

CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER

November/December 2004

Vol. 24, No. 3

A duo of holiday delights

Annual sleigh ride Dec. 23

Neighbourhood Xmas party Dec. 10

The 10th annual Christmas Sleigh Ride is scheduled for Thursday, **Dec. 23**, from **6:15 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Barring freezing rain, the sleigh ride will weave its way through Champlain Park, leaving the fieldhouse at about 6:15. There will be stops along the way to pick up people and to decide on the next carol. The map at right, courtesy of Don Monet, roughly shows the route.

Feel free to either come to the fieldhouse or join in along the way. Song sheets will be provided. A special request has been made for Santa to join us, so there will be a special stop half-way at his house. **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

about 8 p.m. We are looking for donations of cookies and goodies as well as a coordinator for the hot drinks and baked goods. Please call **Jim Cocks at 728-7881** if you can help.

The Champlain Park Neighbourhood Christmas Party will be held on Friday, **Dec. 10**.

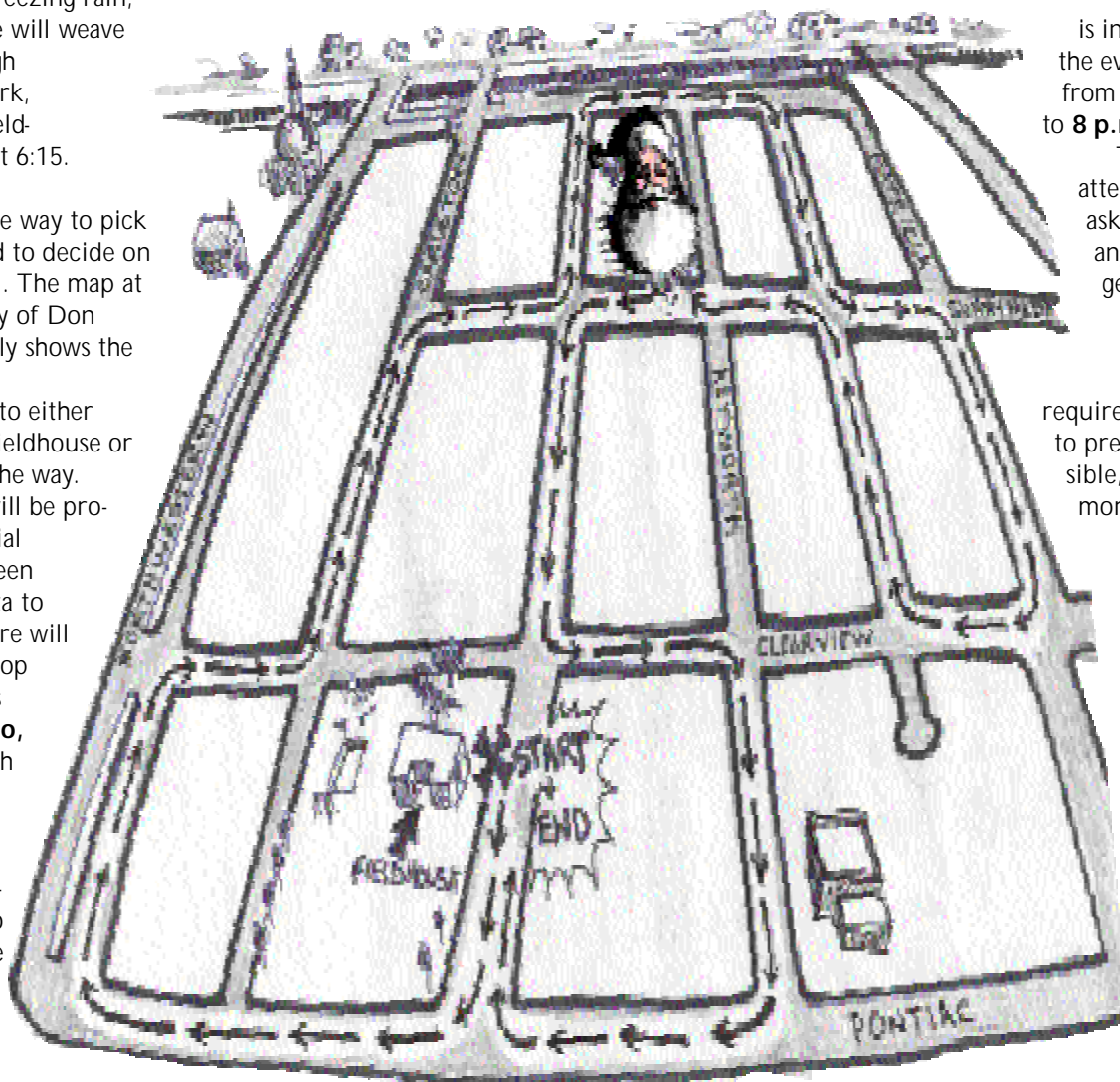
Everyone is invited and the event will run from **5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

