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# CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER



February 2007

Vol. 27, No. 2

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## A grand day!



Ellen Daley, 13, joined Don McVeigh in music-making



Anne Doswell was the fairest organizer



Sleigh rides were a big hit... such beautiful horses this year!



Let's just call this group "The Chili Chicks"



Brooklyn Gauntsmith and Summer Leadman



David Sauve looks on as Charlie Foster of Daniel Ave. shows off his smooth moves.

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## -10 C and the sun shone for Winter Fair

Kathee Kot won the prize for best chili. The Champlain Park Community Association provided free coffee and hot chocolate. Both were ordered from Bridgehead and set up in fairly-traded urns. Or was it only the beans that were fair-traded? Anyway, those who

had a "cuppa" really enjoyed the flavour. A piece of carrot cake seemed to go well with the brew.

Councillor Christine Leadman was on hand with her winning smile. She also provided hot dogs, buns, condiments, and juice for the Fair.

As in previous years, the sleigh ride circumnavigated the park, hockey pucks rang off the sideboards, and anyone who needed to thaw their toes found good company, delicious desserts, and relaxed conversation inside the fieldhouse.

## Community Association

Co-chairs: Lynne Bankier (729-0955)  
and Craig Wells.

Vice-chair: Glenna Patrick

Treasurer: potter (728-4980)

Secretary: Vacant (Lynne filling in)

Planning: Amy Kempster (722-6039)

Membership: Debra Huron (722-8048)

Neighbourhood Watch: Michael

Cheng (722-3344), Patrick Mates,  
(722-4120) Neil Robertson (729-5439)

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

Nick (**computer help**) 798-7652

Joey (**babysitting**) 728-5792

Geneviève (**babysitting**) 722-0454

## CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER

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Nancy Leigh-Smith, Benjamin  
Holland, Marlene Kells, Thomas and  
Meredith Lauzon, Kelly Egan.

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

# Get into the act! Improv for real life



Everyone is invited to two  
upcoming events at the fieldhouse.

### Friday, March 2, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Ottawa Phoenix Playback  
Theatre invites you to an easy and  
highly enjoyable evening filled with  
humour and tender feelings—perfect  
for a Friday night.

Describe for us your mood, your  
day, your frustrations, joys or an  
important event. We'll present them  
back to you!

It's a powerful experience to see  
an ordinary story improvised by our  
compassionate players.

We are all touched by these sto-  
ries, whether we offer our own or  
witness someone else's story. It's part  
of the simple magic of the experi-  
ence.

Playback is community theatre.  
Our fast-growing community is the  
audiences who come again and again  
to witness and to share.

Everyone is welcome. Admission  
is free. Join us!

### Friday March 9, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Introduction to Playback Theatre Skills

Taking this workshop can be the  
second step in joining our playback  
group – or just a fun evening! (The  
first step is attending a performance.)

Cost: \$25.00 for the evening

Register for the workshop by  
contacting annyrose@magma.ca

Or phone Jane at 613-234-8237

## Do you like to run?

Are you interested in starting an  
informal running club in the neigh-  
bourhood?

The idea would be to meet  
others in the neighbourhood for  
a weekly group run leaving from  
Champlain Park fieldhouse. Tell  
me what days and times work for  
you. It's a way to get your run in  
and socialize at the same time! All  
speeds welcome.

Caroline Liebenberg

613-729-6799

caroline@morganperry.com

## Green home stories sought

The offer still stands! If you are  
doing something good for the envi-  
ronment by using "green" building  
techniques in your home or on your  
property, please share your story  
with the neighbourhood through the  
Champlain Speaker.

By sharing your story of envi-  
ronmentally friendly practices, you'll

give the rest of us ideas. It takes a lot  
of ideas to make a difference...

Please contact The Editor by  
phone or e-mail (see column on left  
side of this page for contact details).  
Put "Green Homes Champlain Park"  
in the subject line of any e-mail so  
my e-mail filters will not reject the  
message.

# Membership drive shifts to May/June

Would you be willing to walk around the neighbourhood meeting your neighbours on a balmy afternoon this spring?

Traditionally, our annual Membership drive has happened in late September and early October. Last fall, the Community Association agreed to try a new model, one that asked residents to be more pro-active.

Memberships were sold to folks who attended a special Membership day in late September. Memberships were sold at a couple of community events last fall. And people who signed up for programs at the field-house were able to buy annual membership cards.

## Chilly toes, fewer canvassers

The fact is: last fall, we were short of volunteer canvassers. Many of the nice people who have knocked on your door asking you to buy a membership in years past have been doing so for many years. Some decid-

ed that having chilly fingers and toes *for many years* was a commitment they were willing to retire.

The results of last fall's walk-in membership drive were, predictably, less than the fruits of previous years' door-to-door canvass. An excellent idea floated by the Community Association's co-chair, Craig Wells, was to shift the membership drive to late spring to make the whole exercise (no pun intended) more pleasant for everyone.

## Why do we do an annual Membership drive?

Did you know that thanks to the Community Association:

- a group of knowledgeable

volunteers (namely your executive) represents our neighbourhood's concerns at City Hall?

- community events like the Winter Carnival and Hallowe'en party are organized by volunteers and special items (like the magician or horse-drawn sleigh) are paid for from Association funds ?

- this newsletter is produced and delivered to your door 10 times a year?

