



CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER



APRIL 2011

CHAMPLAIN PARK GOES GREEN AND CLEAN ON APRIL 30

April 29–May 1 is Capital Cleanup Weekend, and Champlain Park needs volunteers!

Spring Cleanup is an annual tradition in Champlain Park. It is a chance for neighbours of all ages—kids, teens, and adults—to get together and help spruce up the neighbourhood. It is part of the city's Cleaning the Capital campaign to beautify public green spaces each spring.

We will meet at the fieldhouse on **Saturday, April 30 at 10 a.m.** Juice, coffee and cookies will be served, and people will sign up and pick an area to do. Usually the work is done by noon. In case of rain, we'll meet instead on Sunday, May 1.

The designated cleanup areas are the south side of Premier above the transitway; the boulevard on Northwestern; and the areas along the fence on Patricia and Pontiac. It can also include the area along the river at the foot of Carleton, or any other public spaces you think need it.

We recommend wearing pants and long-sleeved shirts. Wear appropriate footwear and bring gloves. The City will provide garbage bags and other supplies.

The Keyworth School Age Program has adopted Champlain Park and the students of St. George School

are doing a great job cleaning it each spring and fall. Thanks go to them.

Now it's time for the rest of us in the neighbourhood to do our part. Last year, 20 people showed up—a nice turnout.

If you have any questions or suggestions, call Ian Reid or Andrea Murphy at 613-715-9504.



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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 Rowlett
Treasurer: David Bartlett (301-9660)

Fieldhouse coordinator:
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)

Member-at-large: Connie Barrowclough
(724-7712)

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

CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER - YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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“RENEGADE SCIENTIST” TO SPEAK AT MUSEUM OF NATURE ON APRIL 28

With an international reputation for helping humans understand the value and connection we can have to our non-human neighbours on this planet, Diana Beresford-Kroeger has earned the title of renegade scientist. She travels the world as an acclaimed author and speaker. Her home is near Merrickville, Ontario.

Your chance to hear her will be on **Thursday, April 28 at 7:30 p.m.** at the **Canadian Museum of Nature** on McLeod Street. Ms. Beresford-Kroeger will speak on the topic of “healing trees.” Here’s what the Museum website says about her upcoming lecture:

“Celebrate the International Year of Forests and explore the healing power of trees in a public presentation by Diana Beresford-Kroeger, author of **The Global Forest** and **Arboretum America**.

U.S. researchers have found that rates of domestic violence, attention deficit disorder, and graffiti vandalism are reduced in neighbourhoods with trees, when all other factors are the same. Shoppers prefer treed business districts. Hospital patients heal more quickly when they can see nature and trees.

Come enjoy an engaging lecture and beautiful images by this fascinating speaker who has studied classical botany, medical biochemistry, organic and radio nuclear chemistry, and experimental surgery.

Reservations are required. Reserve upon your arrival at the reception desk or reserve in advance at: 613-566-4791 or reservations@mus-nature.ca.

Cost for the lecture is free with museum admittance.”

—Debra Huron

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

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEEDS A MEMBERSHIP DRIVE COORDINATOR

The annual spring membership drive is the association's main source of revenue. We urgently require someone to co-ordinate the drive. The job only requires work for a short time each year. Things are already well-organized, and the community really needs and will appreciate the person who chooses to take this on!

Call Heather Pearl for more information (725-1422).



UPDATE ON 115 NORTHWESTERN AVENUE

On March 2, Champlain Park executive members and residents presented our case to the Committee of Adjustment (COA) against the proposed development of a very large double at 115 Northwestern Ave. On March 11, the COA released its unanimous decision to **deny the developer's application**.

The COA noted our concerns about "the scale and massing of the proposed development, the loss of sunlight for neighbouring properties, the loss of significant distinctive mature trees with resulting diminution of the green canopy that is a significant characteristic of this neighbourhood, and additional adverse impacts on neighbouring properties in terms of loss of privacy and overlooking due to the proposed roof-top decks." [COA Decision, March 11, 2011].

On March 31, the developer **appealed this decision** to the Ontario Municipal Board. The hearing date has not been set yet, but it is likely that the hearing will take place sometime in July or August. Champlain Park executive members and residents will be presenting once again in opposition to the developer's proposal.