Those attending are asked to bring any kind of finger, toothpick or nibbly food that doesn't require much work to prepare. If possible, bring even more than last year as there are a lot of hungry people dropping by after work! (Please keep in mind: the oven doesn't work.)

Please drop by for a chance to get to know your neigh-

bours, meet new people and enjoy great food.

Contact Sutherland at **722-7482** if you have any questions.



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: Greg Doswell (722-7705)

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

Elisabeth (**babysitting**) 722-0454

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The **Speaker** is produced monthly with the generous support of the Ottawa Citizen.

ALL CARVED UP, NOWHERE TO GO

A sample of our handiwork on Halloween night

HUSH-HUSH

1 DRUMMING

occasion.

West African Drumming on Sunday nights, **7 to 9 p.m.** at the Fieldhouse. We invite you to participate and listen and dance. Bring ear protection if you are sensitive. Contact Dave Henderson (**234-7041**),
daveh@magma.ca

2 GREEN-SPACE

The Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital is pleased to announce **Ann Coffey** will address our next meeting on **Dec. 16** on the topic of *Creating Healthier, Safer, Greener Schoolyards*. The meeting will begin at **7:30 p.m.** Coffee and cookies will follow the presentation in the fieldhouse. Residents of Champlain Park are invited to join us Alliance members on this

3 MUSIC

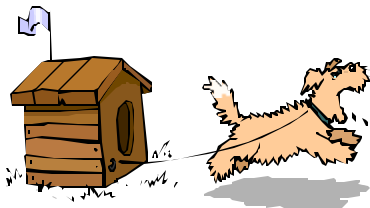
GLOBALFEST Music celebration on **Sunday Dec. 5**, 4 to 5 p.m. at Northwestern United Church. Join our choir in singing many familiar Christmas carols and hear other carols from around the world. Refreshments will follow. Contact Don Findlay, inharm94@msn.com or 830-5949.



4 GARDEN CLUB

The club will hold a holiday potluck and craft show on **Tuesday, Dec. 14**. Linda Thorne, of Thorne and Co., transports us to England for a tour of the gardens of Devon and Cornwall. For info: Laurie, 728-1945.

DOGS IN THE HOOD



By Thomas and Meredith Lauzon



My name is Thomas Lauzon and my sister Meredith and I will be writing a column in the **Speaker** about dogs in our neighbourhood.

If you would like us to profile your dog, you can call or email me c/o my mother Kim (785-0770 or kim.haliburton@bell.ca.)

Today we meet a pet owned by the Daly family on Keyworth: Bob, Colleen, Ellen and Paul.

There's a good dog, Pepper!

NAME: Pepper

AGE: 9 years old

BREED: A real mix. Jack Russell Terrier, Dachshund, Chihuahua. Maybe even more!

FAVOURITE TOYS: Bones and tennis balls.

FAVOURITE ACTIVITIES:

Barking at the window, sleeping, running around in the backyard.

TRICKS: Dances on her hind legs.

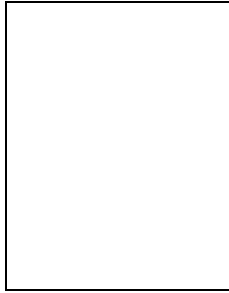
FRIENDS IN THE 'HOOD:

Sniff, across the street. (Sniff looks just like Pepper and was mistaken for Pepper and brought home to Daly's, who had the real Pepper, so she was adopted by the people across the street, Jean, Colin

and Sylvia); Vasa, the black Lab down the street.

COMMENTS: Pepper is a wonderful dog. We got her from the pound in Hull, and she was so small that she fit in our mom's hands. If you walk by our house, you will probably see her in the window!

