

CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER

April, 2006

Vol. 25, No. 6

Spring cleanup on April 29

'Actually, we are the Environment Department'

A fine mess we're in. 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 29th**, beginning at **9 a.m.** and ending about noon, rain or shine.

Coffee and doughnuts will be provided. Even an hour's effort would be well appreciated.

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.

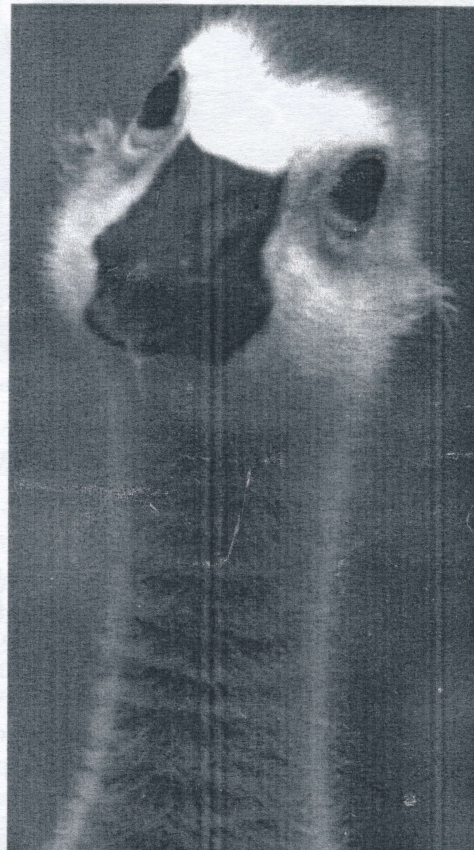
Crews will be spread throughout the park itself and along the shoreline bordering Champlain Park.

Amy Kempster is scheduled to be on hand to register volunteers. Please check in with her first.

The project is part of a city-wide effort to clean up parks all over Ottawa between April 14 and May 14.

In 2005, there were 700 registered projects involving more than 50,000 volunteers.

The city also has a graffiti removal team that can respond to trouble spots. This is the 13th year for the city-wide campaign to tidy the capital.



Photos
by
Barb
Robertson



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: Debra Huron (722-8048)

Neighbourhood Watch: Michael Cheng (722-3344), Patrick Mates, (722-4120) Neil Robertson (729-5439)

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

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

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

Social convenor: 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

Joey (**babysitting**) 728-5792

Katrina (**babysitting**) 725-5423

Geneviève (**babysitting**) 722-0454

CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER

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Benjamin Holland, Marlene Kells,

Thomas and Meredith Lauzon.

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HUSH-HUSH

1 GARDEN CLUB

The club holds its monthly meeting on **Tuesday, May 9**, starting at 7 p.m.

Horticultural therapist Barbara Brown will tell us all about this emerging field of treatment.



Become a member or pay a drop-in rate. For more information, **Laurie Fagan, 728-1945.**

2 BOUTIQUE FAIR

Northwestern United Church is holding a Boutique Fair on **Saturday April 29th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

There will be offerings from Epicurean Selections, Discovery Toys, Avon, PartyLite, Tupperware, Weekenders and much more. Many items normally only available at home parties.

Contact: **Marion Reid 722-0274** for more information.

You've got Rhythm, Kid!

Share the experience of music and rhythm with your baby!

Designed for children from newborns to 18 months, Rhythm Kids offers parents and children a community environment in which to experience the richness of music and movement with other families. During this eight-session program, we will be using songs, rhymes, finger plays, dance and instruments as tools to create a rich sensory experience that supports your growing child's development and provides a unique way for you and your child to connect. Spring Session now in progress.

Contact **Jennifer at 715-9731** or email jenneate@yahoo.ca

A million reasons to go green

As part of the Green Partnership Pilot Program, the City of Ottawa is providing \$1 million to fund innovative projects that further clean and green our city.

Enhance your community's gateway, plant floral displays on common grounds, restore a natural habitat or create sustainable green spaces and gardens. These one-time project ideas and more may receive funding under the Green Partnership Pilot Program.

If eligible for funding, the city will match your financial or in-kind contribution dollar for dollar.

Projects set on any common ground within the city of Ottawa are also eligible for funding. Priority will be given, however, to those projects that beautify and showcase grounds belonging to the City of Ottawa.

If your project goes a long way to improve city-owned lands and includes beautification, sustainability, co-operation with other community groups and public education programs, your idea might qualify as a hallmark project and be eligible for an increased level of funding.

The city website has full details.

Art in the Garden returns

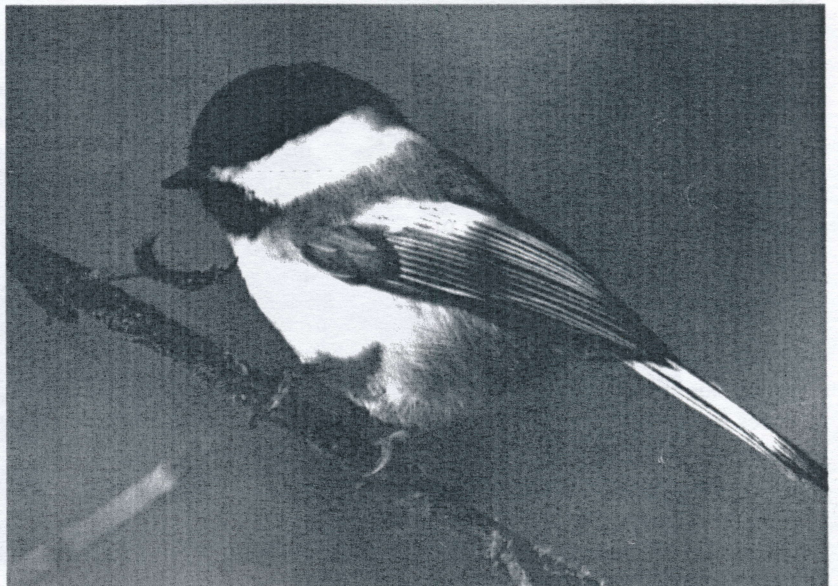
Elmdale School's third annual Art in the Garden and Plant Fair will take place on June 4 in Champlain Park. Nurseries will be selling a wide range of plant material and artists will be offering unusual garden art.

