



CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER



MAY 2011

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE BEGINS

1. Renew your membership in the upcoming annual membership drive. If you are new to the neighbourhood, please join our community association.

2. Volunteer as a canvasser. Canvassers are urgently needed, as the success of the membership drive depends on them. Total time commitment per canvasser is approximately three hours.

Your membership fees are used to fund community events such as:

- the Christmas and Halloween parties, as well as Winter Fair
- the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

As well, your fees help to cover the costs of representing the community at City of Ottawa committees and Ontario Municipal Board hearings.

The Champlain Park Community Association Annual Membership Drive runs mid-May to the end of June. The cost of membership is \$10.00 per household. Neighbourhood canvassers will be knocking on your door shortly!

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Barbara Borylo-Gourdie at 613-722-6829 or by e-mail: bmbg@sympatico.ca.

WHAT'S THIS PHOTOGRAPH ABOUT?

See page 5 for the story.

GARAGE SALE AND GIVE AWAY WEEKEND

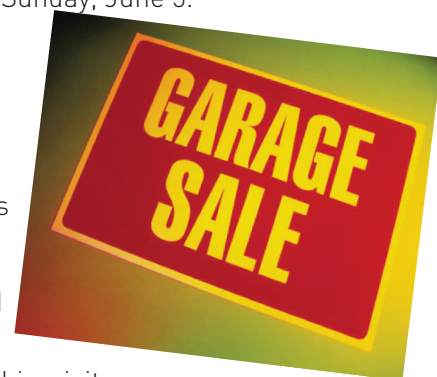
Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 4.

The annual neighbourhood Garage Sale will begin bright and early and, as usual, will be the same day as the Island Park Drive Garage Sale.

The rain date will be Sunday, June 5.

If you do not sell all your treasures at the Garage Sale, leave them at the curbside for people who will be trolling the streets during the City-wide Give Away weekend slated for June 4 and 5.

For more details on this, visit the City of Ottawa website (www.ottawa.ca) and search for Give Away weekend.



CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER

MAY 2011

CHAMPLAIN PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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

Vice-chair: Jonathan Chaplan (728-7670)
Secretary: Linnea Rowlett (728-8221)
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)

Environment Committee: Nick Xenos
(719-7780)

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

**CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER -
YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER**
Editing and layout: Debra Huron 722-8048
dhuron@sympatico.ca

Proofreading: Andrea Murphy

Delivery Chief: Kelly Egan

On-line edition: To join the community
association's listserv and also receive a
monthly e-mail with a PDF
of the Speaker, contact
Alexander Smith at:
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,
Kelly Egan.

COVER photo: Debra Huron

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MESSAGE FROM COUNCILLOR HOBBS ON HOW OC TRANSPO'S "OPTIMIZATION" AFFECTS KITCHISSIPPI WARD

Recently, OC Transpo proposed network optimization to improve efficiency and service to customers. Following the release of the initial plan, I held a public meeting on April 2nd to listen to residents' concerns. Residents also submitted their comments through the OC Transpo website and my office received phone calls and emails. This feedback was shared with Councillor Deans of the Transit Commission and the proposals were accordingly adjusted.

Pertinent bus route changes for Kitchissippi Ward include those made to Routes 2, 6, 16, 18, and 151. Route 2 service schedule would not change, save for the addition of trips from Westboro Station to Carlingwood and from Lincoln Fields to Carlingwood.

Many other residents were concerned about the future of Route 6. Based on feedback following the initial plan, Route 6 will now be renumbered as part of Route 5 and will end at Carling and Holland to better serve Civic Hospital.

Kitchissippi residents also expressed concern about the suggested removal of Sunday service for Route 16. Thanks in part to all the feedback, I'm happy to report that there will be no changes to the current schedule for Route 16.

Concerns were also expressed about the future of Route 18. Following implementation in Fall 2011, the section of Route 18 to Bayview station would be removed as well as the section west of Preston to Carlingwood. Customers on Richmond road could use the 2, the 16, or the 87 for service to Carlingwood. The 18 would also no longer operate west of Elgin, but would be connected with the

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

current section of Route 5 between downtown and Billings Bridge.

