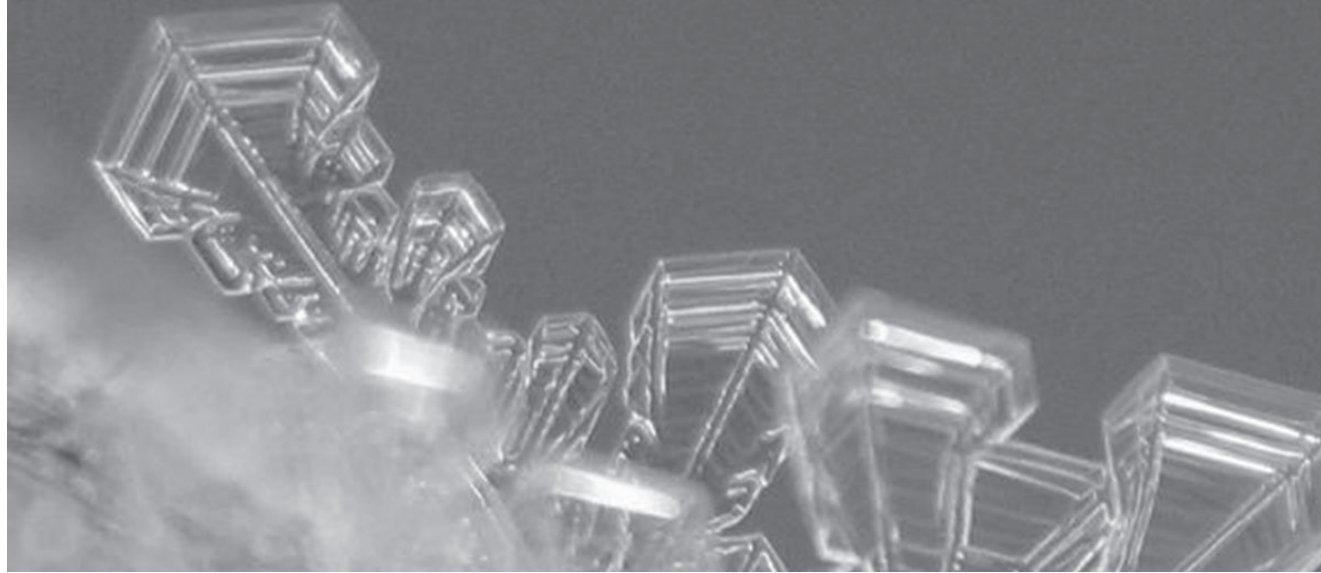




# CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER

JANUARY 2011




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## WINTER CARNIVAL

Date: Saturday, January 29

Time: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Rain or shine, sleet or snow, come out to this annual celebration at Champlain Park. Admission is FREE!

As in past years, there will be a chili contest, so please submit both meat and vegetarian chili pots. The lunch counter will also offer hot dogs, drinks, and baked goods. The carnival organizers need volunteers to:

- help out with outdoor games
- staff the lunch counter, and
- provide baked goods.

Can you play music? Do a magic show? Please call Sarah Brooks at 613-729-4382 or email [sarah.brooks@sympatico.ca](mailto:sarah.brooks@sympatico.ca) to let her know how you can add to the fun or help out in more practical ways. Both kinds of help are welcome.

–Sarah Reesor and Sarah Brooks

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## RINK HOURS OF OPERATION

- Monday to Friday 6 p.m. to 9:30 pm
- Saturday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Sunday noon to 6 p.m.

Women's hockey will take place on the rink each Sunday from 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Hockey for kids 8 and under is on Tuesdays from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Hockey for kids 9 to 13 will happen on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Volunteers are welcome to help with supervision and shovelling. High school students can earn volunteer hours by helping out.

–Jim Kot 613-722-7519

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## NOTICE OF MEETING WITH DEVELOPERS

The Falsetto brothers and architect Jacques Hamel invite Champlain Park residents to view and discuss their proposal to build a semi-detached house at 115 Northwestern Avenue.

