

CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER



<https://champlainpark.org/>



Holiday Sleigh Ride on Dec. 20

Ho, ho, ho! Hop on board hay wagon in search of Jolly Elf

With fingers crossed for good weather, we've planned the annual Sleigh Ride for **Friday, Dec. 20.**

The horse-drawn wagon will depart from the fieldhouse and take a winding way through Champlain Park. For the exact route, check our website or consult one of the many posters affixed on poles across the neighbourhood.

We're asking that the **6:30 p.m.**

departure be set aside for tiny tots (four

years and under) and their parents, with a **7 p.m.**

departure for the regular ride-along, walk-along.

(Parents or guardians must accompany children.)

There will be sing-alongs and hot chocolate and possibly a surprise visit from Old St. Nick himself. Feel free to



bring along a set of bells or other musical instruments that suit group carolling.

Please be mindful the event is weather-dependent, as freezing rain (in particular) has led to the cancellation in previous years. If the weather looks iffy, be sure to check our website or Twitter/X account (@Champlainpark) for last-minute updates. Volunteers

are always welcome: contact **Dennis** at

denvan@gmail.com if you can help with tasks like setup, serving and cleanup. Donated baked goods also welcome!



Job matching service: **Clip and Save me....**



We've put together a list of neighbourhood folks — many of them young people — who are offering gig work like babysitting, snow shovelling, even auto detailing. Some want to be contacted directly, others prefer to use our go-between email. Below is a partial list: consult our website for registration details. The site also has a list of employers looking for help. Many thanks to our web wizard, Alex, for putting the service together and for acting as the volunteer co-ordinator between job-needs and job-seekers.

Car detailing/tire changes	Ron , at detailed+tires@norton.me	Seasonal tire changes, full car detailing
Snow shovelling, lawn mowing, yard work	Blake ,	Hard worker, can come by mornings to do general work
Babysitting, dog sitting, dog walking	Avery ,	Responsible, experienced babysitter with Red Cross certification
Raking, yard work, snow shovelling, babysitting at the park, car washing	Will , MatchMakerCPCA@gmail.com	Great with younger kids with sports, activities. Red Cross b/sit certification
Babysitting, snow shovelling, gardening, raking	ER , MatchMakerCPCA@gmail.com	Completed babysitting course
Small household moves (couches, beds, etc...) Snow removal	Lou , 343-553-9350 plus text	Have truck, snowblower
Babysitting, dog walking	Mia , 613-853-9419 plus text	Red Cross certified for babysitting, loves dogs and kids

AGM gives us two new committees:

New team looking at ways to improve our park

Champlain Park is the green heart of our community, where we play, meet, have fun and enjoy the outdoors. We want to protect it and, where possible, make it even more attractive to a wider range of community members.

That's why this fall, the community association board formed a committee to specifically focus on ways to improve the park and to address any issues that may arise. The park committee is led by **Joanne Chianello** and includes board members Richard Lochead, Laurie Fagan, Nick Xenos and Shelagh Jane Woods.

If you're interested in participating in the parks committee, or have ideas or concerns about the park, please contact Joanne through the community association website or at jchianello@rogers.com.

In the meantime, the committee would like to thank everyone who filled out the recent survey. Almost 100 people weighed in with their thoughts on what minor projects could make Champlain Park even better.

We'll be reporting detailed results of the survey early in the New Year. **Spoiler alert:** new benches and picnic tables are in hot demand!

— *Joanne Chianello, committee chair*

Traffic issues in CP? This group on the case



The Champlain Park Traffic Safety Committee is now up and running. The volunteer committee was sparked by the overwhelming cut-through traffic during the NCC bike days during the fall months. Its mandate, however, is broader than one issue. Our goal? "A community where family, friends and visitors can safely enjoy our wonderful neighbourhood and all it has to offer." To achieve this, the committee will work with all levels of government, local community associations, our local education and religious institutions and, of course, our own residents — together to come up with ideas to mitigate our traffic issues. These issues include, but are not limited to, the cut-through traffic, speeding and running stops signs. The committee will be hosting traffic safety events for young and old alike. We have some volunteers but we could always use more. Please reach out to **Bill Baggs** at director4crica@gmail.com to help out. And check out our page on the community website for more information, including how to report issues to the Ottawa Police.

— *Bill Baggs, committee chair*

Winter Carnival Jan. 25



Mark it on your calendars! The annual winter get-together is the afternoon of **Saturday, Jan. 25**.

More details to come in the January Speaker but expect the chilli contest, sleigh rides, live music and much more.



We're serving up a ping-pong night!

To all ping-pong players! We are looking to start a ping-pong club that will meet a few times a month at the field house. (Community association membership required.) We are still exploring days and times. If interested, please email chparkevents@yahoo.com.

Daybreak Housing fundraiser — Can you help with a gift card this Xmas?

I sit on the board of [Daybreak Housing](#), which provides homes to 48 people in five different locations across the city. One of the homes is just outside Champlain Park. The residents have sometimes experienced homelessness, fled domestic violence, and may have recently been incarcerated. Many have addiction and mental health issues.

Buoyed by your previous generosity, I am again asking if folks could donate \$25 gift cards from Shoppers Drug Mart or Rexall. This gesture was so appreciated by Daybreak residents two years ago.

This year we also opened two homes for female refugees (mostly from West Africa), bringing the goal for gift cards to 68 — a big number but Champlain Park, of course, has a big heart! If you can help, send me a DM on Facebook or email lauriefagan59@gmail.com for card drop-off instructions. The deadline is **Wednesday, Dec. 18**. Thanks in advance for your generous donation and happy holidays. — — — *Laurie Fagan*