

WALKING CLUB

Wednesday mornings at 9:30 A.M.

The Champlain Ramblers started their fall walks on Wednesday Sept. 7, 1994. Come join us in rambling through the neighbourhood, and along NCC paths, checking out the fall migrants etc. We will meet every Wednesday and Friday at 9:30 a.m. (unless it's raining) at the park bench in the Cowley-Clearview corner of Champlain Park.

AMY'S CORNER

News and views by Amy Kempster

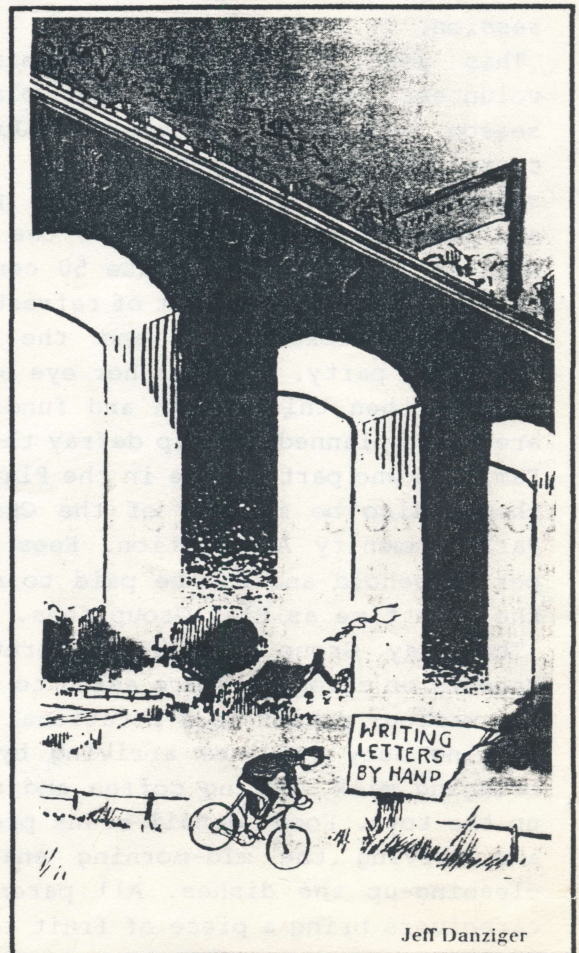
Elections! This fall we will be electing separate regional and city councillors. The Region is responsible for health, welfare and social concerns, waste disposal, major planning (e.g. where new large shopping centres can be built), regional roads, OC Transpo, and inter-provincial transportation matters (Scott St., Wellington St., etc.), water purification and

distribution, over-all economic development and eventually, policing. The City is responsible for local planning, zoning, local streets, recreation and culture, fire protection and local economic development. Watch for the next flyer when we hope to announce all-candidates meetings for Regional and City Councillors.

Regional Official Plan Review: Work on this is expected to commence this fall.

Bill 163: This Ontario government bill contains much of interest. It implements some of the Sewell Commission recommendations. It also includes items related to open local government, clarifying when meetings can be closed and requiring those elected to office to disclose their financial interests. Hearings on the bill will be held in Ottawa on Sep. 16. For more information call Evelyn Gigantes office (237-0212).

Streets by-law: This proposed by-law regulates signs on streets and also proposes to disallow leaning of or locking of bicycles to signs, traffic metres, trees etc. Note as well that a permit will be required for new walkways or driveways crossing the road allowance. If you are concerned about this call Mr. George Assaff at 564-1142 or Joan Wong (your councillor) at 564-1323. This proposal will come before the Community Services and Operations Committee in September.



Playgroup a lifesaver!

by Suesan Saville

For parents and caregivers, the Champlain Park Play Group can be a lifesaver. Run out of the Champlain Park fieldhouse Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM, the group is a welcome social venue for parents and children. The Monday group is oriented to 3 1/2, 4 and 5 years olds. Tuesdays and Thursdays welcome infants and preschool children. Last year was very active with an average of 24 children per session.

This year it is being organized by volunteer Anne Doswell. The playgroup season runs from September to June and costs \$40 for the first child, \$5 for subsequent children. Friends of parents and caregivers who drop into the centre will be asked to contribute 50 cents per child. Fees cover the cost of refreshments, replacing broken toys and the annual Christmas party. Anne has her eye on a new play kitchen this season and fundraisers are being planned to help defray the cost. Families who participate in the Play Group should also be members of the Champlain Park Community Association. Fees are \$7 per household and can be paid to Anne at the same time as Play Group fees.

The Play Group is run cooperatively. Parents or caregivers are asked to sign up for various duties on a rotational basis. Opening duty requires arriving by 9 AM, bringing milk, making coffee and setting up the toys. Food detail means preparing and serving the mid-morning snack and cleaning-up the dishes. All parents and caregivers bring a piece of fruit to every

session to contribute to snack. Craft duty requires some advance preparation in planning an age-appropriate craft with supplies at the fieldhouse.

After a morning of free play, a craft activity, a break for snack, and tidying-up, the children gather into a circle for a story and songs before heading home. Ideas for guest entertainers or special activities are always welcome.

This year the Municipal Health Regulations for day care centres will be posted at the fieldhouse. All parents and caregivers are encouraged to read them and use them as guidelines in determining whether their children are well enough to participate in Play Group activities.

Champlain Park Play Group has a large number of children with severe allergies to food - everything from peanuts to eggs, milk and wheat. Anne Doswell, whose son suffers from food allergies, is acutely aware of the care that must be taken with food served at Play Group. Anne will check, purchase and control all food that is provided for the children's snack.

Play Group has lots of toys for children to share, so parents and caregivers are asked to not bring toys from home to avoid losing precious playthings and avoid the inevitable disputes that arise over toys.

For years the Play Group has had a loyal and active following. Little wonder - the companionship and sense of community spawned by the Play Group has the feel of a real old fashioned neighbourhood where parents, caregivers and children know each other, and exchange information on everything from doctors to schools. The Play Group is part of what makes Champlain Park a very special neighbourhood.