Location: Champlain Park fieldhouse

Date: Thursday, January 20, 2011

Time: 7:00 p.m. resident pre-meeting

7:30 p.m. presentation of proposal

Members of the Champlain Park Community Association Executive will attend this meeting.

–Heather Pearl at 613-725-1422

# CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER

JANUARY 2011

## CHAMPLAIN PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Co-chairs: Lynne Bankier (729-0955)  
and Heather Pearl (725-1422)  
Vice-chair: Jonathan Chaplan  
(728-7670)  
Secretary: vacant  
Treasurer: David Bartlett (301-9660)

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

Neighbourhood Watch:  
Michael Cheng (722-3344)  
Patrick Mates (722-4120)

Spring cleanup coordinators:  
Ian Reid and Andrea Murphy (715-9504)

Planning: Amy Kempster (722-6039)

Other roles:  
Membership: vacant  
Banking: potter (728-4980)

## CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER - YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Editing and layout: Debra Huron 722-8048  
dhuron@sympatico.ca

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THE E-MAIL LIST and also  
receive an e-mail once a  
month with a PDF of the  
Speaker, contact  
Alexander Smith at: [agmsmith@ncf.ca](mailto:agmsmith@ncf.ca).



Carriers: Kay Young, Terri Blanchard,  
Sandy Milne, Philip Cutfield, Patrick Mates,  
Rita Palin, Laura Robin, Becky Rynor, Jim  
Hay, Wendy Huculak, Heather Pearl, Ann  
Potter, Emma Morris, Linda Steele, Nancy  
Leigh-Smith, Ian Holland, Lydia Holland,  
Marlene Kells, Kelly Egan.

COVER PHOTO of hoar frost: Barb  
Robertson

The *Speaker* is produced on a regular  
basis with the generous support of the  
*Ottawa Citizen*.

## TWO UPDATES FROM YOUR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

We have just learned of a development proposal for **168 Carleton Avenue, corner of Carleton and Clearview** (opposite the site currently under construction).

We have received the following notification: "Doyle Homes would like to construct 2 semi-detached homes on the property for a total of 4 homes."

Lynne and Heather are going to set up a meeting with the developer's representative. That has not yet occurred, so we don't have any details yet. Following that will be a public meeting. No date has been set. The usual municipal approvals process solicits comments from the immediate neighbours and invites members of the public to attend a Committee of Adjustment hearing.

If you are interested in staying informed or becoming involved:

a) Sign up for the Community Association's listserv by contacting [agmsmith@ncf.ca](mailto:agmsmith@ncf.ca). This will give you updates between Speaker publishing dates.

b) Contact Lynne by sending a message to [lynne\\_bankier@sympatico.ca](mailto:lynne_bankier@sympatico.ca). I will develop an e-mail distribution list.

-Lynne Bankier

## Report on 252 Northwestern Avenue Development Proposal

At the Committee of Adjustment (COA) hearing on November 3rd, the committee granted the community association's request for a deferral, to allow the association, the neighbours of 252 Northwestern Avenue and the developers to collaborate on the design of the proposed new semi-detached homes. The original proposal emphasized garages and driveways, with no front-yard green space. This type of design does not fit the pattern of development in Champlain Park, which is characterized by trees and front-yard lawns and gardens. The proposal also featured an above-grade basement, stairs from the ground to the second-storey main living quarters, and second-storey rear decks.

Collaboration resulted in a much-improved design, which the COA approved at the hearing on December 8th. The semi-detached homes will have in-ground basements, with the front entrances, main floor living quarters, and rear decks at ground level. This preserves the privacy of the adjacent properties. The new plan also shows plantings of a tree and shrubs. This will enhance the streetscape and help to keep the street pedestrian-friendly.

-Heather Pearl

## CHAMPLAIN PARK USED TO BE CALLED RIVERSIDE PARK

by Bob Grainger

The City of Ottawa park that we know as Champlain Park was once known as Riverside Park. Before annexation by the City of Ottawa in 1950, the neighbourhood was also known as Riverside Park and was part of a Police Village named Ottawa West, which was part of Nepean Township.

