
CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER

January 2005

Vol. 24, No. 4

Winterfest chills on Jan. 29

Sleigh ride, chili cook-off on menu



Look for the sleigh ride from **noon to 2 p.m.**

Winterfest is upon us, just in time to brighten the dark depths of the season. This year's event will be held **Saturday, Jan. 29 from noon to 3 p.m.** The event will proceed, no matter the weather.

Outdoors, there will be games and tests of skill on the hockey rink. Inside, there will be food and a warm glow. The community association invites everyone to briefly abandon hibernation.

Following a successful launch in 2003, this year we're having the **Chili Cook Off** once again. Those wanting to

compete in a taste-test are asked to drop off a bowl of their famous concoctions, meat or vegetarian, by **1 p.m.** We are also looking for larger quantities of chili to actually feed the hungry 'festers at lunch. Please speak to Don about a possible contribution. After the meal, a taste test will be held. Winning recipes, with the chef's permission, will appear in a future *Speaker*.

There will also be **hot dogs** and drinks for the young ones.

Outside, a **sleigh ride** is planned, from **noon to 2 p.m.**, as is a roaring

fire.

Outdoor music is being arranged to lend to the party atmosphere.

Face-painting should be available as well as a tug of war and the **CHEZ goal shoot-out**.

Don Monet is looking for volunteers who can take on a task on the 29th. Please call **728-1750** if you're able to bake, man a booth, or help with set-up or tear down.

Admission is free but there will be a charge for lunch.

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.

Outdoor rinks in full swing

The two skating rinks are now open and, by all accounts, it has been an excellent season so far.

A reminder of the expanded hours: **Saturday and Sunday**, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; **Monday**, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.; **Tuesday to Friday**, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Use of the rink in off-hours is permitted, but the change-room will not be open and the hockey nets unavailable.

There are times during the week when the hockey rink is reserved: **Tuesdays**, from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. for women's hockey and **Wednesday**, for

youth hockey, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., for those 12 and under.

Please try to use the proper protective gear for your activity. The city-wide number to call for ice conditions is **562-1111**.

According to rules set out by the city, the side rink is to be used for skating only. Hockey is to be played on the large, boarded rink. Those wanting more information are asked to call the rink co-ordinator, **Greg Doswell (722-7705)**.

Hush-Hush

1 DRUMMING

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



and spandex crowd! For more information or to register, call **Liz at 724-2162**.

3 ON-LINE SPEAKER

The Champlain Speaker is available in an electronic form. To register, simply send an email to Alexander Smith at agmsmith@rogers.com and you'll be added to the list.

2 AEROBICS

If your New Year's resolution includes getting more exercise (and having fun doing it), why not join the Champlain Park **aerobics class?** Low impact aerobics classes, taught by certified Y instructors, are held at the fieldhouse on Mondays and Wednesdays at **6:45 p.m.** Rest assured this is not a bare midriff

4 GARDEN CLUB

The Champlain Park Garden Club meets on **Tuesday, Feb. 8**. The guest speaker is Mrs. Schmitz, of Artistic Landscape, who will discuss her favourite perennials with an emphasis on campanulas. For info: Laurie, 728-1945.

Dating Yourself



Blue Box:

Jan. 24, Feb. 7, Feb. 21.

Black Box:

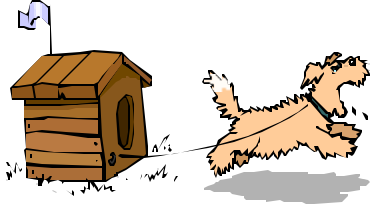
Jan. 31, Feb. 14, Feb. 28.



Valentine's Day

**Monday,
Feb. 14**

DOGS IN THE HOOD



By Thomas and Meredith Lauzon



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

There's a good dog, Chester!



————— *Charles and Nina relaxing at home with Chester*

Met Chester, the only Rhodesian Ridgeback in the neighbourhood, and probably one of the tallest dogs in Champlain Park!

FAMILY: The Andrasciks; Kathy, Paul, Charles and Nina.

AGE/BREED: 9 years old. The name Rhodesian Ridgeback refers to a ridge of forward-growing hair down the middle of the dog's back. Very cool-looking dog. Large, quiet, looks like he

would be mean and aggressive but he isn't.

NAME: Chester, but his registered name is Simba.

TRICKS: Shake a paw; sit, down, play dead. Give kisses. Yuck!

FAVOURITE ACTIVITIES: Playing with Charles and Nina; walking in fields; walking on the Ottawa River Parkway.

ORIGINS: A breeder outside Montreal.

