

CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER

October, 2005

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SPOOKY HALLOWEEN PARTY OCT. 29

ZANY ACT

RIISING FROM DEAD!

The annual Halloween Party will be held on Saturday, Oct. 29 at the field-house, complete with all the scary stuff we've come to dread.

A spooky room is being dreamed up as we speak. There will be prizes for the best costume and the best-carved pumpkin. Sharpen your blades accordingly. Those turning up without costumes shall be the subject of evil spells. The event will take place from **6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.**

Circus Delight, a two-person magic and comedy act, is to take the stage at about 7 p.m.

Those wanting to volunteer at the event are asked to contact Don Monet at 728-1750.

Admission is \$2.

Of course, everyone is invited.



Wellington Street, mosque parking draw attention at AGM

Here is a summary of the annual general meeting held on Oct. 6.

Executive: Current members were acclaimed with two exceptions. Debra Huron took over Membership from Amy Kempster. Don Monet, the unofficial social convenor for a good spell, has now officially taken on the title.

Guest Speaker: We had two speakers from Creative Neighbourhoods, a non-profit organization undertaking the project *Wellington Street Works*. The project was undertaken because a large section of Wellington is going to be reconstructed and the group wants to ensure neighbourhoods have input regarding the esthetic quality of the street.

Mosque Parking: Councillor Shawn Little participated in this part of the meeting. He joined our association in re-affirming support for the original "deal" that resulted in purchase of the parking lot by the Ottawa Muslim Association (OMA) from Public Works, with attached conditions of no commercial parking and no building for 20 years. The OMA has been continuing and expanding commercial parking on the site despite conditions against this on their purchase and sale agreement, and also contrary to the zoning bylaw. The city legal department plans to enforce these conditions. A request to cease enforcement by the OMA was

defeated at Planning Committee on Oct. 11, with the help of several members of our association's mosque sub-committee who presented at the meeting. If you wish to join the email discussion group on this topic, call **Lynne at 729-0955**.

The OMA may make further applications for commercial parking and has filed an OMB appeal to the zoning bylaw. For those of you concerned about the destruction of the trees, they have not yet filed a site plan application which would address landscaping issues, despite the city's requirement to do so.

Financial: Close to break even on operations. We ended the year with a total of about \$11,500 in our accounts.

Amy's Corner

In terms of property assessment, our ward had the highest percentage increases of any in the city.

This is no doubt the consequence of Westboro becoming more trendy. My own assessment went up about the same percentage as the ward's average. Since these increases of about 18.5 per cent are above the average for Ottawa, it is almost certain our taxes will go up by more than the tax rate increase.

Can one do anything about this? One avenue open to all, at no cost, is to ask for a review of the value. If the dimensions of your lot given in the notice are larger than your lot size, you should definitely ask for a review. If you have other reasons to suspect the value given is too high, ask for a review. You can call 1-866-295-6722 or write a letter to the Municipal Property Assessment Corp., including your roll number and the reasons why you feel your assessment is incorrect, or download the Request for Reconsideration form.

Unfortunately, the ability to check on comparable properties online will not be available until January. You can, however, send a written request for this information. If you wish to file a notice of complaint with the Assessment Review Board (there are costs), you must do so by March 31, 2006.

The system used to assess properties is Current Value Assessment. Many criticisms have been made of this system. It is not directly related to ability to pay and can create severe problems for those on fixed incomes.

Your MPP is the person to approach about fixing the system. At the moment, according to the *Citizen*, only the Green Party has a suggested alternative: to base the tax strictly on land value. Others have suggested using a combination of house size and lot size. Others have suggested separate taxes on land and buildings.

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HUSH-HUSH

1 INFANT MASSAGE

Certified Infant Massage Instructor invites you and your baby to experience the benefits of Infant Massage. Are you interested in learning nurturing touch techniques that will help you and your baby relax, contribute to your baby's development, help your baby sleep better and ease digestive pain? If so, you are invited to participate in a four-week Infant Massage Course which will take place at the fieldhouse, Nov. 7 to 28, each Monday, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The course fee is \$60. Massage oil and instructional handouts will be provided. This course is recommended for parents and caregivers with babies from birth to pre-crawling. For more information, contact **Joanne Boyd** at **722-2820** or **jboyd@cyberus.ca**.



2 GARDEN CLUB

The club holds its monthly meeting on **Tuesday, Nov. 8**. The guest speaker is Mary Ann Jackson-Hughes, a botany and soils teacher who will guide us through xeriscaping, or how to create a drought resistant garden. All meetings begin at 7 p.m. Become a member or pay a drop-in rate. For more information, **Laurie Fagan, 728-1945**.

3 ART, CRAFT SALE

An art and craft show and sale will be held on **Saturday, Nov. 19**, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The location is **188 Patricia Ave**. The event will feature art dolls and wall hangings by Nancy Leigh-Smith, stained and fused glass by Val Potter and one-of-a-kind sewing for the family, the home and the holidays, by Kathleen Cooper.

They also serve who knock and sign

The Champlain Park Community Association has just concluded a successful membership drive.

Special thanks to Debra Huron, of Daniel Avenue, who served as the coordinator. Debra went about the task with great enthusiasm and was able to assemble an eager team of volunteers...

The following canvassers deserve thanks for their efforts, which took place in September and October:

Northwestern Avenue: Kay Young, Cathy O'Neil Cole.

Carleton Avenue: Elisabeth Mundell, Judy Toombs.



Cowley Avenue:

Jonathan Chaplan, Craig Wells, Danielle Weir, Carol Holland.

Keyworth Avenue:

Steve Cuumba.

Daniel Avenue:

Kelly Egan, Alison McBratney, Ella Mar.

Patricia Avenue:

Scott Sigurdson.

Clearview Avenue: Amy Kempster, Marj Boggs.

Island Park Drive: Anne Carlyle.

Thanks to everyone who was good enough to join the association. The annual fees are an important source of revenue to support programs at the fieldhouse, pay the cost of social events and keep the offices of the *Speaker* in the style to which they're accustomed.