
CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER



June 2007

Vol. 27, No. 6

The benefits of belonging

The Membership Drive is well underway. Many of you may already have been canvassed by one of our volunteers.

I was asked by one of our canvassers why we need to collect membership fees if the Champlain Park Community Association already has over \$9,000 in the bank. There are three main reasons. The third in my list is perhaps the most important one, and I'd like you to think seriously about it.

1) The actual fees collected amount to \$1,650 in any given year. This is barely enough to meet our annual cash output which includes liability insurance for the board and organization (yes, the City insists we have this insurance.) Other costs include the annual general meeting, our winter carnival, Art-in-the Park, the sleigh ride, and the springtime river clean-up. After paying for all this, there is very little cash left.

2) The \$9000 tucked away in the bank is for any

future legal action we may have to take. The bills to challenge the Champlain Bridge expansion took over seven years and a lot of hard work by many dedicated people to pay off. We don't want to go through that again.

3) The amount of time your executive spends speaking to and addressing municipal committees, politicians and City of Ottawa bureaucrats is considerable. If we were just individuals, our comments would often be ineffectual or ignored. But because we represent a community association with a membership of 250 to 300 dues-paying members, we are not only listened to but often sought out for our views. What does your \$5 or \$7 buy? Presence and credibility at City Hall!

—by Craig Wells

Association comments on new site plan

The Ottawa Muslim Association (OMA) has submitted a revised site plan to the City of Ottawa. It addresses landscaping and lighting issues. The plan must be approved and implemented before a small amount of commercial parking resumes on the site (22 spaces on the original lot.)

The main (and official) suggestions made by our Community Association about the new plan are:

- Rebuild a berm along the entire lengths of the north and east sides of the back lot to soften the sight lines between the neighbourhood and Tunney's Pasture
- Plant an equal mix of red and sugar maples and burr oak
- Have eight or nine conifers spread out between the deciduous trees

- Upgrade the existing cedar hedge
- Install low (in height and wattage) lighting on the four islands located in the back lot, to address overnight security but to avoid light pollution for neighbouring residences
- Ensure that snow removal or piling is done in a way that will not cause winter damage to the landscaping
- Provide for tree staking.

Copies of our comments were shared with our city councillor, Christine Leadman, who will follow up and keep us informed. Craig Wells deserves thanks for speaking with both the landscape architect and the City Planner, Doug James, before we made our suggestions.

—by Lynne Bankier

**Champlain Park
Community
Association**

Executive members

Co-chairs: Lynne Bankier (729-0955)
and Craig Wells (725-5488).

Vice-chair: Glenna Patrick
(729-5793)

Treasurer: potter (728-4980)

Secretary: Vacant (Lynne filling in)

Planning: Amy Kempster (722-6039)

Membership: Craig Wells and
Glenna Patrick

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)

CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER

your community newsletter

Editor: Debra Huron 722-8048

dhuron@sympatico.ca

Proofreading: Becky Rynor

Delivery Chief: Kelly Egan

On-line edition: To receive an e-mail
once a month with a PDF of the
newsletter, contact Alexander Smith
agmsmith@rogers.com



Carriers: Kay Young, Terri
Blanchard, Sandy Milne, Philip
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Wendy Huculak, Heather Pearl, Ann
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Holland, Marlene Kells, Thomas and
Meredith Lauzon, Kelly Egan.

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

Wading pool schedule for the area this summer

Local wading pools will be
open on June 28. The summer sea-
son will close on August 23.

In **June and July**, the pools will
be open from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m.
They will be filled by 11 a.m. and
drained each day at 6 p.m .

In **August**, the daily schedule
changes slightly. Pools will be open
from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. They will
be filled by 11 a.m. and drained
each day at 5 p.m.

**The Champlain Park wad-
ing pool is closed on Tuesdays
throughout the summer. It is open
on statutory holidays.**

The table on this page, courtesy
of NewsWest, shows the days when
other wading pools in the area are
closed. It also shows whether a pool
is open or closed on statutory holi-
days.