When Ottawa West (and Riverside Park) were annexed with the City of Ottawa in 1950, there already was a Riverside Park in Ottawa, so, in the face of considerable local opposition, the name of the neighbourhood and the park along Carleton Avenue were changed to Champlain Park.

Champlain Park itself has been open parkland for as far back as people can remember—maybe forever. Up until the mid-1950s, there were three small cottages in the southwest corner of the block, in the current location of the fieldhouse. But the rest of the block was devoted to recreation and outdoor activities—to outdoor rinks for hockey and skating in the winter, to baseball in the warmer months, and to many community gatherings such as field days with games and races for all ages.

The local baseball team was called The Riversides and they were a highly respected team in the league made up of teams from the other communities along the Richmond Road.

I have not completely finished the research on the origin of the park but it currently appears as though it was the work of a local realtor by the name of J.H. "Daddy" Slack. It seems that he bought the land in the park and, in his will, designated it as the property of the community in perpetuity for the welfare of the children of the neighbourhood.

Mr. Slack lived in an impressive and imposing vine-covered cobblestone house on the northwest corner of Carleton Avenue and Pontiac Street. There was a turret built into the southeast corner of the house (closest to the intersection of Carleton and Pontiac) and a round verandah on the ground floor. From this verandah Mr. and Mrs. Slack had a very good view of the activities in the park (see photo).

The houses to the north of Pontiac Street were either removed or demolished by the Federal District



Commission to allow for the construction of the Ottawa River Parkway.

**The Champlain Park History Project** is alive and well and continues to make progress. I have interviewed some 40 to 50 current and former residents of the neighbourhood and have collected many stories and photographs. What remains is to transform this collection of material into a book. That will be my main project for the coming year. I am still interested in talking to people about life in the community in the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s, and would very much like to talk to anyone with old photographs of the area. I can be reached at 613-725-1063 or [RNG276@yahoo.ca](mailto:RNG276@yahoo.ca) (Bob Grainger).

## YOGA CLASSES AT THE FIELDHOUSE

A new session of the Champlain Park Yoga Club began in early January.

We meet at the Champlain Park fieldhouse on Wednesdays from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m.

This session will consist of 20 classes starting on January 5 and ending May 18, 2011.

The cost will be \$140.00 (\$7.00 X 20 classes = \$140.00) plus an additional \$10.00 if you are not a current member of Champlain Park Community Association.

The cost of classes will be pro-rated for the remainder of the session if you begin later in January.

If you are interested in joining these beneficial fun classes, please contact Adrian or Suzanne Bradley for more information at 613-722-2248 or [adrian.bradley@sympatico.ca](mailto:adrian.bradley@sympatico.ca).

## AMY'S CORNER



BY AMY KEMPSTER  
722-6039

**The City and its trees:** Does the City of Ottawa really care about its trees or is its use of the term "urban forest" merely a catchphrase to suggest that it does?

TreeCanada offers a summary of some of the benefits of trees: "Trees provide aesthetic improvement, they provide wildlife habitat and food source, help conserve energy (less heating/air conditioning), they sequester carbon and produce oxygen, improve air and water quality, reduce soil runoff from erosion, cool watercourses, provide wind screens, mitigate noise and dust levels, increase property values, create psychological betterment."

**What the Official Plan says:** From Ottawa's Official Plan we have the following:

1) In Section 2. (Strategic Directions) 4.1 Policy 3 (re: Climate Change). "d. Reducing the urban heat island effect through landscaping, tree planting, and encouragement of courtyards and innovative green spaces with permeable surfaces and trees..."

2) In Section 4.5 (re: Greenspaces) Policy 7. "Pending completion of a Forest Strategy, the City will maintain **a target for forest cover for the entire city of 30 per cent. The City will increase forest cover in urban and rural areas through the planning and development review process** by:

"b. **Emphasizing tree preservation and planting in the requirements for private development** and public works, including road corridors, parks and municipal buildings;

c. **Developing guidelines for tree preservation and planting in the development review process**, including a policy on compensation for loss of forest as a result of development. This policy, to be developed in consultation with the development industry and the community, will consider various forms of compensation, including planting on other sites owned by the applicant or the City." (My emphasis.)