AHH! FACTOR: When Nina and Charles were little, Chester would let them ride on his back.

NEAT INFO: Chester is a lovely family dog! His ancestors were much more daring than he is. They use to help hunt lions in Africa by herding them for their masters.

Amy's Corner



by Amy Kempster
722-6039

Ottawa budget: \$2 billion to run city in 2005

Trying to fathom the City of Ottawa's budget documents has supposedly been made easier but I found the budget summary document anything but clear.

After reading through the document almost to the end, you realize that most of the numbers they are quoting are the budget pressures.

To truly understand the city budget, you need to look at the Operating Budget Overview and Two-year Forecast document. There you find that the total budget is for \$2.042 billion, of which \$193,000,000 is rate supported (i.e. your water and sewer bill will go up by nine per cent) and \$1.848 billion is tax supported.

The net tax requirement is \$919,523,000, an increase of \$55,029,000 from 2004, of which \$39,524,000 is for city services, \$14,477,000 for police services and \$1,028,000 for the Conservation Authorities.

One interesting chart shows the proportion by type of expenditure: Compensation accounts for 46 per cent; transfer payments 21 per cent; finance charges and purchased services for 13 per cent each and materials and supplies for seven per cent.

A breakdown by service area shows 38 per cent to Community and Protective Services; 24 per cent to

Public Works and Services; Non-departmental (mainly contributions to reserves, pay-as-you-go and debt) 16 per cent; Corporate Services/General Government 12 per cent; police services eight per cent.

Examining significant increases from 2004, we find (beyond the police increase) the following, in terms of increases of \$2 million or more: Financial Services \$2,315,000 and 4.0 FTEs (full-time equivalents);

Real Property Asset Management, increase of \$5,902,000 and 27.7 FTEs; Information Technology, increase of \$5,109,000 (no change in FTEs);

City Clerk's Branch, increase of \$2,269,000 and 5.0 FTEs;

Paramedic Service, up \$3,235,000 and 8.0 FTEs;

Fire Services up \$5,269,000 (no increase in FTEs);

Housing up \$2,618,000 (no change in FTEs);

Parks and Recreation up \$9,674,000 and 8.0 FTEs;

Public Health \$2,439,000 and 4.0 FTEs;

Employment and Financial Assistance up \$11,548,000 (no change in FTEs);

Long-Term Care up \$2,975,000 and 27.0 FTEs;

Surface Operations up \$6,423,000 and 25.1 FTEs;

Traffic and Parking Operations up \$3,206,000 and 3.0 FTEs;

Transit Services up \$23,670,000 and 82.0 FTEs;

Fleet Services (Expenditures) \$12,603,000 and 16.0 FTEs (fully recovered from revenues);

Solid Waste up \$3,169,000 (no change in FTEs);

Drinking Water up \$2,033,000 (no change in FTEs);

and Wastewater Services up \$3,947,000 and 2.0 FTEs.

If you are concerned about some of these increases, please contact ward councillor Shawn Little.

Canderel Development

This development has now been approved by the city.

The city has agreed, however, to put a local area traffic management plan in the 2005 budget. As well, Shawn Little

has requested the three developers with projects in the Richmond Road corridor to donate funds for a planning exercise for the area and Canderel has already agreed to donate \$7,500 to that end.

Development charges

On the basis of the (possible) need to compete with Toronto-area municipalities, the city set the charge for non-residential development (other than retail) at a rate below the calculated fair cost.

The estimated cost to taxpayers of this discount is \$209 million over 17 years, or about \$12 million a year. Given the vacancies in suburban office and industrial space, the need for this discount might be questioned.

(Development charges are not levied on existing buildings, or expansion up to 50 per cent of existing industrial space.)

The costs of projects related to growth can be argued to provide some benefits to existing development, and thus the cost of these benefits are not to be charged to new development.

The calculation of these benefits for many water and sewer projects was increased by 10 per cent (from that calculated in July) in the Dec. 7 report to Corporate Services Committee.

No real explanation of this increase from the July calculations can be found in the documentation provided to the public by the report, and was noted would result in an extra 3.67 per cent on your water rates.

The basis on which the benefits to existing development were originally calculated in July seemed reasonable. That calculation used the ratio of the projected growth population over the expected total population to obtain the growth portion. Recent news reports suggest that the city's estimates of growth population (used for this purpose and the Official Plan) are somewhat high.

Possibly one could assume that the appeal by some developers of these population projections might have been the hidden reason for this greater attribution to existing development of growth related water and sewer projects. (Councillors received information in camera regarding the appeals.) Otherwise this increased attribution seems lacking in rationale.