Route 151 will now operate between Merivale/Clyde and Tunney's Pasture. Trips towards Tunney's Pasture in the morning peak period and towards Merivale/Clyde in the afternoon peak period will bypass the Westgate Shopping Centre. Additionally, service would operate all day until 9 p.m. during the week with one late evening trip, all day until 7 p.m. Saturdays, with no trips on Sundays. Sections of the 151 that currently traverse Erindale, Navaho, and Iris would be replaced by Route 150, and Route 155 would be replaced by the above Route 151.

The network optimization will serve to improve efficiency of Ottawa's transit system, as well as a projected savings of \$22 million per year. Ameliorating how the system itself functions is necessary as it is not sustainable to increase fares and taxes to generate the needed revenues.

–Katherine Hobbs

CLEANUP CREWS COLLECT 15 BAGS OF GARBAGE IN OUTDOOR EVENT

Ian Reid and Andrea Murphy wish to thank everyone who came out to help with the Spring Cleanup on the sunny morning of Saturday, April 30. Forty people came out in total, and in a couple of hours accumulated about 15 green garbage bags of litter and one blue box of recyclables.

The 2011 Spring Cleanup volunteers were:

- Jim Taylor and Janet Wright
- Caroline, Taela, Anna and Isabel Liebenberg
- Peter and Blake Laughton, Ava and Shanna
- Bonnie, Jaida, Natasha, Maya
- Debra Huron
- Sarah, Brad, Josie and Lucy Brooks
- Nick Xenos
- Pat Cook
- Ian and Lydia Holland
- Mike Buda and Dawn Gregor
- Graydon Almstedt and Polly
- Alex Hay, Desmond and Maddie
- Dennis Van Staalduinen, Jeannette Rule, Elliot, Rachel, and Archer
- Jennifer Neate, Helene and Eden

Special thanks also to Lucie Crete-Racette and Yvan Racette, who live in Nepean. Lucie used to come here to take care of the children of Helen Marsh in the 1960s and has always maintained a special fondness for this neighbourhood. Lucie and Yvan enthusiastically cleaned up the wooded area at the north end of Patricia Ave.

SPECIAL FRIEND TO CHAMPLAIN PARK CAME TO COLLECT ACORNS

About 50 people came and went on April 20 during the 90 minutes they were invited to visit the bur oak at 115 Northwestern Ave. The developer, Mr. Sam Falsetto, gave permission for people to gather acorns from the property prior to destruction of the tree in early May.

Lucie Crete-Racette (pictured below, left, with Debra Huron) came to Northwestern Ave. by bus on that inclement evening from her home near Woodroffe and Meadowlands.



Lucie said that she subscribes to the Champlain Park listserv so she can keep in touch with our community. She also attended the Spring Cleanup. Since the acorn rescue, she reports that the acorn she planted in a pot has yet to sprout. Patience!

Books have told us that both bur oak and red oak acorns germinate in the spring, unlike the fall-germinating acorns from the white oak. As well, the relatively soft-shelled bur oak acorn was a favourite food source for Aboriginal people throughout North America. They gathered bur oak acorns in the fall and stored them in birchbark containers (often immersed in water) during the winter. Sometimes, the meat of the acorn was pounded to make a type of bread. In early spring, a good cache of bur oak acorns could help prevent starvation.

–Debra Huron

AMY'S CORNER



BY AMY KEMPSTER
722-6039

Bus Changes: It seems that our Council believes no one goes out to movies or elsewhere in the evenings or to anywhere—even church—on Sundays. The reduced service to our area means that we will have no local service on Sunday but will have to walk to Tunney's or Westboro transit stations, or up to Wellington Street. Intensification is being justified on the need for higher populations to support transit. With such little service as is proposed for transit to our community, there is no longer any justification for any intensification in the area.

- Route 151 will run during the Monday-Friday peak but have limited service at midday and a last service at 9 p.m., with no service on Saturday between Tunney's and Westboro.
- Route 150, which will run along Scott Street, will have no Sunday service and will also stop at 9 p.m. on Monday to Friday and 7 p.m. on Saturday.