Organizers are looking for additional exhibitors who sell annuals, vegetables, perennials or seeds. There is a rental fee for a booth. Artists who make garden or flower related art can also exhibit. Proceeds go towards improving the school yard at Elmdale. **For info, call 728-1945.**

Birding with Barb



A selection of photographs by **Barb Robertson**, one of Champlain Park's most avid shutter bugs. A young spotted sandpiper is backlit by sunlight (*above*), while a Cooper's hawk (*left*) and chickadee (*below*) perch on branches. The photos were taken in and around the Champlain Woods. Many thanks to Barb for her offerings this month.



Amy's Corner



by Amy Kempster
722-6039

Driving change at Mosque parking lot

Here is a quote from the notice document in front of the Central Mosque on Northwestern Avenue.

"The applicant has been using lands, which it rented from the federal government and more recently has acquired from the City of Ottawa, to provide accessory parking for employees of Tunney's Pasture. The applicant has agreed to abandon the rental of these parking spaces and instead now wishes to rent parking spaces on the original mosque lands. The latest site plan approval by the City of Ottawa indicates that there are 35 parking spaces on the original mosque lands. These parking spaces are the subject of this application."

Concerns include problems that might be encountered with compliance and enforcement. There is also the question of whether provision of commercial parking spaces is appropriate in a residential community and the Official Plan emphasis on encouraging walking, bicycling and transit use.

Note, however, that Northwestern United Church obtained permission for a similar number of commercial parking spaces some time ago. It is now too late to submit comments to the planner but, if you are interested, the item will probably come up in early May at a Planning and Environment Committee meeting (which

are held every second Tuesday). Check the Friday papers for the Notice of Agenda items for that committee.

Designs on Community

The community west of us has been going through the Community Design Process for the area from Byron Avenue to the river and from the transitway corridor to Island Park Drive.

My understanding is that the consultant may be suggesting housing on the NCC lands near Atlantis and Selby Avenues and on Rochester field. It seems likely that idea will not be popular with residents of the area. There is also discussion about the future of the CBC lands and those of the old Champlain school.

While there is an ongoing current process regarding a Community Design Plan for our neighbours, I attended a meeting on a recent Saturday to outline a tentative schedule for a Community Design Plan for Wellington Street.

The boundaries are not fixed but I gather there is not sufficient money to include much of the surrounding area, so it may be confined to one or two lots south and north of Wellington. It could include other commercial areas such as in the area north of Wellington between Parkdale and Holland. It is unclear at the moment.

The timing suggests that terms of reference for the study may be discussed in early to mid-April, and finalized in May. Background analysis will take place in June and July and public consultation in early September. Note that at the same time, plans for the design portion of the reconstruction of Wellington Street itself will also begin and it is hoped to integrate the portions related to street design (width of sidewalks, possible plantings, etc.) with the Community Design process. It is probable that an advisory committee for the Community Design process will be formed at some point and we will need a representative from this area. If you are interested, please contact our president, Jonathan Chaplan.

Wellington Street Works

The Creative Neighbourhoods Group that hosted the meeting I attended on the future Community Design Plan is also involved in trying to put the Wellington Mainstreet District on the map. They intend to work with the surrounding

neighbourhoods (Champlain Park, Civic Hospital, Laroche Park, Hintonburg and West Wellington) and the commercial interests in the area. A launch event is planned for **April 27** at Cube Gallery.

411 on the OMB

On Feb. 6, I attended the pre-hearing of the Ontario Municipal Board regarding various appeals of the Ottawa Official Plan. Some of these were the retail appeals which concern where retail stores may locate in the city. This was also the pre-hearing for appeals of environmental policies.

The city lawyer indicated the city's motion on the Official Plan change to address acquisition of environmental and other lands had not been opposed. However, he noted the section relating to acquisition of lands owned by public bodies, such as the National Capital Commission (NCC), not be included and that the pre-hearing regarding the NCC's appeals of the relevant policy as it related to specific sites (Rochester Field, Southern Corridor) not take place until November. The parties to the retail appeals were asked to meet separately to clarify their issues. Those appealing the environmental policies were also asked to come up with their list of issues.

Among the list of issues from the retail appeals is whether large-format retail should be a permitted use on a site that fronts on a collector road. If the appeal succeeds, one might possibly see "big-box" stores along collectors such as Lanark or Byron Avenues.

Another issue is whether the removal of 'flexible wording' such as "generally" and "whenever possible" from policies in proposed section 4.11 (dealing with Compatibility) was appropriate.

The city will defend against these appeals and the Federation of Citizens' Associations (FCA) will be at the hearings as a party able to cross-examine. Our community association is a member of the FCA and if anyone is concerned about these hearings, the FCA would appreciate your help. The hearings begin May 29 for 24 days, so any assistance would be welcome. Meantime, the province is considering Bill 51 which would change the way the OMB operates. More details are available from the Ontario government website.