

# CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER



November - December 2007

Vol. 27, No.9

## Sleigh ride set for Dec. 23

Sunday, December 23  
6:15 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.  
The ride begins at the fieldhouse!

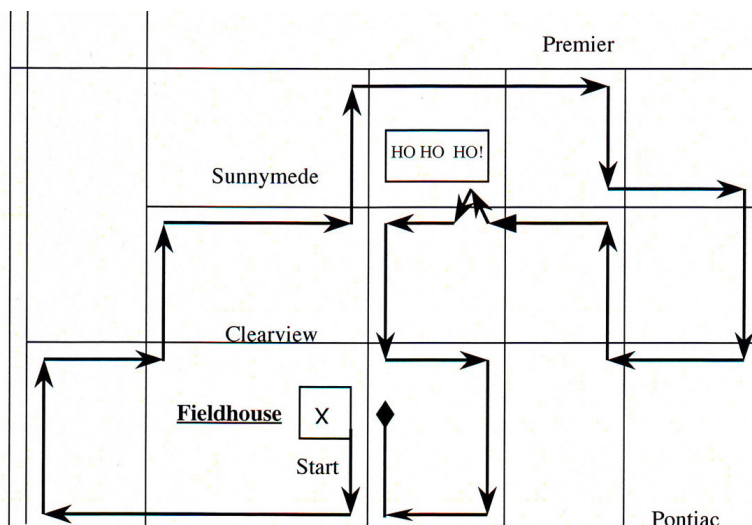
Everything is set for the 13th annual sleigh ride and carol songfest. The sleigh will weave its way through the neighbourhood, leaving at about 6:15 p.m. with stops along the way to pick up people and to decide on the next carol!

The map below shows the route that will be taken this year. Feel free to either come to the fieldhouse at the start or join in along the way. Song sheets will be provided. A special request has been made again this year, asking Santa to join us, so there will be a special stop half way to try and find him. Ho, Ho, Ho! We should arrive at the home of a friend of Santa's at about 7:00 p.m. The house is on Sunnymede Avenue. Just look for the reindeer and blazing lights.

The sleigh ride will return to the fieldhouse for some Christmas cheer and hot chocolate. Joanne Chianello has graciously agreed to arrange for



Bridgehead's magical hot chocolate once again. We are looking for donations of cookies and Christmas goodies. **Please call Jim Cocks at 728-7881**, if you can help.



If the weather is extremely poor, the backup plan is to meet at the fieldhouse for some indoor festivities.

In the spirit of the season, donations to the Ottawa Food Bank will be accepted. A container will be provided at the fieldhouse for your donations.

So plan to join your neighbours for a festive couple of hours, or even just a song or two, to spread good cheer on the night before the night before Christmas!

—by Jim Cocks

## Champlain Park Community Association

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

Vice-chair: Heather Pearl  
(725-1422)

Treasurer: potter (728-4980)

Secretary: Karen Maser (722-6700)

Ex-officio Past President:

Jonathan Chaplan (728-7670)

Membership: Craig Wells (temporary)

Fieldhouse co-ordinator: Laurie Fagan  
(728-1945)

Rink co-ordinator: Greg Doswell  
(722-7705)

**Neighbourhood Watch:** Michael  
Cheng (722-3344), Patrick Mates,  
(722-4120), Neil Robertson  
(729-5439)

Spring clean-up coordinator (vacant)

Social convenor: Vacant

### Planning:

Amy Kempster (722-6039)

## CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER your community newsletter

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**On-line edition:** To receive an e-mail  
once a month with a PDF of the  
Speaker, contact Alexander Smith  
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Potter, Emma Morris, Linda Steele,  
Nancy Leigh-Smith, Benjamin  
Holland, Marlene Kells, Kelly Egan.

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

# Halloween party turns out to be a ghoulishly great

With 60 kids  
and lots of parents  
on hand, too, the  
community Halloween  
party featured  
beautiful princesses,  
scary ghosts,  
spidermen, pirates,  
little bugs, and many  
other costumes.

