



CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER

FEBRUARY 2011



HEARING ADJOURNED: NEW DATE SET

On February 2, representatives from the Community Association, residents in our community, and Councillor Katherine Hobbs appeared before the Committee of Adjustment (COA) to present their concerns regarding the development proposal for 115 Northwestern Ave.

Members of the COA were disturbed to find that developers simply need a decision in favour of their Minor Variance Applications to obtain a permit to cut down mature trees. This sidesteps the intent of the City's Tree Preservation By-law. **They adjourned the hearing until March 2** to allow time for consultation with Forestry staff (whose opposition to cutting down the trees at 115 Northwestern Ave. is on record) and Legal staff. They asked the developer to meet with the community to discuss the question further. Councillor Hobbs offered to facilitate the discussion.

The property at 115 Northwestern is home to an old-growth, healthy, 150-year-old bur oak, which the developer intends to destroy so he can build a double. If the requested variances from the zoning requirements are allowed, this proposed double will also have a significant impact on the immediate neighbours and the character of the neighbourhood.

The flat-roofed building is very big. It will be about 42 feet wide, 73 feet long (including rear yard second-floor covered porches and third-floor balconies), and 30.5 feet high, with 8.5-foot high rooftop projections in the centre

of the roof for accessing the rooftop decks. People who live nearby, and others, are concerned about noise and loss of privacy and sunlight. They want new development to be consistent with the scale and green nature of the community and have difficulty understanding how the zoning by-law can be routinely set aside. They are particularly worried about losing trees and green space.

In this community, many residents have carefully preserved the mature trees on their properties even while building new homes or substantially renovating older homes. This contrasts sharply with developers who, particularly during the past three years, have been allowed to routinely destroy mature trees. Ironically, Ottawa's target to increase forest cover to 30 percent, the Tree Preservation By-law, and all of the policies in the Official Plan relating to preservation of greenspace and "designing with nature" seem powerless to prevent environmental degradation due to development. Each new infill has a large footprint relative to the lot size. Driveways and landscaping cover most of the small amount of land remaining. Trees need space. Consequently, the mature trees that we lose never can be replaced.

Please contact me at pearhead@aol.com if you would like to add your name to a list that provides updates on development issues. The COA hearing will be on **Wednesday, March 2**, beginning at 1 p.m. Please let me know if you are interested in participating and I will provide further details. –Heather Pearl (phone 725-1422)

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CHAMPLAIN PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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

Vice-chair: Jonathan Chaplan (728-7670)
Secretary: Linnea Rowlatt
Treasurer: David Bartlett (301-9660)

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

Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator: Vacant
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

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WINTER CARNIVAL PHOTOS: Daniel
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AND THE WINNER OF THE BIGGEST TREE CONTEST IS...

Like the Ents of Middle Earth, residents of Champlain Park are waking up to the magnificent bur oaks that grace our neighbourhood. They have been dubbed the Champlain Oaks because of their location in Champlain Park and because, like Samuel de Champlain himself, the trees predate Confederation. Many of the 24 trees already identified were seedlings before Canada became a country in 1867 and are what remains of an original natural forest lining the banks of the Ottawa River.

This awakening has been achieved, in part, by answering the question: Where in "Your World" is the biggest tree? In the weeks leading up to our community's Winter Carnival, children of all ages measured the circumference of a tree that is important to them. This information is now pooled on an interactive map at the Champlain Oaks website: www.champlainoaks.com

The winners of the contest are:

Third place: Kay Young and Don McVeigh's property at 157 Northwestern has a backyard bur oak that measures 1.06 metres in diameter.

Second place: Steve and Kay Kot of Cowley Ave. have a bur oak on their property that measures 1.13 metres in diameter.

First place: Jeanette Rule and Dennis Van Staalduinen's house at 211 Daniel Ave. is the grand prize winner! Their backyard tree (featured in Ottawa This Week newspaper and on the Champlain Oaks website) measures 1.16 metres in diameter. Its circumference is 3.66 metres.

Bigger mapping project to begin

Now that the biggest Champlain Oaks are on the map, a wider mapping project is being launched, with support from the Champlain Park Community Association's Environment Committee, to further celebrate the Champlain Oaks. This will involve creating an on-line map of all the distinctive trees in our neighbourhood. For the City of Ottawa and its Urban Tree Conservation By-Law, a "distinctive tree" is defined as any tree 50 cm in diameter or greater. Photos and stories of what the trees mean to residents will also be included. You can get involved by offering to be one of the neighbourhood canvassers helping to identify and "map" these trees. (See contact information below.)

Seeking recognition as Heritage Trees

Finally, the Champlain Oaks Project is in the process of nominating the Champlain Oaks as a group of trees to be named as Heritage Trees through Trees Ontario.

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WINTER CARNIVAL SIGHTS AND SCENES AND THANK-YOUS

The carnival was a big success. The winner of the chili contest was Alicia Reckzin for her spicy meat chili.

