

CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER

April/May 2005

Vol. 24, No. 6

Park, river cleanup April 30

Well, it's time to pick up after ourselves again.

Volunteers are needed for the annual spring cleanup in Champlain Park and the nearby shoreline of the Ottawa River.

This year's effort will take place on **Saturday, April 30th**, beginning at **9:30 a.m.** and ending about noon, rain or shine.

Coffee and doughnuts will be provided. Come for an hour, if that's all you can spare.

We can do this. You can help.

Volunteers are asked to bring their own rakes, garbage bags and favourite yard-cleaning tools. Work gloves and rubber boots are a good idea, especially for those working by the river.

Crews will be spread throughout the park itself and along the shoreline bordering Champlain Park.

Amy Kempster is scheduled to be on hand to register volunteers. Please

check in with her first.

There will be an event to recognize participants on Bate Island from noon to 1 p.m.

The project is part of a city-wide effort to clean up parks all over Ottawa between April 15 and May 15.

Last year, there were 570 registered projects involving more than 41,000 volunteers.

The city also has a graffiti removal team that can respond to trouble spots.

Excuse me, ma'am? It's about your dog

In last month's issue, we carried an account from Garfield, a resident of Patricia Avenue. He is concerned about the number of aggressive dogs that are off-leash in the Champlain Woods, possibly creating a hazard for other trail users, particularly children. He asked for input from dog owners. Here are two replies.

When Fido is not friendly

Garfield, a resident of Patricia Avenue, did exactly the right thing when feeling threatened by a dog off-leash in the woods between Pontiac and the Parkway.

By standing still, he avoided stimulating the dog further. Other helpful tips for people confronted by unfriendly dogs in a similar situation include:

- * Hold your ground and tell the dog firmly to go home. Children should "be a tree," with feet together, elbows against your chest and hands under your neck;

- * Avoid direct eye contact, which the dog interprets as a challenge. Instead, appear nonchalant;

- * Do not try to outdistance the dog on a bicycle. Stop, dismount and stand with the bicycle between you and the dog. Without something to chase, the dog may lose interest;

- * Do not try to pet a strange, free-roaming dog;

- * Do not be embarrassed to ask a dog owner to restrain the dog until it clearly recognizes you as a friend. Let the dog sniff you.

(Continued on page 2. See Fido.)



Let's share the path

Sharing the NCC trails and pathways has been a concept around for years. However, in the various conversations I've heard during the last month, maybe we all need a refresher.

I don't like the idea that children, seniors, skiers and cyclists aren't welcome on the trail through the woods. To me, this is a trail for all of us and we should be able to share it. This is what the NCC designated the trail as, and I totally agree with this designation.

As a dog owner and dog lover, I love using this trail for my dog, but not at the exclusion of others. I want my older neighbours to be able to continue their bird-watching, skiing, walking; and the children at St. George School to continue to snowshoe, bird-watch, and have nature study on it, and anyone else in the neighbourhood get a quick walk on a trail like the man I saw this morning walking his newborn in a snuggly.

Like Garfield, in his letter last month, I am afraid of aggressive dogs.

But I don't have an aggressive dog.

(Continued on page 2. See Share)

Community Association

Chair: Jonathan Chaplan (728-7670)

Vice-chair: Mark Cianfaglione (722-5674)

Treasurer: potter (728-4980)

Secretary: Lynne Bankier (729-0955)

Planning: Amy Kempster (722-6039)

Membership: Amy Kempster (722-6039)

Neighbourhood Watch: Michael Cheng (722-3344)

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

Rink co-ordinator: Greg Doswell (722-7705)

Adopt-a-Riverbank co-ordinator: Don Monet (728-1750)

TEENS AT WORK

Jessica (babysitting)	728-8413
Morgan (yard chores)	728-6530
Kym (babysitting)	729-5439
Paul (yard chores)	728-2583
Rory (yard chores)	798-0036
Karl (yard chores)	728-7589
Nick (computer help)	798-7652
Daniel (yard chores)	722-6134
Joey (babysitting)	728-5792
Katrina (babysitting)	725-5423
Elisabeth (babysitting)	722-0454

CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER

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FIDO: In most cases, it will leave as soon as it realizes that you aren't really a threat; and
* Report all aggressive loose dogs or incidents of actual bites.