Perhaps it is just my perception, but the OCTranspo planning seems geared to the suburbs outside the Greenbelt and to the working 24+ age population, to the detriment of service to the older population, children, students, and those living in the inner city suburbs.

There is a wealth of things to do in the city that last beyond 9 p.m.—theatre, concerts, social events, or other meetings, etc. This lack of bus service may mean that some of those whose mobility is not up to one-kilometre walks will have to give up such entertainment outside their home and any activities—including church—outside the community on Sunday. It is one thing to provide such poor service in the summer, but it should simply be outlawed in the winter.

Church-goers: make sure your church protests this step, one that may take away the consolation of religion from some seniors. In my view, if good and relatively frequent service is provided, more people will use transit. If bus service is infrequent and poor, car use will increase.

Developer use of City parkland: It has come to my attention that although the City voted not to allow access to the convent property by crossing Byron Park, that possibility is now being considered. I believe allowing a developer to take away a piece of city parkland to access his development sends a very bad message and creates a very bad precedent. If you agree, please ensure you tell our Councillor that you are against changing the previous decision of the City not to allow a road to cross the park and thus decrease its size and continuity.

Greenbelt Review: If you care about the Greenbelt here are some opportunities to have your say on its future:

From the NCC website (www.canadascapital.gc.ca): You are invited to join us at the following meetings where NCC staff will be available to answer your questions and hear your comments:

- Tuesday May 24, 2011 from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., National Arts Centre, Panorama Room, 53 Elgin St., Ottawa
- Thursday May 26, 2011 from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Nepean Sportsplex, Room B, 1701 Woodroffe Ave., Ottawa
- Wednesday June 1, 2011 from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Chimo Hotel, Mackenzie Room, 1199 Joseph Cyr Rd., Ottawa

BE STREETWISE!

Thinking of selling your house?

According to the MLS, the market price of single family homes in Champlain Park is, on average, \$509,000, and that's for normal houses, not the recently built semi-detached or new houses!

Development representatives are now offering \$400,000.

A word to the wise: if you're planning to sell your house, tell your real estate agent that you insist the property be placed on the open market. And be streetsmart; don't accept an under-the-table deal.

Make sure you get the best dollar for your home.

-Linnea Rowlett



LETTER TO THREE CEDARS

(Editor’s Note: Augusta is a 14-year-old student at Summit Alternative School. She lives in Champlain Park.

On the occasion of Earth Day, students in Augusta’s class were asked to write a letter to their future grandchildren on any environmental subject. Instead, Augusta wrote a letter to three cedar trees that had been cut down that week. With her mom’s permission, excerpts from the letter are printed below.)

Dear cedar trees 1, 2, and 3,

It makes me sick and angry every single time I think about how you three died, or when I walk past the window where you used to stand tall and proud. However much this may anger you, I suppose I should tell you how this came to pass, and why you have suffered this indignity.

The new neighbours moving in next to us, it seems, wanted a big monster house. They also wanted you three beautiful cedar trees cut down so that their **garage** could be a few inches larger.

My mom decided to go talk to them to see if they would reconsider, which they said they would. A few days later, however, we still had no answer, and when we came home, you were no longer there. Anyway, I’m writing this letter to you to let you know how much you meant to me and my family.

For as long as I can remember, you were there outside our window, swaying gently in the breeze. For as long as I can remember, you stood at the side of our house while I played beneath you in the shade. You have always been a part of my life, and I will miss you terribly. Don’t feel too sad, because you contributed so much when you were alive. So many birds and squirrels called you home and you constantly refreshed the air in order to help the environment. [. . .]

I do have hope for Earth, because I believe there is a way to stop what is happening and avert this crisis if we can put in greener laws and use greener technology and fuel.

Recently, my Mom found some saplings of yours and she’s planning on taking care of them. “See?” Mom said with a grin. “Nature always wins!”

“Yeah,” I replied glumly, “but not for, like, another 50 years.” I mused about it for a while, though, and I realized something: humans did win that day but not in a good way. Because when nature loses, we lose,



The place where the three cedars used to stand.

as the Earth becomes a little closer to destruction. How can we survive without the Earth and nature? The only way for us to actually win is if nature wins.