Little John, the  
Clown, performed for  
the crowd and had  
everyone laughing.  
(Pete was a great  
giraffe and Jeff made  
a great attempt at  
blowing up balloons.)

Thanks to all the  
bakers, the spread was  
ghoulishly delicious.

The organizers  
included Gillian  
Peters, Sacha Ivis,

Anne Johnson and  
Kelly Wiles. Helpers  
were Emma Ivis,  
Rebecca and Monica  
Strada, Malvina

Przbylak, and Sarah,  
Special thanks to  
everyone who helped  
to clean up!  
—by Kelly Wiles

## 268 Keyworth

Committee of Adjustment met on Nov.  
21 to hear the application for variances  
on this property. Many residents have  
signed a petition against those variances  
and the Community Association is on  
record as opposing the owner's plans for  
this property. On Nov. 21, the committee  
"reserved judgment," promising to  
announce its decision in 10 days. For  
updates on this matter, contact Heather  
Pearl, vice-chair of the community  
association. Telephone: 725-1422 or  
e-mail pearhea@aol.com

## Advance notices

Winter Carnival  
will be held at  
Champlain Park  
and fieldhouse  
Saturday Jan. 26, 2008



The skating rink will  
likely be open in early  
January.  
Contact Greg Doswell  
for info: 722-7705

## TEENS available for babysitting

Emma J.	728-6681
Alexandra	722-7482
Berlin	722-2248
Ben	729-1218
Leigh	715-9473
Emma I.	728-1063
Anastasia	728-9014
Fiona	761-9262
Emma M.	728-4642
Elisabeth (bilingual)	722-0454

# A tree house to be proud of

Imagine building your dream house. Imagine that it has a beautiful maple in the front yard. Imagine that your dream for that maple is that it will grace the property and the streetscape for years to come.

For Duncan Bury and Louise Atkins, the dream house taking shape at 193 Cowley Ave. flows around a maple tree. “We designed the house around the tree,” says Duncan. “It will provide our shade in summer and will allow light into our living space in the winter.”

On the second floor of their soon-to-be-occupied home, the couple has built a small deck. It’s like a tree house because it sits under the eaves, adjacent to the upper branches of the maple. Louise can’t decide whether she loves the “tree house” more than the solarium off the kitchen. Why choose? They’re both important features of a smart, environmentally-friendly home that suits a couple with day jobs at Environment Canada.

Longtime residents of Clarendon Ave., Louise and Duncan read Sarah Susanka’s book *The Not So Big House* before they started designing their less than 2,000 sq. ft. home. Louise plans to take the 100 km diet farther (or should that be closer?) to home by growing pots of herbs and veggies throughout the winter in her solarium.

Environmental features of the house include:

- A foundation made of concrete with 2 inches of exterior insulation and 2 inches of basement floor insulation
- Low e, argon-filled windows (Energy Star rated)
- Triple-glazed argon-filled windows in the solarium
- A raised heel truss roof that allows for more attic insulation
- Mineral wool batting insulation (made from recycled slag and basalt rock)
- Two inches of exterior insulation and blown cellulose in the attic

The home’s heating system features a high efficiency forced air gas furnace fitted with a heat



Duncan Bury and Louise Atkins love the maple tree in their front yard. Photo: Daniel Buckles

recovery ventilator. As well, the high efficiency wood burning fireplace they hope will keep the living/dining areas cozy is rated for low particulate emissions. The conduits that would allow solar panels to be installed are built into the chimney.

An on-demand gas water heater replaces a typical water tank. Toilets are of the low flow three and six litre, double flush variety. If you saw the movie *Meet the Fockers*, you’ll remember the adage, “If it’s yellow, let it mellow...if it’s brown, flush it down.” These toilets help people do a variation of that!