Responsible dog owners in Champlain Park follow the guidelines of the Ottawa Humane Society (OHS), which suggests dogs be given appropriate daily exercise, be spayed or neutered, receive the appropriate veterinary care, including immunization, that the animal is under owner control when off its property, and that the animal has the appropriate identification.

Many experts also recommend that dogs receive adequate socialization, both with people and with other dogs, in order to remain healthy, happy, non-aggressive companion animals.

Aside from avoiding dog aggression, we should also recognize the services provided by dogs and their owners and handlers to the neighbourhood. High dog and people traffic in wooded areas helps to prevent crime and keeps these places safer for everyone.

Dog walkers are an attentive bunch and notice things that are out-of-place, like illegal dumping on city property and suspicious vehicles near school grounds. Insisting that dogs be muzzled and leashed at all times in the woods between Pontiac and the Parkway may discourage people from using this area for safe, supervised dog play, but it could have unintended consequences.

Sincerely,

Sarah

1 GARDEN CLUB

After 15 years of great success and joy growing David Austin roses, Carla Mazowita will share her tips and secrets. **Tuesday, May 10** at 7 p.m. in the fieldhouse. For info: Laurie, **728-1945.**



2 MOSQUE PARKING

The current information is this will be before the city's planning committee **May 10**. If you are opposed to commercial parking of probably over 200 cars on the parking lot that is in Tunney's Pasture, please plan to attend. The land was sold by the city to the mosque with the agreement that commercial parking would not be permitted.

SHARE: I have a dog that likes to run through the trail with other friendly dogs (she too stays away from the aggressive dogs). And I know I am taking a chance of getting a fine from the NCC (\$100) every time I untie her leash.

But I also love to see her run and I can't beat the convenience of not having to drive her to a designated off-leash trail or area of the city.

Having my kids throw sticks and balls for her and watch her play with other dogs is a real treat for all my family.

But I am sure dog owners know if their dog is aggressive or not. There is a saying that there are no bad dogs, just bad dog owners.

So I would change Garfield's request that all dog owners leash and muzzle our dogs to a reminder to people that have aggressive dogs to please

be careful with them on our general purpose trails, and keep your dog on a leash.

I find that the majority of aggressive dogs in the neighbourhood don't go on the trail. They are walked on their leash through the neighbourhood rather than being walked on a trail where other dogs will approach them.

With these woods being the buffer between our neighbourhood and the parkway, the NCC has absolutely no plans on selling the land to the city, nor designating this as an off-leash area.

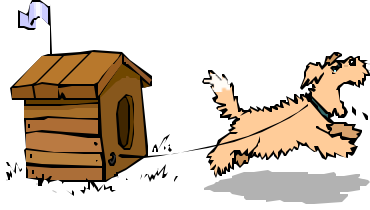
And quite frankly, I'm not sure as a dog owner here I would want that anyway. Can you imagine the dog and car traffic? No thanks.

So keep this trail as our secret, and keep it in the spirit it was intended. Let's share.

Sincerely,

Kim

DOGS IN THE HOOD



By Thomas and Meredith Lauzon



If you would like us to profile your dog, call or email Thomas and Meredith c/o their mother Kim (781-2519 or kim.haliburton@bell.ca.)

There's a good dog, Duke!

This fella lives on Premier, which makes him, of course, The Duke of Premier.

FAMILY: The Leducs.

AGE, BREED: Five years old. A King German Shepherd.

TRICKS: High five, rollover for a belly rub.

FAVOURITE ACTIVITIES: Walk,

sleep, eat and play.

FAVOURITE TOY: His baby bear.

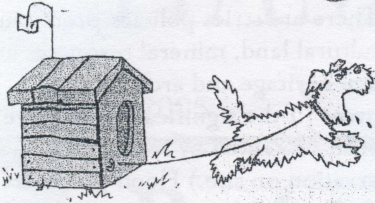
START IN LIFE: A breeder in Cumberland.

BUDS IN THE HOOD: Rolly Polly, the miniature poodle and Lobo, who he walks with.

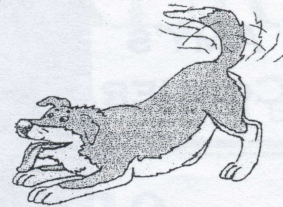
NEAT INFO: He will sit on the front steps and will not get off even when you call him, and he will bark at garbage bags.