Name of Park	Address	Days Closed	Stat.Holiday
Hampton	645 Parkview Rd.	Wednesday	Open
Iona	223 Iona St.	Sunday/Mon.	Closed
Lion's	294 Elmgrove Ave.	Sat/Sunday	Closed
McKellar	539 Wavell Ave.	Sat/Sunday	Closed
Ev Tremblay	108 Beech St.	Monday	Open
Parkdale	366 Parkdale Ave.	Thursday	Open
Reid	40 Reid Ave.	Tuesday	Closed
Kiwanis	395 Levis St.	Sat/Sunday	Closed

**Have a safe and
happy summer.**

**The next edition
of the Champlain
Speaker will appear
in September.
Deadline for your
submissions is
Labour Day.**

**TEENS
available for
babysitting**

Emma J. 728-6681
Alexandra 722-7482
Berlin 722-2248
Leigh 715-9473
Emma I. 728-1063
Anastasia 728-9014
Fiona 761-9262
Emma M. 728-4642
Elisabeth (bilingual)
722-0454

Daniel Ave. residents use rebate program to get a greener home

Mike Carmanico and his wife Carol-Ann are already noticing the difference. Their air conditioning unit cycles “on” much less frequently since they had R7 foam insulation nailed to the outside walls of their two-storey stucco home on Daniel Avenue.

Installing new windows throughout the house this spring has also helped improve the energy efficiency of the home they bought 19 years ago.

The changes they made over a five week period began after Carol-Ann noticed an ad in the newspaper. That was months ago, when snow still wafted from the heavens. The ad invited homeowner taxpayers, like you and me, to sign up for an energy home audit by calling a toll-free number. After booking their appointment, Mike and Carol-Ann waited a few months for the inspection date to arrive.

“The inspector checks out your whole house: the attic, the windows and light sockets, the furnace,” says Mike. Built in 1955, their home did not have enough insulation and the aluminum windows were leaking so badly that if the house had been afloat, it might have sunk.

The inspection cost \$295 plus tax. The couple is eligible for a \$150 rebate from the Ontario government. Imagine that! It seems the federal and the provincial governments are actually working together.

“After he did the inspection, which took about an hour-and-a-half, he gave us a bunch of literature,” Mike explains. A crucial part of the inspection was a pressure test on the whole house. It identified leaks galore.

The energy inspection includes a written report. Getting the report usually takes six to eight weeks. (Now,

that’s the kind of government efficiency we’re used to, right?) Based on the inspector’s verbal report, Mike and Carol-Ann decided to replace all their windows and to install R7 insulation on the outside of the house.

Two years ago, they had purchased a high efficiency furnace. “We could also consider buying a SEER 1400 air conditioner to replace our current unit,” says Mike. If they did, the province of Ontario would give them a rebate of \$350 and the federal government would offer a \$250 rebate on the \$2,800 unit. “It uses 50 per cent less energy than any of the older models,” says Mike.

The rebates explained

The inspection identifies areas where the home could benefit from energy-efficient measures. In the case of this couple on Daniel Ave., the rebates included:

- \$30 for each new window they installed
- a maximum of \$900 for cladding the entire house in R7 foam insulation
- a \$150 rebate on the \$295 bill for the initial home inspection (the follow-up inspection, to check on what the homeowner has done, costs extra and is not eligible for a rebate).

If someone decides to only insulate half their home (say, the bottom storey) the insulation rebate falls to reflect that percentage of coverage.

Homeowners must hire their own contractors to replace windows and



The house had a polka-dot look when the insulation was nailed in place. Later, it was covered in a smooth stucco.

to do the foam insulation work. The first stage of the insulation upgrade involves nailing white foam to the side of the home. This is later covered with a thin layer of concrete. Then, the contractor applies a smooth stucco-like surface. This is available in a variety of colours. Many Ottawa contractors do this kind of work.