Duncan is quick to stress that going “green” to build the house did not mean searching for hard-to-find materials or fixtures. “Everything is readily available,” he said. “We hope that the big picture will add up to living as low impact as possible.”

Welcome to Champlain Park, and thanks for saving that tree!  
– by Debra Huron

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# Amy's Corner



by *Amy Kempster*  
722-6039

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**Draft City Operating Budget:** The City's Draft Budget was presented on Nov. 14. The news is not good. The budget was prepared showing options of zero, 1.4 and 3.4 percent tax increases (plus a proposed police tax increase of 1.44 percent). To achieve increased costs of \$138 million in the operating budget would require \$59 million in service cuts, in addition to the identified offsetting revenues, user fees, and management efficiencies. That is the scenario for a zero percent tax increase. For a tax increase of 3.4 percent (plus police amount) would require \$34 million in service cuts; an increase of 1.4% would require \$45 million in service cuts. Among the options for cuts to achieve the required savings for a zero per cent tax increase are such service cuts as elimination of outdoor rink grants, for a saving of \$620,000. The city would fund the \$250 insurance costs for communities that agreed to maintain the rinks without the grants. Also among the options is **the closing of 23 smaller community centres, including the Champlain Park Community Field House.** These cuts would greatly affect our community. Note among other service cuts the elimination of some nine wading pools, particularly those with declining attendance. (I could not determine from the documents if our wading pool will be one of those closed.) Among proposed closings of libraries is that of Rosemount Branch, our nearest branch. Another proposed service cut that I find unfortunate is the elimination of the rebate given to residents and others who donate to the election campaigns of the Mayor and Councillors. Many Councillors receive contributions from developers but truly unbiased councillors do not accept funds from unions or corporations that have business with the city. Without the rebate, they may find it more difficult to raise funds. Among the options for increased revenues is an increase of transit fees of 5 percent. Other user fee

increases include ice-time; use of sports-fields; pools; and public skating. Another proposal for raising revenue involves parking meters for Westboro Village, along with extended hours for metered parking and an increase to \$3.00 an hour. The booklet Draft Budget at a Glance contains an error as it lists the senior swimming rate after increase as \$2.25 when it is currently \$2.35.

**A few opinions about the budget:** 1) There seems to be a bias against programs that involve volunteers as besides the items noted above, the City's Spring and Fall Clean-ups are also on the list of possible cuts. The Recreation and Parks Department seems slightly biased against small facilities where the community runs the program. Canceling programs where much volunteer help has traditionally been available makes no sense. 2) If we want to keep our services we will have to pay more.

In general I usually try to keep my column fairly neutral, but the fact that this budget will severely affect our community has made this item an exception. If you too wish to express your opinion there are several opportunities: on **Thursday November 29** Councillor Christine Leadman will host a meeting at the Churchill Centre at 7:00 p.m. As well, Council's Committee of the Whole will hear delegations starting on **Monday December 3** at 10 a.m. Check the City's website for further information.

**Review of City's Official Plan:** The City is using somewhat different consultation techniques in connection with this review and to that end has produced the following white papers: Addressing Ottawa's Transportation Challenges; The Balance of Jobs and Housing in Orléans; Climate Change and the Official Plan Review; Residential Intensification: Building More Vibrant Communities; Supporting Growth in Ottawa: Water and Sewer Challenges; Development in the Greater Ottawa-Gatineau Area; Compensation Options for Wetlands and Other Environmental Lands; Moving Forward with Rapid Transit; Ottawa's Natural Environment System: How Well is it Working?

Papers have been produced by residents on rural topics as follows: Development Outside of Villages; Village Development; Groundwater Resources – Their Wise Use and Protection, and a paper on Process.

On **November 24** from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. the Mayor will be hosting a City Cafe-Coffee and Conversation on the White Papers at Exhibition Hall in Lansdowne Park.

In addition you are invited to participate in on-line discussions about these topics at OttawaTalks, which you can reach through [www.ottawa.ca](http://www.ottawa.ca)