As well, Policy 9 of the same section says: "The City will work with Conservation Authorities, rural landowners, community groups, organizations working with urban forestry or private land forestry, and other interested parties on a strategy to manage and protect forests in the rural and urban area. This work will include:

- a. Developing a by-law under the Municipal Act to regulate tree-cutting and preserve woodlands;
- b. Developing current management plans for forests owned by the City;
- c. Implementing best management practices for City-owned street trees and forests and taking a leadership role in urban forestry programs nationwide;"

Section 5.1 (Urban Design and Compatibility) Design Objectives 6 says. "To understand and respect natural processes and features in development: Principles Design should...

\* "Protect, integrate and enhance the urban forest, vegetative cover, green spaces and corridors, environmental features and landscapes, and existing topography, where possible and appropriate."

**As well, Section 4.7.2 – Protection of Vegetation Cover reads:**

"Preserving vegetation on sites subject to development not only contributes to the urban and rural forest and the overall environmental health of the area, but also helps improve the visual appeal of newly developed areas. However, development proposals may necessitate removal of existing vegetative cover in some instances. Development proposals will be required to preserve vegetative cover or propose compensation measures, through the following policies." [Those policies are set out in OMB decision #1754, May 10, 2006.]

Other places where trees or the urban forest are mentioned in the Official Plan include the section of the plan dealing with the central area where there are several mentions of the urban forest as well as of trees; and in those dealing with arterial roads or main streets where tree planting along these is encouraged.

Of interest in this neighbourhood is the small property component of the policy. This applies to properties of one hectare or less. Owners of such properties require a **Distinctive Tree Permit** to remove a tree greater than 50 centimetres (20 inches) in diameter. The measurement is to be taken at breast height (120 cm). Permits can be allowed when the applicant has undertaken to implement satisfactory landscaping, replanting or tree preservation. For further information see the Urban Tree Conversation By-Law on the City of Ottawa's website.

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## CELEBRATING THE OLD OAKS OF CHAMPLAIN PARK



The magnificent Bur Oaks of Champlain Park are all that remains of an ancient oak forest that once lined this part of the Ottawa River. To celebrate and protect these trees, neighbors are coming together to document their social and material history.

The trees predate development in the neighbourhood, and many were left standing by early residents and thoughtful developers of the time. They symbolize the many mature trees of various species that make this neighbourhood special. We are also blessed with sugar maples, red maples, small and large leaf lindens, red oaks, butternuts and even a ginkgo, the world's oldest tree species (a living fossil, dating back 270 million years). To see where some of these trees are in the neighbourhood, and to share your views, stories, and photos of this heritage, check out the new community blog at <http://champlainoaks.posterous.com/>.

To join the informal activist group or become a contributor to the blog, contact Daniel Buckles (daniel.buckles@gmail.com) or Dennis Van Staalduin (denvan@gmail.com).

–Daniel Buckles

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## HOW WE WERE CREATIVE WITH A MAPLE TREE ON OUR PROPERTY

When we purchased 193 Cowley Avenue in August 2004, we were attracted by the mature treed neighbourhood, the close proximity to amenities and services, and by the wonderful maple tree that graced the front part of the lot. Neighbours were concerned that the tree, standing tall in the middle of

the block with a perfectly symmetrical crown, would be lost when we built a new home there. Our standing on the street was soon elevated, however, when an assessment of the tree determined that, with care and attention, it could survive the construction of a new house.

David Cole, of Cole and Associates, designed the house to integrate the maple tree. The design takes full advantage of the cooling shade that the tree provides in the summer and the open canopy allows sun to warm the house in the winter. The upstairs balcony is a particularly favourite spot of ours in the summer and fall, because of its close proximity to the upper spreading branches of the tree. These provide both shade and privacy.