Don’t worry about your saplings. They are in good hands. I will never forget you three.

Sincerely, Augusta

HOW TO STAY INFORMED AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHAMPLAIN OAKS

Visit the **Champlain Oaks website** to keep informed of continuing efforts to celebrate the bur oaks in our community. The address is: www.champlainoaks.com

Contact Daniel Buckles if you want to make a contribution to the site (daniel.buckles@gmail.com or telephone 613-722-8048). Some recent posts to the site you may find of interest are:

- * An article on bur oak acorns and squirrels by Keyworth Ave. resident Jack Holliday, first published by the Ottawa Field Naturalists Club in 1997. Mr. Holiday has published 27 articles with the Club on the flora and fauna of the area since 1987.

- * Singer Mario Lanza’s rendition of the poem “Trees” by Joyce Kilmer.

- * A chance to contribute to a survey of distinctive trees in the neighbourhood. **Dog walkers**, in particular, are needed to take note of trees above 50 cm in diameter in the NCC belt near the river.

- * A video of the last moments of the giant oak on Northwestern Ave. –Daniel Buckles

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MAY 2011

UPDATE ON 168 CARLETON AVE.

This update relates to the property at the corner of Carleton and Clearview, opposite the park and opposite the development of two semi-detached (four houses) currently under construction.

Committee of Adjustment (COA) hearing:

1 p.m., Wednesday, June 1

Address: 101 CentrepoinTE Drive, Ottawa, K2G 5K7

E-mail: cofa@ottawa.ca Fax: 613-580-2425

You may send letters by e-mail. They should arrive **five days** before the hearing.

File Numbers for correspondence:

File no. D08-01-11/B-00175 to B-00178 (Consents)

File no. D08-02-11/A-00156 to A-00159 (Variances)

The developer's proposal remains similar to that shown at the public meeting held earlier this year with the community, except for some cosmetic variations. The proposal is for two semi-detached homes (4 dwellings) with two double driveways on Carleton Avenue and rooftop decks. Finishing materials and style are "craftsman" rather than "modern."

Concerns remain that the current proposal represents overdevelopment of the site and is incompatible with the neighbourhood. Our position is that three units would better accommodate a number of complexities at that corner.

Some of the concerns are:

- Loss of greenspace.
- Loss of mature trees. We are advocating for preservation of the mature bur oak opposite the park.
- Number of additional driveways to be accommodated at that intersection.
- Bulk, massing, and scale, due to the number of homes proposed.

Concerns regarding the introduction of rooftop decks have been expressed by members of the community for this and other new developments in the neighbourhood.

Development proposals are escalating due to the intensification policies, and it is more important than ever to state our views, so **I encourage you to write to the Committee of Adjustment.**

Many community members have become energized to participate in the development applications process. We are becoming known as a vigilant, responsive, and capable community. We have improved most of the proposals heard to date.

Please send copies of your letters to lynne_bankier@sympatico.ca.

Linnea Rowlett will be pleased to assist community members with letter writing and to show you drawings of the proposed development: linneasr@gmail.com

As well, anyone who wishes to receive **e-mail updates on this topic** may send their e-mail address to Linnea (see above).

Connie Barrowclough can also answer questions: connie.barrowclough@dhc-sc.gc.ca

See page 2 of this newsletter for Linnea's and Connie's phone numbers.

—Lynne Bankier, co-chair of Champlain Park Community Association

EDITORIAL: LET'S KEEP THE "PARK" IN CHAMPLAIN PARK

It is a sad irony that the artist's renderings for the development proposal at 168 Carleton Ave. show the dwellings on the lot surrounded by tall, leafy trees.

The reality will be much different.

If the developer proceeds with all four dwellings—something that our community association opposes—he will cut down four maple trees and one bur oak. The latter is more than 50 cm in diameter and thus qualifies as a "distinctive tree" under Ottawa's Urban Tree Conservation By-law. However, if Committee of Adjustment approves the request for variances at its June 1 meeting, the developer is almost guaranteed to apply for and receive a permit to cut this tree. Here's another reality: approval of variances at COA means that even "distinctive" trees are expendable.

