



CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER



FEBRUARY 2010

COME AND SIGN THE #18 BUS PETITION ON MARCH 1

How important are local neighbourhood bus routes? Very important, Champlain Park residents are finding out. Last September, OC Transpo cancelled Route 18 service west of Lebreton as part of TransPLAN 2009. In cancelling it, the transit authority eliminated the only direct link from our neighbourhood to downtown, as well as the only direct connection between several neighbourhoods throughout the city.

In response, in early February, a few Champlain Park residents circulated a petition door to door. The petition asks the city to reinstate Route 18 west of Lebreton. Response has been tremendous, and the overwhelming majority of those asked to sign welcomed the opportunity to do something concrete.

Other Kitchissippi neighbourhoods are also circulating the petition.

During their sweep of Champlain Park, canvassers heard stories of seniors being left without a reasonable transit option. For many, the walk to a Transitway station is not possible. Furthermore, Route 151 is a less-than-attractive alternative due to its infrequent schedule, tortuous route, and intended role as a Transitway feeder. This has meant, for instance, that many seniors in our community can no longer take a direct bus to activities at the Churchill Seniors Recreation Centre and the Good Companions centre.

The service cuts have affected many students, too. They need good bus service to get to and from local high schools.

Many adults resent the fact that they now have to transfer buses, despite the fact that the trip downtown is such a short distance. Moreover, the 10 to 20 minute walk from Tunney's or Westboro transit stations after dark, if your schedule does not allow you to catch the new 150 rush hour route or if you missed the infrequent 151, has been a concern for many.

In addition to the door-to-door canvass, organizers of this campaign will hold a petition-signing open house at the Champlain Park fieldhouse (149 Cowley) on **Monday, March 1, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.** Anyone who has not yet signed the petition can do so at that time.

Kitchissippi Councillor Christine Leadman has advised us that if she is backed by strong community support, she believes she can convince OC Transpo to reverse this service cut.

—Marc Chenier 613-798-9384

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CHAMPLAIN PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Executive Officers:

Co-chairs: Lynne Bankier (729-0955)
and Heather Pearl (725-1422)

Vice-chair: Jonathan Chaplan
(728-7670)

Secretary: Alexi Campbell
(792-3829)

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

Treasurer: David Bartlett
(301-9660)

Member at Large:

Connie Barrowclough (724-7712)

Volunteers:

Neighbourhood Watch:

Michael Cheng (722-3344)

Patrick Mates (722-4120)

Neil Robertson (729-5439)

Neighbourhood cleanup coordinators:

Ian Reid and Andrea Murphy (715-9504)

Planning: Amy Kempster (722-6039)

Membership: Craig Wells (725-5288)

Accounting: potter (728-4980)

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MUSIC FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Making Music Meaningful is pleased to be offering
classes at the Northwestern United Church on
Friday mornings.

Parents and caregivers are invited to come out to
experience a lively program that introduces them
and their babies, toddlers, or preschoolers to the joy
of making music...without pressing PLAY. Sessions
usually run for 9 or 10 weeks between September
and June, with a shorter term available in July and
August. Mid-term registrations are welcome, if
space permits.

For full program details, please visit www.makingmusicmeaningful.com or contact Nicole
Wassink at 613-806-7464. Here are the times for
each age group on Fridays:

24 to 48 months-10:10 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.

14 to 24 months-9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

4 to 14 months-11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Teens available for babysitting

Emma J.	728-6681
Berlin	722-2248
Leigh	715-9473
Anastasia	728-9014
Emma M.	728-4642
Alexandra	722-7482
Ben	729-1218
Emma I.	728-1063
Fiona	761-9262
Karen P.	722-6039

WINTER CARNIVAL SAW THE TORCH PASSED

Anne Doswell, the longtime organizer of our Winter Carnival, successfully passed the torch to Sarah Reesor at the end-of-January event. Thank you Anne, for your years of volunteering, and welcome aboard, Sarah!

A large crowd braved frigid temperatures, enjoyed hot food, and mingled with neighbours new and older. The sleigh rides delighted children, as did the indoor wishing well. Local musicians were on hand to add cheer to an already-cheerful event.

Francine Guenette won this year's chili contest. Councillor Christine Leadman acted as judge and jury for the tasting and also donated a City of Ottawa gift to the winner.



Flanked by Colleen Daly (left) and Terri Blanchard (right), the former Winter Carnival coordinator, Anne Doswell (centre), enjoyed the day.

A big thanks to Barb Robertson for supplying the photographs in this issue.

SAFETY TIPS FOR PARENTS

The following are some tips for parents issued by the Wellington Community Police Centre. You can help to ensure a safe environment for your children by knowing where they are at all times.

