
CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER



April, 2003

Vol. 22, No. 6

Remembering Jim Croft, 1951-2003

Known as Jim, Jimmy, and Jimbo to his family, friends, and neighbours on Cowley Avenue, he died on Feb. 18th, 2003 of cancer.

I was going to write this article about Jim as a neighbour, but Jim would include us all. He was a family man, and his diamonds in life were his son, Lee, and his wife, Sue. Jim was a true friend to his neighbours and the

Champlain Park community. Jim was one of the carriers for the Champlain Speaker and I vividly remember him courageously delivering the January issue to our doors. One of his last outings, due to the progression of his illness, was a walk behind the neighbourhood sleigh ride. Jim, Sue, and Rolly-Polly, Sue's dog, (Max, their cat, stayed home) slowly walked the streets behind the sleigh, to the chorus of his neighbours singing Christmas carols, while Lee and other children actively played in the soft falling snow.

I will remember a wonderful neighbour, a kind human being, generous of heart, non-judgmental, a good listener, and easy going with a keen sense of humour. I shall miss our conversations

and sitting on Jim's front steps discussing music, film (Jim was a member of the Ottawa Film Society's Board of Directors), family, friendships, and general interests. Jim was always interested in other people lives, a great listener, and a good friend to his neighbours.

If I could give you a glimpse of Jim through a camera, I would see Jim with an arm on Lee's shoulder proudly showing his neighbours Lee's creative Inukshuk's; playing badminton with Lee out on the street on a hot summer's evening, sometimes with the help of the street lighting; and baking cookies for Lee's lemonade stand, at the annual street garage sale. Other snapshots include: Jim and Sue hand-in-hand going for a walk with Rolly-Polly; the happiness at Jim and Sue's wedding on

Oct. 26, 2002, a romantic story; Jim with Lee's school friends and talking to the parent as they arrived at the door, the boys conjuring up creative ideas as to how they could spend more time together, and the parents also being creative to accommodate or not to accommodate (!!!);

Jim's colourful ties, as he headed off to work with the federal government; Jim going to Parkdale Market for carrots, peas, and gladiolas; learning that Jim loved orchids, Coca-Cola; barbequing in all seasons; and Jim at both the Jazz and Blues Festivals.

Jim imprinted us with his smiling face and generous spirit. He enriched our lives and the neighbourhood. He left us individually with special thoughts and examples of how to be a good neighbour, friend, and community member.

A refrain commonly heard in the neighbourhood: "He was such a nice guy and a great Dad."

by Rita Palin

Community Association

Chair: Jonathan Chaplan (728-7670)

Vice-chair: Mark Cianfaglione (722-5674)

Treasurer: potter (728-4980)

Secretary: Lynne Bankier (729-0955)

Planning: Amy Kempster (722-6039)

Membership: Amy Kempster (722-6039)

Neighbourhood Watch: Michael Cheng (722-3344)

Fieldhouse co-ordinator: Laurie Fagan (728-1945)

Rink co-ordinator: Jacques Bourbeau (728-0337)

Adopt-a-Riverbank co-ordinator: Don Monet (728-1750)

TEENS AT WORK

Jessica (**babysitting**) 728-8413
Morgan (**yard chores**) 728-6530
Kym (**babysitting**) 729-5439
Paul (**yard chores**) 728-2583
Rory (**yard chores**) 798-0036
Karl (**yard chores**) 728-7589
Miriam (**babysitting**) 728-7589
Nick (**computer help**) 798-7652
Daniel (**yard chores**) 722-6134
Joey (**babysitting**) 728-5792
Katrina (**babysitting**) 725-5423
Geneviève (**babysitting**) 722-0454

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Park, river cleanup May 3

By Don Monet

This is an appeal to residents to take part in Champlain Park's annual park and river cleanup on Saturday, May 3.

The volunteer effort is our contribution to a city-wide program called Spring Cleaning the Capital, which runs from from April 11 to May 11.

The NCC is also an official corporate sponsor and has been a partner in this program since 1998.

The river cleanup encourages communities to take ownership of the river. It is the kick-off event each year for the various partners of a river stewardship program called Adopt-A-Riverbank (AAR). The focus is the stretch of river between the Chaudiere Dam and Lac Deschênes, the source of drinking water for more than one million people and the locale for four public beaches. Currently 14 partners will be participating in this year's spring's cleanup.