-Heather Pearl



UPDATE ON 168 CARLETON AVENUE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

We have met with the developer twice in addition to the public meeting that was held, and have also communicated by telephone and e-mail. Some changes were made and others discussed but we still have a number of planning concerns.

At a recent meeting of the executive sub-committee, it was agreed that we are unable to support a proposal that incorporates four units, as we continue to believe that three units would provide the best opportunity for compatible development. We believe that the four units as proposed represent overdevelopment of the site.

There is no file number or hearing date at the time of writing. Further information can be obtained from Lynne Bankier or Connie Barrowclough (whose numbers can be found on page 2).

For interim updates, please sign up for the community association's electronic listserv (see instructions on side panel on page 2).

-Lynne Bankier

AMY'S CORNER



BY AMY KEMPSTER
722-6039

Federal Election: On May 2 we have the chance and privilege to vote. Advance polls will be held on April 22, 23, and 29. The candidates in our riding, in alphabetical order, as of April 7 are: Scott Bradley (Liberal); Paul Dewar (NDP); Jen Hunter (Green), and Damian Konstantinakos (Conservative). Nominations close April 11 so there may be others added. Please exercise your right to vote.

Legalities of Land Use: The Ontario Planning Act regulates the land use of most land in Ontario. Its purposes are: "(a) to promote sustainable economic development in a healthy natural environment within the policy and by the means provided under this Act;

(b) to provide for a land use planning system led by provincial policy;

(i) to integrate matters of provincial interest in provincial and municipal planning decisions;

(i) to provide for planning processes that are fair by making them open, accessible, timely and efficient;

(ii) to encourage co-operation and co-ordination among various interests;

...to recognize the decision-making authority and accountability of municipal councils in planning"

Certain restraints are provided to ensure that municipalities follow the policies of the province and that other bodies have regard to the policies of the municipalities as follows:

"2.1 When an approval authority or the Municipal Board makes a decision under this Act that relates to a planning matter, it shall have regard to,

(a) any decision that is made under this Act by a municipal council or by an approval authority and relates to the same planning matter; and

(b) any supporting information and material that the municipal council or approval authority considered in making the decision described in clause (a). 2006, c. 23, s. 4."

"Policy statements. The Minister may from time to time issue policy statements on matters relating to

municipal planning that are of provincial interest."

As seen from the following excerpt these policy statements have more importance than the preceding requirement "to have regard to," as any decisions taken must be "consistent with" these. (Note that where there are provincial plans, municipalities must conform to them as well. No such plans exist in Eastern Ontario.)

"Policy statements and provincial plans

(5) A decision of the council of a municipality, a local board, a planning board, a minister of the Crown and a ministry, board, commission or agency of the government, including the Municipal Board, in respect of the exercise of any authority that affects a planning matter,

(a) shall be consistent with the policy statements issued under subsection (1) that are in effect on the date of the decision;

Same [title as above]

(6) Comments, submissions or advice affecting a planning matter that are provided by the council of a municipality, a local board, a planning board, a minister or ministry, board, commission or agency of the government,

(a) shall be consistent with the policy statements issued under subsection (1) that are in effect on the date the comments, submissions or advice are provided;"

Thus, the Provincial Policy Statement is very important as it guides a city in its land use planning, such as in its Official Plan; it also guides the Ontario Municipal Board in its decisions.

The most recent edition of these statements was issued in 2005 (available online). One of the first sections is How to Read the Provincial Policy Statement. It states that: "It is intended to be read in its entirety and the relevant policies are to be applied in each situation." This statement is very important, as in some cases, there may be conflicts among different requirements.

One example of that difficulty is the following excerpt: "Intensification and redevelopment shall be directed in accordance with the policies of Section 2: Wise Use and Management of Resources and Section 3: Protecting Public Health and Safety."

Section 2 includes sections on Natural Heritage; Water; Agriculture; Minerals and Petroleum; Mineral Aggregate Resources; and Cultural Heritage and Archaeology. Under this last we find: "2.6.1 Significant built heritage and significant cultural heritage landscapes shall be conserved." This would suggest that intensification should be modified somewhat where natural heritage areas such as significant woodlands or where significant built heritage and significant cultural landscapes are found.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE IS DEVELOPING A STRATEGY

The Champlain Park Environment Committee is working on an environment strategy that aims to lower the environmental footprint of our community.

Areas that are being considered are how we can reduce waste, lower our carbon footprint, and increase the biodiversity in our community.