Amy's Corner



by Amy Kempster
722-6039

Early targets set after feedback on 2005 budget

The result of the consultation on the city of Ottawa budget between Sept. 21 and Oct. 27 has resulted in budget directions as follows:

- 1) Maintain existing services;
- 2) Enhance some key services (paramedic, transit, recycling, budget consultation, community funding, library, child care and roadside grass cutting;
- 3) Set a target of \$4.5 million for efficiency savings;
- 4) Use \$12 million from the Hydro Ottawa dividend to help fund the operating budget;
- 5) Increase user fees by the percentage cost increase in their areas except for transit, where the Consumer Price Index would be used, and parking, which would not be increased;
- 6) Adjust fee assistance for recreation user fees in proportion to the increased fees;
- 7) balance any remaining pressures by property taxation;
- 8) Increase water/sewer rates to cover increased costs for the service
- 9) Fund festivals and Ottawa Tourism and Convention Authority (OTCA) from the one-time source of city-wide reserves with a limit of \$1 million on the amount for OTCA; and
- 10) Fund other one-time requirements from the same source.

The target for a tax increase is three per cent and for the police budget 1.4

per cent, for a possible tax increase of 4.4 per cent.

Council suggested staff look for other savings to reach this target as noted in the following:

That staff be directed to prepare a draft budget for a range of options to reduce the property tax requirements, taking into account the following; increasing proposed savings from efficiencies, reducing proposed service enhancements, exploring additional proposed revenue streams for increases to operating budget from capital, examine opportunities for possible adjustments or alternate means of providing services including increases to user fees.

Several motions to include examination of specific areas were also included: putting back 10 per cent of the previous year's transit cuts; insuring the city's share of the new child-care spaces was included; waiving fee increases for seniors groups using community centres; and adding the maximum re the OTCA grant.

The source of many of the increases in costs is compensation, so perhaps some questions might be asked about collective bargaining. Some increases are influenced strongly by increases in fuel costs. Staff are to approach the province about increases caused by provincial changes in mandated services.

The draft budget will be available in December.

Development charges

The Capital Budget for the city gets less attention than the operating one. This budget covers the capital costs related to growth. Some of these costs can be recovered with the use of development charges, although the Development Charges Act limits, to some extent, that possibility. The remainder must be paid by the use of higher taxes or, in the case of water and sewer works, higher user rates.

The total growth related costs are now estimated at \$5.136 billion. Recently the Long-range Financial Plan Sub-Committee of Corporate Services Committee made decisions which affect the portion of these costs which must be paid out of taxes or rates.

First, we will note the practice of allowing for discounts for non-residen-

tial development.

Mandatory and non-statutory exemptions are another source of costs to the taxpayer. The statutory exemptions are: enlargement of an existing dwelling unit; creation of a maximum of two additional dwelling units in a single detached dwelling or one additional unit in any other type of dwelling; land owned and used by a municipality or school board; enlargement of the floor area of an existing industrial building by up to 50 per cent.

Discretionary additional exemptions are: all residential buildings erected and owned by non-profit housing, if there is evidence for the City Treasurer that they are intended to be used by persons with low or modest income; places of worship and the land connected; churchyards, cemeteries or burying grounds; non-residential buildings used for bona fide agricultural purposes; farm retirement in accordance with the Official Plan; garden suite, if removed within ten years; temporary buildings, if removed within two years; buildings for sale of gardening and related products, if not erected before March 15 and removed before Oct. 15 each year; non-profit health care facilities; non-residential development involving the creation or addition of accessory uses containing less than 10 square metres of gross floor area; part of downtown Ottawa (O'Connor west to Rochester). Except for the exemption for the western portion of downtown, these exemptions are not considered to result in significant loss to the city.

Corporate Services Committee will consider the matter on Dec. 7.

Zoning Study

The latest issue of *The News* contains a notice about Secondary Dwelling Unit Zoning Review.

The new Official Plan permits this use in all one- and two-unit dwellings. Those with an interest in this review can contact Beth Desmarais by phone at 580-2424 ext. 13503 or by email at Elizabeth.Desmarais@ottawa.ca

The review will recommend such things as size, external appearance and other circumstances where the zoning will permit this use.