What is the objective?

We want to involve both sides of

the river in the clean-up initiative and get communities in the region to take ownership in enhancing the ecological integrity of the Ottawa River.

Details, details

Saturday, **May 3**. Rain or shine, starting at **9:30 a.m.** and ending at **noon**.

After the cleanup, there will be a barbecue for volunteers organized by two of the partners, the Newport Restaurant and Mountain Equipment Co-op, at Westboro Beach, from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Contacts for more info?

The NCC (Mario Fournier, 239-5226, e-mail: mrfourni@ncc-ccn.ca) and the

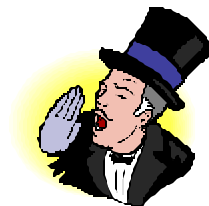
City of Ottawa (Paul McCann, 244-5300, ext. 3363, e-mail MccannP@city.ottawa.on.ca) are supporting the event with information, materials and garbage removal.

Eager residents are asked to show up at the fieldhouse wearing gloves and the proper footwear. Volunteers will be dispersed to various locations in the park and along the river.

For more information, Don Monet can be reached at **728-1750**.



Hush Hush



1 The Champlain Park Garden Club meets on **Tuesday,**

May 13. No matter how you pronounce it, clematis is a spectacular vine. Andre Poliquin will have a slide show featuring many different and unusual types of clematis.

2 Be hip, be modern, be on-line. The Speaker is trying to sign up as many residents as possible to an **electronic version** of the Speaker. To sign up, fire off an e-mail to Alexander Smith (his address is in the box, at left) and we'll take care of the rest.

3 As many of you already know (please say you noticed!), the Speaker did not appear in March.

Sincere apologies. The editor was out of the country for two weeks (in Florida, the swine!)

and there was a delay in receiving some editorial material. Rest assured a suitable punishment is being dispensed.

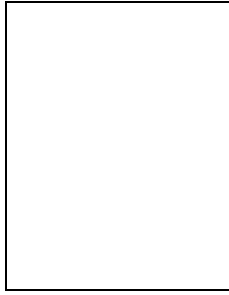
4 Leaf and yard waste pickup begins **April 22**, a Tuesday, a one-day delay in our neighbourhood because of Easter holidays.

5 The Speaker would like to announce it has come to a new printing arrangement. The *Ottawa Citizen* has graciously agreed to photocopy and fold all 450 copies of the newsletter for \$50, about half the price charged at a regular commercial establishment.

April 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Ottawa Fly Fishing 7-9 pm	Bridge Club 2 p.m. Fitness class 6:45-7:45 p.m. Yoga 8-9:30 p.m.	Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m.	ODS PLAYGROUP 9-11:30 a.m.	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
7 p.m. Karate Classes	Fitness class 6:45-7:45 p.m. Yoga 8 to 9:30 p.m. Blue 	Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Ottawa Fly Fishing 7-9 pm	Bridge Club 2 p.m. Fitness class 6:45-7:45 p.m. Yoga 8-9:30 p.m.	Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m.	ODS PLAYGROUP 9-11:30 a.m.	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
7 p.m. Karate Classes	Fitness class 6:45-7:45 p.m. Yoga 8 to 9:30 p.m. Black 	Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Champlain Park Garden Club 7-9 p.m.	Yoga at Noon Bridge Club 2 p.m. Fitness class 6:45-7:45 p.m. Yoga 8-9:30 p.m.	Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m.	ODS PLAYGROUP 9-11:30 a.m.	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
7 p.m. Karate Classes	Fitness class 6:45-7:45 p.m. Yoga 8 to 9:30 p.m. No garbage pick	Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m. Ottawa Fly Fishing 7-9 p.m. Blue 	Yoga at Noon Bridge Club 2 p.m. Fitness class 6:45-7:45 p.m. Yoga 8-9:30 p.m.	Playgroup 9:30-11:30 a.m.	ODS PLAYGROUP 9-11:30 a.m.	
27	28	29	30	 <p>To add items, call 728-1945 or email lfagan@magma.ca</p>		
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Amy's Corner



by Amy Kempster
722-6039

Plan loosens rules for multi-unit infill

A final version of the Official Plan came before the Planning and Development Committee the first week of April with a chance for presentations earlier in the week.