Replacing the windows on Daniel Ave. took a couple of days. The foam insulation work spanned about three weeks. It was delayed due to weather: the final stucco work cannot be done when outdoor humidity is high or when it’s a rainy day.

When the job was done, Mike had to use his Shop-Vac to clean up tiny shavings of white foam from the yard and driveway. The couple is enjoying the view from new windows and they hope that the “new look” will increase both the curb appeal and energy-efficiency of their home.

To book an energy inspection, call 1-877-732-9888, ext. 8301. To learn more about this program, do a web search for the Office of Energy Efficiency. Then follow the links to Eco-Energy Retrofits for Homes.

—by Debra Huron

Amy's Corner



by *Amy Kempster*
722-6039

Wellington Reconstruction, Community Design Plan and Neighbourhood Plan for it and Mechanicsville: The open house on June 18 covered all these plans so sorting it out is a bit of a challenge. The title of the information pamphlet is: *Neighbourhood Planning: A New Vision for Hintonburg, West Wellington and Mechanicsville.*

First, I will give the information on the reconstruction of Wellington Street (from Western Ave. to Bayview Road) as this is probably of most interest to our neighbourhood. For Road Reconstruction, detail design will commence in the fall of 2007. The plan suggests that tendering will take place in winter 2008, with construction to start in spring or summer of that year. Suggested design aspects are: wider sidewalks; shortening of cross-walk distances; wide-shared lanes for on-road cycling where space permits; bulb-outs to define roadside parking lanes and allow space for landscaping; maximizing the number of on-street parking spaces; bus bulges that allow space for bus shelters and other street furniture; numerous opportunities for landscaping, street trees and public art; and opportunities to co-ordinate landscaping with adjacent private lands.

Due to cost, burying of overhead wires is unlikely but the street is eligible for high quality lighting and street-scaping detail. The closure of the short one-way portion of Wellington just east of the junction of Wellington and Somerset is also proposed.

The Community Design Plan (CDP) covers mainly one block north and south of Wellington plus a few extensions and the Holland/Parkdale/Scott/Wellington rectangle. As a "Main Street" this area has been identified in the Official Plan as a possible location for

intensification. Progress on this plan was less well-presented and documented in the handouts. Notes from the Feb. 24 workshops on the following themes are available online at Ottawa's website (Ottawa.ca) under Residents/ Public Consultation/ Wellington Community Design Plan: Arts, Culture and Heritage; Neighbourhood Character, Land Use and Urban Design; Business/Retail Improvement and Construction Period Mitigation; Safety, Security and Housing; Human Services and Facility Needs/ Open Spaces and Linkages; and Streetscaping, Mobility Issues and Road Design.

The second of these is most relevant to the CDP.

The Neighbourhood Plan as suggested covers Hintonburg and Mechanicsville. The Vision is summarized by: pro-active; sustainable community; strong and united; tightly knit; welcoming, caring and inclusive; prosperous and innovative; embracing culture; respectful of our past. Building blocks or community themes to build upon were enlarged upon under the following themes: Our Place in the City; Our Community Physical Characteristics; Our Community History and Heritage; Our Diverse Peoples; Our Arts Tradition; Our Community Facilities and Services; Our Open Space, Greenspace and Recreation; Our Community Safety; Our Housing; Our Business Development; Our Main Street Built Form; Our Main Street Streetscape; Our Mobility.

Most of these themes could be used by our community to help us plan our future if we were to engage in a similar exercise. For further information or comments on all three projects contact Wendy Royer: email wendy.royer@ottawa.ca or telephone 613-580-2424 ext..15491; Fax 613-580-2843.

NCC Plans for the Urban Area: The NCC is to commence a study of the urban areas owned by the Federal Government next month. This includes Tunney's Pasture and the Ottawa River Parkway lands. An outside consulting firm will conduct the study, which will include public consultation.

This study is long overdue. It may assist in ensuring that the revised zoning law for Ottawa reflects sensible possibilities for uses along the parkway rather than the somewhat odd list that the NCC has insisted on retaining (since it was allowed these uses under the zoning prior to 1998.)