m. Northwestern United Church \$8.00/\$3.50	16 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m.	17 Happy St Patrick's Day	18
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19 Rockathon Royal Canadian Legion 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.	20 Black Box Aerobics Class 6:40-7:40 p.m. Yoga 8:15-9:45 p.m. Spring Begins	21 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Fly Fishing 7:15 p.m.	22 Bridge Club 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Karate Classes 5:00-6:30 p.m. Aerobics Class 6:40-7:40 p.m. Yoga 7:50-9:20 p.m.	23 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m.	24 Yoga 1:30-3:00 p.m.	25
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APRIL

26	27 Blue Box Aerobics Class 6:40-7:40 p.m. Yoga 8:15-9:45 p.m.	28 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m.	29 Bridge Club 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Karate Classes 5:00-6:30 p.m. Aerobics Class 6:40-7:40 p.m. Yoga 7:50-9:20 p.m.	30 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m.	31 Yoga 1:30-3:00 p.m.	1 April Fool's Day
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April

2 Daylight Saving Time	3 Black Box Aerobics Class 6:40-7:40 p.m. Yoga 8:15-9:45 p.m.	4 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Fly Fishing 7:15 p.m.	5 Bridge Club 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Karate Classes 5:00-6:30 p.m. Aerobics Class 6:40-7:40 p.m. Yoga 7:50-9:20 p.m.	6 Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m.	7 Yoga 1:30-3:00 p.m.	8
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***Playgroup will run every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

***Aerobics Classes Monday evenings, 6:40 to 7:40 p.m. January 10, to May, 2000.

***Aerobics Classes Wednesday evenings, 6:40 to 7:40 p.m. January 12, to May, 2000.

***Yoga Classes Monday evening, 8:15 to 9:45 p.m. January 10, to March 6, 2000, new classes start March 20, to June 26, 2000.

***Yoga Classes Wednesday evening, 7:50 to 9:20 p.m. January 12, to March 8, 2000, new classes start March 22, to June 26, 2000.

***Yoga Classes Friday afternoons, 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. January 14, to March 10, 2000, new classes start March 24, to June 26, 2000.

***Karate Classes Wednesday evening, 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Starts December 1 on going.

TO ADD ITEMS NEXT MONTH - CALL 729-5439 BEFORE THE 25TH OF THE MONTH

AMY'S CORNER

Amy Kempster 722-6039

Traffic Calming Evaluation: Residents who live along the first block or so of Clearview or who attended the open house should have received a questionnaire re the traffic calming on a selected road, in this case preferably Clearview (narrowing at Island Park Drive). If you did not receive this questionnaire and you would like to comment on the traffic calming pilot measure on Clearview Avenue please let me know. Your comments about the effect of this device, if any, positive or negative, will help in the evaluation of the pilot projects. Similarly if you wish to comment about the raised intersection and narrowings on Churchill, the changes at the corner of Scott and Island Park Drive or the speed hump on Merivale near Westgate please feel free to drop me a line. You can leave any comments in the mailbox at 118 Clearview, telephone me at 722-6039 or e-mail me at ae694@freenet.carleton.ca. I will ensure they get communicated to the consultants who are doing the evaluation.

Transition team: The two existing federations of citizens' associations; the Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa-Carleton (which in spite of its name includes only Ottawa based Community Associations) and the Federation of Nepean Community Associations have met and set up a team to explore ways in which community associations can work with them together in interaction with the new amalgamated city. They will also be looking at how to include associations from the other municipalities.

Greenspace Issues: Several of the existing wooded lots in other parts of the city are under threat. Montfort Woods has a rezoning and subdivision application in the works and a lightly wooded property near Sawmill Creek allow uses accessory to uses on abutting property, which may encourage use of the Hydro lands for parking for these abutting lands (beyond that required by the by-law). Given the few wooded areas left in the city the NOSS study identified and prioritized them but funds to follow through and preserve those in private hands are lacking. The City Council has not handled its reserve park funds (largely derived from developers from payments in lieu of parkland) in a fashion which has allowed them to purchase threatened areas.

Loblaws: It seems likely this issue will be coming to Planning Committee on Mar. 28. Whether you are for or against the site plan and zoning you can go to City Hall that day if you wish to give your opinion to the Committee. Watch for the city's advertisements in Friday

papers if you are interested in attending the meeting, for the timing of this item. Should produce an interesting debate!!

National Capital Commission's Plans for downtown: The NCC has said they will consult the public on the plans for the downtown, but we have yet to see them announce a public meeting or even an open house where we could see what they are intending to do. While we can look forward to fewer municipal governments in the near future, we will still have the NCC doing what it wishes with little opportunities to have input, whether positive or negative. Until their plans are revealed we are working on rumours. Better consultation with the city, the Sparks Street Mall etc. would probably avoid problems later.

PRESIDENTIAL PROSE

Lynne Bankier, 729-0955

Parking on Northwestern/Pontiac Related to Night-Time Activities in The NCC Woods

Two residents of Northwestern Avenue have been addressing a night-time parking problem in our neighbourhood that worsened last spring when the RCMP decided to start ticketing cars parked at Remic Rapids after 10 PM. Our neighbourhood has now become the alternate parking area related to these "night-time activities in the woods". The "two Thompsons", Neville and Manson (who are, by the way, not related to each other except as neighbours!) have had a variety of discussions with the police, the NCC, the City, the Region and the Community Association regarding possible remedies to this situation. Last fall they convinced the NCC to cut back some of the bushes at the Northwestern Ave. gate to Tunney's Pasture, increasing visibility in the area.

Some other suggestions that have been recently discussed are as follows:

Install lighting in the Tunney's Pasture Parking Lot nearest to Northwestern to increase visibility; increase police presence and legal enforcement as appropriate; reduce the number of parking spaces on Pontiac adjacent to the NCC property (while leaving some to serve the playing field and ball diamond); post signs that the park is closed at 10 pm with enforcement; explore options to restrict overnight parking in the area; and ensure that regular clean-up of the area is done to address health and safety concerns. Also explored, but rejected, was the option of closing the Northwestern Ave. gate to Tunney's Pasture, as it is used by pedestrians and cyclists to access the offices and buses at the Pasture. If you wish to participate in these discussions, please call Neville Thompson, 122 Northwestern Ave., 722-1907.