This version contains significant changes with regard to intensification. The key policy reads:

2.5.1.1 The City will consider the following criteria in its review of development applications for intensification and infill, to ensure that new development is compatible with its surroundings, while allowing for a gradual evolution of architectural style and innovation in built form:

a) The extent to which the proposed development takes into consideration the pattern of the surrounding area in terms of height, setback from the street and distance between buildings. Where the height, street setback and distance between buildings varies from the norm for the area, the proposed design may compensate for this variation

through its treatment of other characteristics common to the surrounding area...

The characteristics cited include such things as the materials, textures and colours used in wall treatments; landscape treatment; size, shape, location and number of windows, etc...

In other words, no clear guidelines so that developments may get approved depending on judgements of staff or councillors as to compatibility, and if not approved but appealed, could easily be then approved by the Ontario Municipal Board.

Two policies may help a little: one calls for a transition in heights, and the other for eliminating, to the extent practical, impacts such as the loss of sunlight or privacy in existing outdoor amenity areas.

However, policy 3.6.1.7. c) states: *Assess ground oriented multiple housing forms, such as duplex, triplex and fourplex, as a compatible means of intensifying within established low-rise residential communities.*

In other words, duplexes, triplexes and fourplexes will be considered acceptable in single-detached residential zones! Whether these provisions will survive in Planning Committee is difficult to assess but I believe they may be amended. If not, the Official Plan goes to full council on **April 23**, so if you wish to telephone councillors on these policies, you may be able to do so before the meeting.

Inside the NCC

The NCC had an open house early in February on the future of the capital under six main themes: Symbolism in the Capital; The Visitor Experience; The Capital's Rivers; the Capital's Natural Environment; Federal Government Office Accommodation; and the Rural

Capital.

Under the Capital's Rivers, there was one worrying item. "Support investigations into the suitability of opening up the Ottawa and Gatineau rivers to pleasure boat navigation," which relates to the idea of locks at the Chaudiere Falls or possibly a truck system to take boats from below the Chaudiere to somewhere above.

The Federal Government Office Accommodation objective is to provide federal office accommodation that meets program needs, provides for a healthy work environment, and takes into account NCC and municipal planning objectives when considering locations. Some key ideas: *intensify federal accommodation at Tunney's Pasture and Confederation Heights; enhance opportunities for private-sector service and commercial enterprises in federal employment nodes (such as Tunney's Pasture) and facilities; implement alternatives to personal automobiles to get to work; implement environmentally sound building designs.*

It seems possible that planning for changes in Tunney's Pasture may be on the horizon again.

NCC is also currently conducting a review of the Gatineau Park Plan (and planning to add another road or two!). Finally, the NCC has invited community groups who wish to present their ideas on the NCC's mandate to send in a brief by April 7. The commission's mandate is: Communicating the capital to Canadians; safeguarding and preserving national symbols and treasures, and creating a meeting place for all Canadians.

The ideas will be discussed during the NCC's annual strategic planning process on Wednesday, **May 7, 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.**, Chapleau Room, Palais des Congres, 3rd floor, 200 Promenade du Portage, Gatineau (Hull area).

Letter carrier program provides daily check on vulnerable seniors

Many good-hearted residents in Champlain Park keep an informal watch on vulnerable seniors in their corner of the neighborhood.

There is a way to provide a little more structure to such an endeavour.

The Letter Carriers' Alert Program uses the daily visit by the letter carrier as a means of providing security to seniors or those with physical or mental dis-

abilities. Once a person is registered, the letter carrier will keep a watchful eye on the residence for possible signs of trouble, such as mail accumulation. The carrier will investigate and, if necessary, contact the Senior Citizens' Council of Ottawa-Carleton with any suspicions.

The council keeps contact information on file and arranges for whatever assistance it feels is necessary.

To find out how to register, call the Senior Citizens' Council at 234-8044. It will send out a registration form which asks for contact information for three separate individuals.

The program is sponsored by the council, Canada Post, and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers. It is also endorsed by the Ottawa Police.

The program is free.