Thank you to:

- Sarah Reesor for organization work prior to the event
- Jim Kot for rink preparations (he was there from 7.30 a.m. on doing the snowblowing)
- Bridgehead for its coffee and hot chocolate donations
- Metro grocery store for donating ketchup, mustard, relish, and marshmallows
- Katherine Hobbs (our City Councillor) for stopping by and for providing hot dogs, buns, juices, water, and prizes for the children.

To all who supplied chill and baked goodies or helped out in any way during the day of the Carnival—thank you!

–Sarah Brooks

UPDATE FROM ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The Champlain Park Community Association’s Environment Committee held its first meeting on February 6. There was lots of interest. Many ideas regarding sustainable communities and our neighbourhood were discussed.

Stay tuned for further updates. If you are interested in being part of this initiative or finding out more, please contact the coordinator, Nick Xenos, at xenosn@yahoo.com.

AND THE WINNER IS...

(continued from page 2)

The purpose is to raise awareness about the multiple values of urban trees to residents (including the wild residents). This recognition is awarded in cooperation with the Ontario Urban Forest Council. Visit www.treesontario.ca to learn more.

To get involved or to record measurements of any distinctive tree on your property, contact Daniel Buckles at 722-8048 or daniel.buckles@gmail.com.



Above: Many thanks go to **Jim Kot** who has maintained the rink so well this year and last! You are a winner!

Below: the group **Elly Squared** delighted the lunchtime crowd with fiddling and stepdancing. Left to right: Elly Wedge, Ellen Daly (from Keyworth Ave.), and Kristin Wedge. Visit: www.ellysquared.com to book them!



A STATEMENT FROM TREES ONTARIO

“Heritage trees are an important component of urban forestry. Their presence not only invokes an emotional response from communities, but they provide an ecological legacy of genetic material.”

–Trees Ontario

Trees Ontario on-line: www.treesontario.ca

Champlain Oaks website: www.champlainoaks.com

AMY'S CORNER



BY AMY KEMPSTER
722-6039

City Budget: The City budget, for some people, is only of interest for what the increase in taxes will be. However, how the City spends its money can have many effects on our lives so it really deserves more interest than just what that all-important tax rate increase will be (2.45 per cent is being proposed). Before I describe some of the items of interest, I will note the locations and times of public meetings on the budget as well as give you the city website address: www.Ottawa.ca/city_hall/budget. The meeting on March 3 at City Hall in Andrew Hayden Hall is the last one, and it's the one that our City Councillor will probably attend.

First, we will look at the operating budget. It is important to note that two key City services, namely water and sewage treatment, are funded entirely from the rates charged for water usage. There is a separate budget for that part of the operating budget. In the tax-supported operating budget, the top ten items (after revenues are deducted) are:

- Police services (\$236,948,000);
- Transit services; Emergency and Protective Services (includes fire and paramedic); Social Services; Roads and Traffic Maintenance-- (all over \$100 million);
- Housing; Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services; Parks, Buildings and Grounds; Information Technology Services; and Financial Services-- (all over \$25 million).

This gives an idea of the bigger items in the City budget.

Criticisms and suggestions about the budget: There is concern about the cut of \$7 million from the transit budget with no current knowledge about the routes that may be cut. Combined with a fare increase in July, this is not likely to encourage transit ridership. As well, the deletion of the rebate program for contributions to election campaigns should be quashed as anti-democratic.

Another area where the City should amend the budget, according to Ecology Ottawa, is in the following way:

1. Include a major program to assist Ottawa low-income families to upgrade the energy efficiency of their housing as part of the proposed \$10 million Housing and Poverty Reduction Envelope.
2. Allocate funds from the \$2.5 Smart Energy Initiative to the development of a "pay as you save" financing for energy efficiency improvements in housing and businesses using the property tax system.
3. Make the roofs of City facilities available for community power investment.
4. Provide leadership by increasing the standard for city facilities to LEED Gold and providing incentives for green buildings."

The Environment Advisory Committee supports a number of items but also suggests the following: "Transfers/Grants/Financial Charges: increase funding for the Community Environmental Projects Grant Program (CEPGP) from \$50,000 to \$75,000. This funding has remained at \$50,000 for the past 15 years, while the community is increasingly coming up with innovative environmental projects that need support."

Other items to support, in my opinion, are the \$1.5 million in support of forestry initiatives and the money for poverty relief. Another of my suggestions is that the City put \$1 for every residence in a fund to buy ecologically important land so that the City can in future buy lands such as the Beaver Pond woods portion of the South March Highlands forest.

Public consultations on infill developments in mature neighbourhoods: Infill housing has been appearing in our community and in other neighbourhoods in Ottawa. In many cases, the communities concerned have not been very happy with the type or design of the infill. Particularly unpopular is the garage door facade of some infill. In reaction to this dissatisfaction, the City's Planning Department took time last summer to do a survey and study of infill in five city wards: Capital, Kitchissippi, Rideau-Rockcliffe, Rideau-Vanier, and Somerset. This study found that front yards were sometimes lost to the car at the expense of trees and grass. The use of the whole lot also reduced green space. As a result of its study, the City has some possible solutions and is looking for opinions on these from residents. Some consultations have already occurred, and the remaining ones are slated for Tuesday Feb. 22, from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. at St. Matthew's Church, 217 First Ave.; and Thursday Feb. 24 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Festival Control Room, City Hall, 110 Laurier Ave. The website on this topic is: ottawa.ca/residents/public_consult/infill/index_en.html

ENJOYING THE WINTER CARNIVAL IN CHAMPLAIN PARK



MORE DEVELOPMENT UPDATES FROM THE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Kenwood Homes Development Proposal
61 Clearview Ave.