- priority booking of the field-house for Champlain Park residents is coordinated by a neighbourhood volunteer?

Check out the canvasser profile on this page to see if you qualify to canvass!

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## Canvasser profile

- ✦ If you have a good pair of walking shoes and enjoy strolling the neighbourhood, please consider being a Membership canvasser.
- ✦ If you are new to the neighbourhood, canvassing near your home is a great way to meet your neighbours.
- ✦ If you are a high school student who needs to log volunteer hours, here's an easy way to meet that School Board requirement

Think about it. Then, call Debra Huron, editor of the Speaker and Membership Coordinator to sign up. See page 2 for details on how to reach me.

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## Pesticide alert from new mom

My husband and I moved to this lovely neighbourhood 2 ½ years ago. Since I have been on maternity leave for more than a year now, I have taken many walks with our baby boy, enjoying fresh air and nature's little wonders.

As I stroll down our streets, I have noticed many lawn signs warning us to stay away because of toxic pesticide on front yards.

I thought of an article I read a while back in which doctors warn that pesticides are too harmful to use in any form. Our children are most vulnerable. Because of their small size and underdeveloped systems, they are not able to excrete chemicals. As they move around in a neighbourhood, their breathing happens closer to the ground. Of course, adults' health is at risk too.

Now, I don't want you to feel guilty for being proud of a nice lawn. I just want you to know there are alternatives that will give you a nice healthy lawn that is safe for humans and animals alike. Did you know that chemicals actually degrade the overall health of your lawn and garden instead of improving them?

Many companies here in Ottawa offer organic lawn care, such as.

- Appleseed Organic Lawn Care 613-224-7336
- Forevergreen Canada (613) 730-7595
- Green Spaces Landscaping 613-283-5850
- Lafleur de la Capitale 613-724-6096
- National Aeration and Organic Lawn Service 613-443-1406
- Natural Choice Inc. 613-823-9257
- Organic Lawn Care 613-837-4556
- The Lawn Clinic (613) 860-5296

Lawn pesticides are being banned in many parts of Ontario. They are already banned in all of Quebec! Here in Ottawa, we don't have to wait for a by-law to stop using them. I hope you will make a healthier choice this spring and summer.

—Liane Norman

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## Amy's Corner



by *Amy Kempster*  
722-6039

## Amy will return in March

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*This month's column is by Lynne Bankier*

The City of Ottawa is currently deliberating on budget decisions for 2007, with approval date target of Feb. 28. I attended the budget meeting for our ward on Feb. 15 and have included some very basic excerpts from the "Draft Budget at A Glance" document. A draft capital budget for our ward was also distributed.

A majority of the association executive favours the 1.7 percent tax increase option, described below, as a way to minimize program/service reductions. We provided feedback to our City Councillor. The budget documents are available in hard copy or on-line, as described below. You may wish to give individual feedback on specific areas of concern to you. The information below should help you to do so.



### **Council's Direction**

On January 11, 2007, City Council approved direction for staff to develop a Draft Budget that provides Council with two Draft Budgets - one at zero per cent and one which would increase taxes by the rate of inflation (1.7 per cent).

### **Snapshot of the Budget**

- Proposed Operating Budget of \$2 billion
- Budget pressures of \$71.6 million offset by these possible options:

Required for a zero per cent tax increase:

- \$15.8 million in program/service reductions

Required for a 1.7 per cent tax increase:

- \$2.1 million in program/service reductions

### **User Fee Increase**

In addition to the deficit reduction options, the Draft Operating Budget proposes increases to some

user fees. Council has approved these annual increases at the rate of inflation to cover increased costs associated with service delivery.

Here is a list of the areas of fee increases:

- Aquatic Admissions
- Solid Waste
- Purchase of a blue/black box
- Child Care
- Arena Rentals
- Sports field Rentals

### **Taking Account of Your Views. We Value Your Opinions.**

Remember, this budget is still in draft form. Your input and participation will help to shape the important decisions needed to be made on the final document.

### **Do you have ideas, questions, or opinions about the 2007 Draft Budget?**

- The City of Ottawa wants to hear them. Here are the many ways you can participate and contact us:
- Visit [www.ottawa.ca](http://www.ottawa.ca) Click on the Budget 2007 icon on the home page.
- Make a Presentation at a Committee of the Whole Meeting
- You can make a five-minute presentation at a Committee of the Whole meeting and share your thoughts with Council and your fellow residents on Budget 2007 – a document that sets the direction of your City and your community.
- Get in Touch with Your City Councillor, For Kitchissippi Ward, contact Christine. [Leadman@ottawa.ca](mailto:Leadman@ottawa.ca), Telephone: 613-580-2485
- Contact the City of Ottawa  
E-mail: [311@ottawa.ca](mailto:311@ottawa.ca)  
Phone: 3-1-1 (Leave a recorded message which will be transcribed and sent to Council)  
TTY: 613-580-2401  
Fax: 613-560-6082

Mail: Chief Corporate Services Officer  
City of Ottawa, 110 Laurier Avenue West  
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1

### **View the Draft Budget in Detail**

Get a more in-depth look at the 2007 Draft Budget by viewing it online at [ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca), or at any Ottawa Public Library branch or Client Service Centre.

To register and to get an update on the meetings, contact 613-580-2424, ext. 28136.