Projects in the works to help accomplish these goals are the Champlain Oaks Project (www.champlainoaks.com) and a new vegetable garden initiative. Let me know if you are interested in joining the Environment Committee or have ideas for other projects.

–Nick Xenos at xenosn@yahoo.com.



MATCHING VEGETABLE GROWERS WITH PATCHES OF LAND

Do you like the taste of freshly picked tomatoes, carrots, lettuce, and peas?

Would you like to grow vegetables but don't have that ideal sunny spot?

Are you someone with some land to spare in your backyard who wouldn't mind a resident of Champlain Park coming to grow vegetables on your patch of soil?

If any of these scenarios appeal (or apply) to you, maybe can we find a way to match you up. That's what I'd like to do: be a matchmaker for people who want to grow vegetables and those who might want to make their land available to have that happen.

The landowner could receive part of the vegetable bounty, or some other amicable arrangement could be made. This is a potential win-win situation that could also offer a new and good way for people to interact within the community.

If you'd like to talk about this for the coming growing season, please call me at 725-5488.

–Maija Adamsons, Member, Champlain Park Environment Committee.

TREE SURVEY TO BEGIN SOON

For the last few months, The Champlain Oaks project has tried to raise awareness about the environmental, historical and cultural value of the old-growth bur oaks in our neighbourhood (see www.champlainoaks.com).

Building on this success, members of the community and the Champlain Park Environment Committee are launching a broader survey of distinctive trees in Champlain Park, with a focus on native species and trees that meet the City of Ottawa criteria for distinctiveness (defined as being 50 cm in diameter or about 155 cm in circumference, measured at breast height).

There are two ways to contribute.

1. If you have trees on your property that you consider distinctive (either due to size, species, or some other special characteristic you define) please contact me with the following information: common name for the tree species, circumference at breast height in centimetres, street address, location in front or

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backyard, and location on City or private property. If you can send a photo of the tree, or a favourite story illustrating why the tree matters to you, that can also add to our appreciation.

2. Welcome and assist a volunteer from the Environment Committee who will knock on your door in May with a tape measure and note pad to survey the trees on your property. If you would like to be one of these volunteers, for your street or even just your block, please contact me.

The survey will help us know the biological wealth and health of our community, and also provide tips regarding what to plant and where to enhance native biodiversity. Native tree species for this area include:

Ironwood (Eastern hophornbeam),

Basswood,

Maple (sugar, red, and silver),

Oak (white, bur, and red),

White Pine,

White Spruce,

Cedar,

White Walnut,

American Mountain Ash,

Yellow and White Birch,

Beech,

Balsam Poplar, and

Hemlock.

Flowering Crabapple, while not strictly a native species, also provides food and spring beauty. The key to conserving the hardy native genes is to avoid buying hybrid trees at nurseries.

–Daniel Buckles

dbuckles@sympatico.ca or 613-722-8048

BABY BUR OAKS FLOURISH AT DESCHENES RAPIDS

If you have visited the Champlain Oaks website, you will know that the “living link” to the 24 bur oaks in Champlain Park stretches far back into the history of this area. In fact, the name of the Ottawa River near our community is Lac Deschenes (Lake of the Oaks). Here’s an excerpt from the website (with thanks to Bob Grainger and Phil Goldring who pointed one of the website’s contributors to this historic link.)

6 “An oak forest on the Ottawa River between Chaudière Falls and Lac Des Chenes was first



This young bur oak tree sits at the entrance to the Deschenes Rapids parking lot on the Aylmer side of the Ottawa River. The human standing beside the tree is Debra Huron. (Photo: Daniel Buckles)

referenced in 1686 by Pierre de Troyes, a captain in the French army also known as the “Chevalier de Troyes.” While portaging around the rapids on the north side of the river he remarked:

‘Then I returned to the oak portage, so called because of the number of these trees which are in the area, which is about a league and a half from the plunge of the Chaudière Falls. I climbed the many rapids which are encountered between the two on this road, and made the portage which is at nearly a league from that of the Chaudière, which is a quarter of a league as long as that of the oaks.’

He then went on with a party of over 30 canoes to successfully expel the English from James Bay.

These references are like stepping stones from today to the past. While more evidence and points in between this timeline would enrich the story, the basic sketch is there. The magnificent trees so much a part of current community history are also a living link to early Canadian history and a longstanding ecosystem.” –Debra Huron