It seems to me that there are two ways that the word "park" applies to our community. We have, of course, the City-owned Champlain Park—an entire block devoted to recreation and graced by tall and mostly healthy trees. (We will soon lose some of the mature ash trees in the park due to the ash borer infestation.)

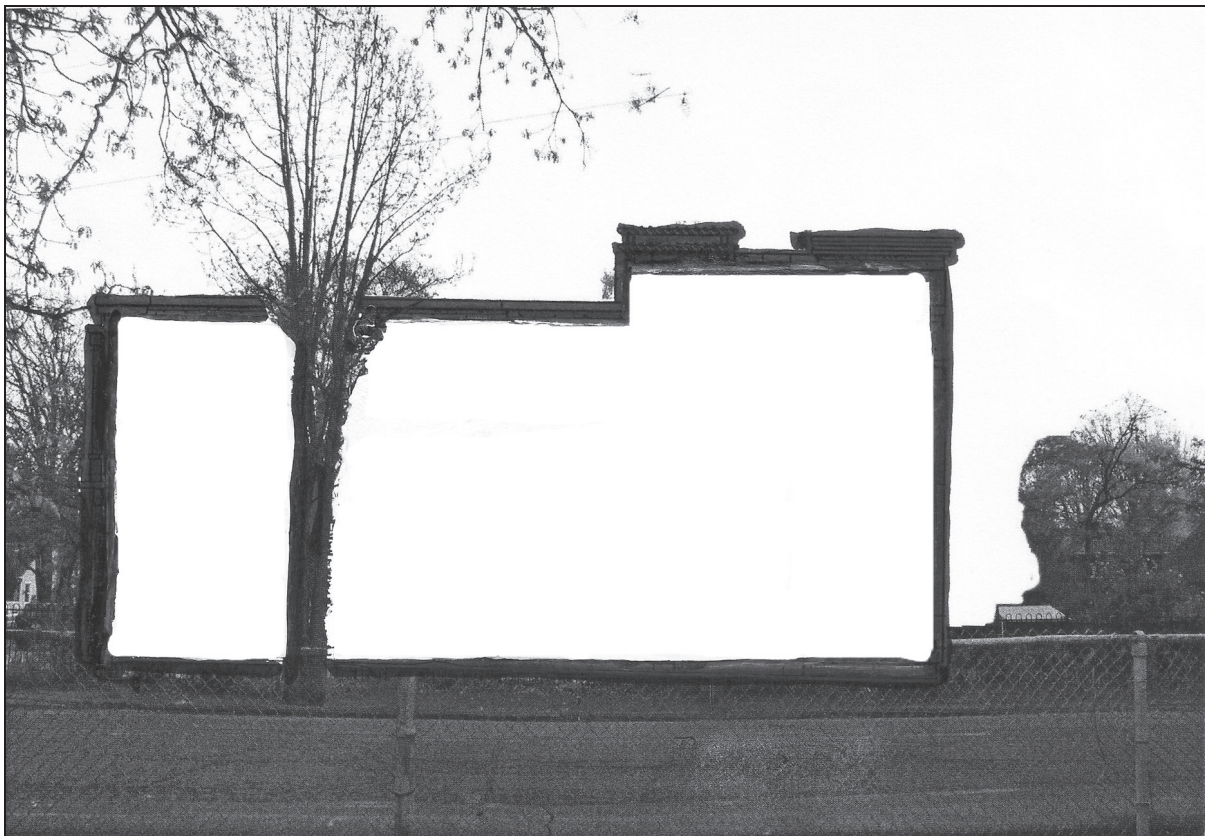
The other way that "park" applies to our neighbourhood is that we are blessed with many species of mature trees. The ones most worthy of celebration are the bur oaks. At this northern edge of the species' range, bur oaks can live for 250 or 300 years. That's as much as three times longer than any of us can expect to spend on this planet!

The Carleton-Clearview intersection is a key part of our neighbourhood because it borders the park. The fact that we are a prime target for infill development means that we now stand to lose four maples and a bur oak if 168 Carleton is developed as planned. I think this is too big a price to pay. Make a difference by writing to COA today.