The original proposal was for a semi-detached home that had a steep front staircase to the sidewalk, two driveways and absolutely NO green space. This proposal was refused at the September 1 Committee of Adjustment hearing, as the panel agreed with the objections raised by the community. They concluded that the proposal represents “overdevelopment of this property.”

The developer subsequently approached the executive of our community association with an improved proposal that decreased the exterior footprint, eliminated the steep exterior front staircase, moved the driveways to allow a shared front green space, and reduced the overall amount of non-green surfaces (hardscaping). We agreed to support the second proposal at the hearing on December 8 and recently were notified that final approvals had been obtained. —Lynne Bankier

Doyle Homes Development Proposal
168 Carleton Ave. (corner of Clearview)

This is a proposal to replace a single home on a double lot (100 x 100 feet) with two semi-detached homes (four dwellings).

Some executive members met with the Doyle Homes planner and general manager on January 12. This was followed by a community meeting on February 3, which was attended by the owner of the company developing the property, Mr. Trevor Doyle.

Appreciation was expressed for the proposed traditional finishing materials. However, people attending these meeting also raised a variety of concerns. The main points from both meetings were as follows:

- Not enough green space on Carleton Ave., limited opportunity for front yard trees and garden space, both of which are incompatible with the neighbourhood;
- Too many driveways on Carleton Ave.;
- The bur oak on Clearview Ave. should be preserved;

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- Four almost mirror-image units are incompatible with the existing streetscape
- Concerns about the introduction of rooftop decks as a design feature have been expressed for this (and other new developments in the neighbourhood)
- A sense of overdevelopment on the site due to the bulk, massing, scale, and number of homes proposed.

At the end of the February 3 open meeting, we were pleased to hear that Mr. Doyle will undertake further investigation of measures to conserve the bur oak on the property and that he is willing to vary the exteriors of the homes. We have encouraged him to also consider our other concerns.

-Lynne Bankier

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEEDS A NEW COORDINATOR

Do you remember the crime spree that happened last year in early March? We can count ourselves lucky that four or five attempted break-ins and the arrest of two people for an actual break-in were the extent of the problem.

After many years as coordinator of our Neighbourhood Watch (NW) program, Michael Cheng has recently stepped down. His colleague, Patrick Mates, continues to be involved with our NW program and with the community police office in this part of the city. Patrick is quite busy offering free home security inspections and seminars.

We need someone in Champlain Park to take on the job of coordinator for Neighbourhood Watch. By doing so, you'll be helping to keep our neighbourhood safer during the summer months.

The demands of the job are minimal but one important item needs to be dealt with soon. We have a list of people in the community who signed up for e-mail alerts and that list needs to be reinstated. You will have the help of Alexander Smith (who runs our community association listserv) to do this.

You may need to attend an occasional meeting, both within the community (once a year at most at the fieldhouse), and once in a while with the Ottawa Neighbourhood Watch Executive Committee—made up of the coordinators of all the NWs in the city, at the Elgin Street police headquarters.

If the role interests you, please contact Patrick Mates to learn more. Phone 613-722-4120.

FORUMS ON INFILL HELD ACROSS CITY

The City's Planning Department is holding a series of Intensification Forums. They have outlined problems that are occurring with infill projects, are proposing some solutions, and asking for public input at the forums or via e-mail. Many members of our community have attended or plan to attend one of the four sessions, and the executive of your community association will submit comments. The information from Planning on the survey (also mentioned in Amy's Corner) can be found at www.ottawa.ca. Use the search function to then locate **Study of Small-Scale Infill Housing in Mature Neighbourhoods**.

The main points from the study are as follows:

- Frontages with no green space; hard surfaces predominate.
- Mature trees are being removed or damaged.
- New trees often do not have enough space to flourish.
- Buildings are out of scale with existing neighbourhoods.
- Garages predominate at the front; front doors are disappearing
- Long staircases to the "first" floor due to above-ground basements (we have averted this for two recent development proposals in our neighbourhood).
- Zoning and by-law infractions due to illegal parking spots termed "front yard parking," i.e., any parking that is in front of the house, where a front lawn/garden would be.

-Lynne Bankier

TEENS AVAILABLE FOR BABYSITTING

- Charlotte-----729-5677
- Emma J. ----- 728-6681
- Berlin----- 722-2248
- Leigh ----- 715-9473
- Anastasia ----- 728-9014
- Emma M. ----- 728-4642
- Alexandra ----- 722-7482
- Emma I. ----- 728-1063
- Fiona ----- 761-9262
- Elisabeth (bilingual) ----- 722-0454
- Hanna L. (bilingual)----- 792-1891
- Will----- 728-1945