To ensure the long-term health of the tree, the house was set back further on the lot than other houses on the block, and the overall footprint was kept to a minimum. Particular care was taken to protect the tree during both the demolition of the small original house on the lot and during construction.

Entreprises Beaudoin of Aylmer took care during excavation and construction, even using a very large pump to push the concrete up and over the tree to access the foundation forms at the rear of the lot. Partly in honour of the tree, we named our house "Maplewood." To us it shows that good urban design works with nature, and within site constraints.

Clearly, the value of our house owes much to the preservation of the maple, and to the many other mature trees in the neighbourhood.

–Duncan Bury and Louise Atkins

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## GET OUT YOUR MEASURING TAPE: WHERE IN "YOUR WORLD" IS THE BIGGEST TREE?

Children of all ages are invited to find the big trees in Champlain Park neighborhood. Hint: they may be in your backyard...

Measure the circumference at chest height, and we can tell you how old the tree is. Trees live a really long time, so your favourite tree may be much older than even your grandparents.

To enter the contest, send the tree circumference in centimetres (and photos, too, if you can) to [daniel.buckles@gmail.com](mailto:daniel.buckles@gmail.com). Also, come to the Winter Fair to find out how old the biggest tree really is, and to learn what tree is the winner of the contest.

–Jennifer Neate and Daniel Buckles

## OAK TREES IN CHAMPLAIN PARK ARE OF “BIOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE”

Preservation of the urban forest in Ottawa is part of the official policy for the City of Ottawa, and for good reason. For example, the Champlain Oak forest is an area of biological significance with original mature oaks adjacent to the Ottawa River. There are only about 24 mature oaks remaining in the neighbourhood, which are remnants of the original forest forming a link between land and the river.

Further losses of the trees making up this forest would disturb the local environment.

These heritage, old-growth trees are well over 100 years old and provide important ecosystem services in providing shade, cleansing of the air of carbon dioxide and pollutants, and providing biological corridors along the river for native songbirds.

As a specialist in plant biodiversity and a resident of Cowley Avenue, I encourage all neighbours to celebrate this heritage and biological wealth, and to continue efforts to preserve native trees in the neighbourhood.

–John Thor Arnason, PhD, Professor of Biology,  
University of Ottawa

## UPDATE ON ENFORCEMENT OF STOOP-AND-SCOOP BY-LAW

After my e-mail communication with the City’s by-law services in November of last year (as reported in the December edition of the Speaker), I received the following reply from Roger Chapman, Program Manager, Enforcement:

“Often in areas where we have received reports that there is an increased volume of this type of activity we will set up to do “proactive patrols” in the area as often as possible for a couple of weeks; it has been our experience that this has been very successful in cleaning up other areas.

“As a result I have created a Service Request for your area that will require that all West Enforcement Officers patrol your neighbourhood as often as possible during the next two weeks, and proactively enforce the provisions of the Animal Care and Control By-law, and more specifically the stoop and scoop section. If you require additional information, please feel free to contact me directly.”

While this was positive, it did not address the concerns I raised in my original e-mail letter to the



**Identifying features of Bur Oaks** (also known as Burr Oaks, Blue Oaks, or Mossy Cup Oaks):

Above: Twigs are stout with corky ridges.

Below: Bark is rough, deeply furrowed. Trunk is straight to the upper crown.



City. The two-week period would have occurred in mid-December only.

On another note, readers of the Speaker may be interested to know that I have received two reactions from community members after my article in the Speaker appeared. One was very positive and supportive and one was just the opposite.

My suggestion to the City was intended to provide by-law officers with a workable way to increase compliance with the by-law. It would be coupled with public information to residents so they would be aware of the new level of enforcement. If you support my suggestion and would like to signal that to the City of Ottawa, the person to contact is: Roger Chapman, Program Manager–Enforcement, By-law and Regulatory Services, 613-580-2424 ext 41362, [Roger.Chapman@ottawa.ca](mailto:Roger.Chapman@ottawa.ca).

–Patrick Mates