—Debra Huron



View from Champlain Park playground as of May 14, 2011.



View from Champlain Park playground next year at this time? This hand drawn silhouette of the side view for the proposed development at 168 Carleton is to scale. It shows the rooftop patios and the impact of cutting down four maples and one bur oak, based on plans provided to the community association by the developer (dated March 2011).

CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER

MAY 2011

PLANS FOR TRAFFIC CALMING IN CHAMPLAIN PARK TO PROCEED

May 5 notice from Councillor Katherine Hobbs:

As many of you will know, the 1996 Island Park, Kirkwood Avenue, and Churchill Area Transportation Assessment and Traffic Calming Plan (IKC Plan) recommended a number of traffic calming measures for Champlain Park. Implementation funding was provided in our 2008, 2009, and 2010 Capital Budgets but deferred due to indecision on what measures were desirable and which were not. After waiting 12 years for funding and three years of banking the funds for this project, the City will be moving forward with the following measures, following an additional traffic volume study completed in May 2010:

1. Seven narrowings and one speed hump on Clearview Avenue.
2. Three narrowings and five speed humps on Carleton Avenue.
3. One narrowing and two speed humps on Sunnymede Avenue.

Implementing area traffic management / traffic calming plans can be a complicated and controversial process, especially when attempting to build community consensus around proposed solutions. The significant time lag that often occurs between study approval and implementation further complicates the overall process. This is an issue City staff are investigating and are seeking proposals to shorten the lag time in time for the 2012 budget process.

After discussing the measures with City staff and reviewing community input from previous consultations, we came to a decision that something had to be done to calm traffic entering Champlain Park to avoid the intersection of Island Park Drive and Scott Street. Concerns remain with speed and volume on Island Park Drive, and I will continue to work with staff and the NCC to seek measures to improve the situation. In the meantime, we must use the limited funds allocated to us to try to reduce speeds and improve safety for residents of Champlain Park.

May 13 note from Councillor Katherine Hobbs (after discussion on the Champlain Park listserv):

The decision was made to move ahead with the limited measures for calming traffic in Champlain Park based on staff recommendations because it is clear that there is a concern with cut-through traffic in the area which impacts residents, especially those with young children.

I have asked staff to consider the effect these changes will have to traffic on Premier, Patricia, and

Northwestern, as well as the measures proposed by Dennis. Calming measures can only be taken following data from a study, and with limited funds, measures were recommended to best utilize these funds to have the maximum impact on reducing traffic speed through the neighbourhood.

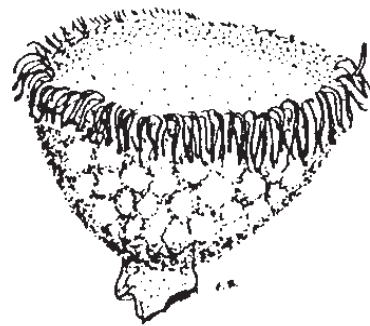
I understand that some are not in favour of these measures, and that some were expecting an additional public meeting before implementation. However, after speaking with staff, the community association, and reviewing the files, including residents' submissions, I believed there was a strong argument for moving forward to deal with traffic issues during the 2011 construction season, after missing the opportunity between 2008 and 2010.

We are working with staff to have all of Champlain Park reduced to 40 km/h, and hope to have this implemented in the near future. If you have any further questions on this or any other matter, please contact me directly at 613-580-2485 or katherine.hobbs@ottawa.ca.

FALLEN GIANT

Yet another piece of Ottawa's natural heritage, a bur oak more than a metre in diameter and healthy despite its 180+ years, has fallen in Champlain Park. The tree we have lost had a very public presence. It worked its magic on local residents and many others that walk down to the river near Carleton and Northwestern. The development at 115 Northwestern Ave. where the tree once stood is proceeding, not as a large double proposed and turned down at the Committee of Adjustment, but rather as a single to replace the home that is there. Efforts are still underway to plant seedlings from the tree and acquire a cross-section as an educational tool.

—Daniel Buckles



Drawing of a Bur Oak acorn cup, by F. Brodo.