- Post an information board on your fridge with a neighbourhood map and mark where your children are allowed to play. Make sure they know their limitations.
- Know where your children are playing, with whom, and when they will be back. Ensure they understand that they must NOT go into anyone's house without your permission.
- Explain the dangers of playing near creeks, any open body of water (even if covered by ice), or swimming pools that are unattended.
- Emphasize that they are not to play in isolated areas.
- Explain the dangers of playing in "secret hiding places" such as fridges, dumpsters, etc.
- Have your children carry identification including their name, address, and telephone number.
- Ensure that they know where you are and how to reach you. Give them your work phone number and extension, your cell phone number, and the name of your workplace.

Children see the world at their eye level. Imagine for a moment all the interesting attractions out there for them. These are the attractions we must ensure

are safe for them. We must also make them aware of the dangers that exist.

When your teenagers begin driving, it is up to you to impose the kinds of restrictions you feel are necessary to ensure they have a safe experience. Feel free to ask them direct questions, such as:

- Who will be driving the car?
- Where are you planning to go?
- When do you expect to return?

– Patrick Mates

AMY'S CORNER



BY AMY KEMPSTER
722-6039

The urban boundary and intensification: The connection between these two may not seem evident at first, but they are very dependent on each other.

If the process of intensification is to work so that the denser city will provide a better market for transit, then there must be a firm urban boundary. Otherwise, the growth of population will be accommodated beyond the current urban boundary in what has been called "urban sprawl," defined as suburbs geared to the automobile, with mostly low-density housing. So, the proposal this week by Councillor Chiarelli to revisit the urban boundary decision (spurred on by many appeals to the recent Amendment to the Official Plan) runs counter to the idea of intensification. Note that intensification does not need to mean just adding more houses or building more high-rises; it could involve adding apartments within existing houses or sharing within existing houses. The idea is to have more people inhabiting the existing urban space.

In the end, building sprawling suburbs costs the City more money than building within existing urban boundaries. Given the City's financial situation, keeping the urban boundary at that mandated by the slight increase now in Amendment 76 seems the reasonable thing to do. As well, the idea that the City might lose any appeals seems perhaps a bit pessimistic given that the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) must have regard for Council decisions and must also make decisions consistent with provincial policy statements. The latter state: "Sufficient land shall be made available through intensification and redevelopment and, if necessary, designated growth areas, to accommodate an appropriate range and mix of employment opportunities, housing and other land uses to meet projected needs for a time horizon of up to 20 years." The amount added by Amendment 76 and the intensification going on within the current urban areas of the City are sufficient for at least 15 and probably for 20 years. That will be the crux of the argument at the OMB. Let your councillor and the mayor know your opinion on this. It is a very important decision.

Development of the convent lands: While the Sisters of the Visitation convent (on Richmond Road) has not often been visited by the public, it may have been the subject of spiritual thoughts. Some years ago, as part of the Ottawa West House Tour, the Sisters agreed that the chapel could be viewed by those on the tour, so I have actually been in the chapel. It was impressive in a quiet way and nicely decorated. Sadly, while the building itself may stay on site, the Order has removed some of the decorations and it can no longer be viewed as it was.

As reported in our other local newspapers, Ashcroft Homes has bought the site and a meeting has been held to discuss its future. As reported in those papers, the plans are not completely ready but the developer has said that while there may be pedestrian and cycling paths through the property from Byron Ave. to Richmond Road, there will not be a road link between the two streets. As usual, residents were worried about traffic and the proposed height of some of the buildings envisioned. Another meeting is supposed to happen soon, possibly sometime in March. No information is available about this development either on the City's website or Ashcroft's. I suggest you keep your eyes on local newspapers as the development of these five-and-a-half acres (hidden behind walls for many years) is bound to change the face of Richmond Road between Island Park Drive and Kirkwood Avenue. The City has, in the meantime, acted to give heritage status to portions of the site. Note that Ashcroft has purchased and is developing the former Canadian Tire sites across Richmond Road from the former convent. Perhaps all the developments in this area will be designed to complement each other to make a relatively pleasing whole.

Quality of Life: One of the aspects of urban life that adds to our quality of life is the convenience and quality of nearby shopping. I hope you agree that with the advent of the redone Wellington Street West, the addition of new and interesting stores, and the high quality of existing ones, we are lucky to have our West Wellington shopping area. We have all the conveniences one could want, and little need to go downtown to shop. Included in the mix are art galleries, a theatre, and a bookstore, so the arts are to some extent covered as well. If there are specific stores or services that have pleased you and if you would like to share your experiences, I encourage you to submit a short piece to the Champlain Speaker. Then, if others have not tried the store or service, we would be encouraged to do so. By supporting our local merchants, we reduce our own travel footprint and encourage others to do the same.