DUKE, DEEP DOWN: Duke weighs 133 pounds and he thinks he is a little dog because his friends are all small. Duke looks like a big scary German Shepherd, but is similar to Chloe that we featured last month in personality. Very gentle and friendly and wouldn't hurt a flea.

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Amy's Corner



by Amy Kempster
722-6039

Traffic, 'vision' studies get OK along Richmond

Some time ago, I was present at city planning committee when the Routebourne development was being discussed.

It was on that portion of Richmond Road just south of the Unitarian Church complex, where a one-storey retailer exists. The issues were interesting: traffic, of course, and loss of sun for part of the Unitarian property, etc, etc. (What was proposed was a highrise of about 20 storeys.)

Our Councillor, who is not a member of the Committee, was not there. Some of the residents of the Unitarian seniors residence were opposed, but at least one member of the church was in favour. The project was approved with the provision that the developer provide the same amount as asked of 495 Richmond and the developer of the Ketchum property, so the proposed vision study for Richmond Road has the funding needed.

Meanwhile, the city budget included the money for a traffic study, which will include the area between Carling Avenue and Richmond Road (inclusive) and Kirkwood Avenue and Sherbourne Road. Of particular interest is Broadview Avenue because of all the schools involved. However, all streets will be included.

Ontario Planning Act

March 1 marked the date when changes to the Planning Act and the new Provincial Policy Statements came into effect. Planning actions started after that date must be consistent with the policy statements.

Appeals to the Ontario Municipal Board on the issue of adding to the urban boundary against the wishes of the municipality are no longer allowed. As well, the time-lines allowed for the municipality to deal with certain planning changes have been increased.

The Policy Statements place emphasis on efficient development and land-use patterns. Intensification and redevelopment should usually take place before expansion.

New settlement areas or expansion of a settlement area should only be identified after a comprehensive review and should avoid prime agricultural areas. Rural areas within municipalities permitted uses are to relate to management or use of resources, resource-based recreational activities, limited residential development and other rural land uses, and, if not related to locally designated agricultural and resource areas, directed to other areas so as not to constrain these uses.

Employment areas are not to be converted to non-employment uses except by a comprehensive review which has demonstrated that the land is not required for employment purposes over the long term. Note that policies allow the location of energy systems in all areas. But in rural areas and prime agricultural areas, they are to minimize the impact on agricultural operations. In the case of protecting ecologically important areas, the policies do not permit development and site alteration in:

- a) significant habitat of endangered species and threatened species;
- b) significant wetlands in eco-regions 5E, 6E and 7E (includes all areas within the city of Ottawa);
- c) significant woodlands south and east of the Canadian Shield (excludes Carp Ridge area);
- d) significant valley-lands south and east of the Canadian Shield;
- e) significant wildlife habitat;
- f) significant areas of natural and scientific interest;

g) fish habitat, except in accordance with provincial and federal requirements.

There are strict policies protecting agricultural land, mineral resources and cultural heritage and archaeology resources (if the significant ones have not been protected by removal or by preservation on site.) Flood plains are also dealt with.

Secondary dwellings

On April 12, the planning and environment committee approved an amendment to all affected former zoning bylaws to permit secondary dwelling units in all zones, and to create a standard set of definitions and regulations.

Regulations "will ensure that the use remains secondary in size and nature to the principal use dwelling, and that it will not have any negative impacts, be they visual or density-related, with its surrounding neighbours. More specifically, a maximum of one secondary dwelling unit would be permitted per principal dwelling unit in the case of a detached, and semi-detached dwelling; and a maximum of one would be permitted per the whole of a duplex building. No secondary dwelling unit would be permitted on a lot that is non-conforming with respect to lot width or lot area. To regulate the potential severability of the secondary dwelling unit, such secondary unit would have to be on the same lot as, and within the same building as, its principal dwelling unit. If located at or above grade, the second unit would not be permitted to be greater than an amount equal to forty per cent of the gross floor area of the principal dwelling unit; if located in a basement, it would be allowed to occupy the whole of the basement."

An attached garage could be converted to create the secondary unit, provided the required parking for the principal dwelling unit could still be met on-site, and its gross floor area would be counted as part of the total gross floor area of the dwelling. No new accesses would be permitted in an exterior wall facing the front yard, so as to maintain the streetscape character. No parking would be required, but where provided, would be permitted in a driveway leading to a parking space.

The matter goes to council on April 27.