

# CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER

April, 2004

Vol. 23, No. 7

## Dishing dirt: Park, river cleanup May 1

This is an appeal to residents to take part in Champlain Park's annual park and river cleanup on **Saturday, May 1**.

The volunteer effort is our contribution to a city-wide program called Spring Cleaning the Capital.

The river cleanup, meanwhile, 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). Don Monet is our local co-ordinator.

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.

Rubber boots might help for the river work, as the shoreline is likely to be soggy at this time of year. If you

can donate a garbage bag, bring your own.

Similarly, bring your own gloves, hats and other outdoor gear. A rake will come in handy with the park cleanup.

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 1. Rain or shine, starting at **9:30 a.m.** and ending at about **noon**.

Once you arrive at the fieldhouse, volunteers will be dispersed to various locations in the park and along the river. Spare an hour or the entire morning. Your community thanks you and our

reward will be a tidy park all summer.

For more information, call Bob McGillivray at **729-5594**, or Amy Kempster, at **722-6039**.

There is a thank-you lunch from **noon to 1 p.m.** at Bate Island, which is mid-stream in the river off the Champlain Bridge.



## The garden as art: a fundraiser

If you love flowers, foliage or perhaps want a piece of art to decorate your garden, then mark **Saturday, June 12** on your calendar.

This is the day for Elmdale Public School's first (possibly annual) **Art and Plants in the Garden Show** at Champlain Park, a fundraiser for projects undertaken by Elmdale's Playground Improvement Committee.

Set amidst lovely mature trees, a dozen booths will sell everything from unusual herbs, twig furniture, ironwork sculptures and garden signs to tea-cup birdbaths.

We'd like to make it a family affair by encouraging folks to bring a picnic.

We plan to have garden-related serv-

ices, like Master Gardeners, and horticultural societies on hand to answer questions.

If you know of a plant seller or artist who might like to rent a booth, let us know.

The committee, comprised of volunteer parents, has been steadily working towards overhauling the two schoolyards at Elmdale.

Benches, a butterfly garden and a labyrinth made of paving stones are among the ideas being pursued by the committee.

The event is rain or shine, **10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** For more information, call **Laurie Fagan at 728-1945**.

## Angling for members

The Ottawa Women Fly Fishers meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month at the fieldhouse at 7:00 p.m. The objective of the club is to give women an opportunity to learn about this popular sport, and about the art of creating artificial flies, in a warm and supportive environment. Membership is open to all women in the greater Ottawa-Carleton area and is \$25 per calendar year. Please come and join us or just drop by if you are curious.

## 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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# Budgets, building bonanza

## Amy's Corner

by Amy Kempster  
722-6039

## City Budget

After many hours of debate, city councillors finally finished the budget on March 26. A proposed tax increase of 2.92% helped to save many of the services slated to be cut. Amongst those saved was the grants to outdoor rinks and the installation and removal of the rink boards. We will have a rink next winter!

Also saved was (at least one-time) funding for major festivals; (we can all enjoy Bluesfest, etc., next summer). City museums were also removed from the chopping block.

The planning committee recommended, and the Council confirmed, keeping the environmental management staff.

Unfortunately, the summary on the city web-site does not mention this as one of the items saved, but other information confirms it was.

Help for business was included in items saved: a one-time funding of \$1 million for the Ottawa Tourism and Convention Authority, and \$719,000 for the Ottawa Centre for Research and Innovation and the Life Sciences Council.

Funding for Dovercourt and similar operations was also retained. While no wading pools will be closed, I am uncertain if the hours may still be cut.

The Community Pride program was kept and our own cleanup will take place May 1.

The *Ottawa Citizen* produced a

chart showing how the councillors voted on certain issues. In spite of the staff recommendation to close the Knoxdale and Blair Road Fire stations, all of the 'freeze taxes group' (Jan Harder, Eli El-Chantri, Maria McRae, Doug Thompson and Gord Hunter) chose to vote not to close these two stations, while Glenn Brooks did not support closing Knoxdale but did support closing Blair Road.

Our councillor, Shawn Little, also voted not to close them but did support keeping participation in community partnerships (Dovercourt funding is probably included) and not to reduce arts funding so he did reflect some of the concerns noted at the meeting he held..

## Ottawa West, Westboro developments

Possible changes in Tunney's Pasture; another development notice up along Scott near Churchill, talk of development at the Denis Coolican building site, plans for the corner of Richmond and Churchill (former drug store site), and at Parkdale near Wellington (former fire hall): the list goes on possibly, but that's all I know of for the moment.

We have been assured that the local communities will be consulted about the future of Tunney's Pasture.

Local newspapers have reported that the Parkdale site has been purchased by architect Barry Hobin and that Domicile has plans for the corner of Richmond Road and Churchill.

The proposed two towers on the Coolican site have been the subject of a *Citizen* article.

Given all these developments it is not surprising that the Scott Street rebuilding has been put on hold until the effects on traffic of some of these developments are clearer.

Some of these changes are more welcome than others, seeing the Scott Street industrial buildings replaced may be welcomed if the buildings are sensitively placed so as not to shadow too many private homes.