



THE HERON PARK HERALD



<http://heronpark.ca/herald>

AUTUMN 2010

A HERON PARK “HEADS UP” ON OUR CANDIDATES IN THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Municipal elections are but one month away. On Monday, October 25, you will have the chance to elect a Mayor, a City Councillor and a School Board Trustee. Services including water, transit, police, fire, parks, garbage pickup, recreation, libraries are all supplied by the City of Ottawa. And their scope, cost and delivery are guided by the people elected on voting day. So, Heron Park taxpayers and residents, if you want a say on the money being spent and the decisions being made in our fair city, you need to get out and vote!

Fortunately, the HPCA President and Herald “roving reporter”, James McLaren, has helped simplify the task of determining who you may be interested in supporting in the role of a new councillor for Capital Ward. (As you are no doubt aware, our current Councillor, Clive Doucet, is running for Mayor in this election.)

Check out the Q & A article on page 4, wherein our local candidates express their views on a number of items pertinent to Heron Park and all of Ottawa.

Happy voting!

WALK FOR LOCAL FUNDING DRIVE FOR EMERGENCY FOOD CENTRE

Our local M.P., David McGuinty, would like to bring to your attention a fundraising event for a great cause taking place right in our own backyard.

On September 25th, the Heron Road Emergency Food Centre will be hosting the “Step Up and Step Out to Stop the Hunger” walk. Registration will take place at 9 a.m. at St. Timothy’s Presbyterian Church, 2400 Alta Vista Drive, with the walk starting at 9:30 a.m.

The walk will end at the church where a BBQ lunch will be provided to participants.

Registration is free although participants are encouraged to get pledges within the community and/or donate to help the Food Centre cope with rising food costs and an increase in the number of South East Ottawa residents needing assistance. Tax receipts will be issued for donations. Early registration forms for pledges can be picked up at the Heron Emergency Food Centre (at 1480 Heron Road, 2nd floor, tel. 737-9090) or at Mr. McGuinty’s constituency office(at 2141 Thurston Drive, Unit 205).

Mr. McGuinty encourages Heron Parkers to don their walking shoes on September 25th and help him support this fun and worthwhile event.

NEW PLAYSTRUCTURE FOR HERON PARK



Why are these neighbourhood kids so happy?

See page 6 for details on Heron Park’s revitalized playground and new playstructures.

“Bruce Who? Timmer What?”

For the answers to these questions and more, check out page 8.



Hooray! Data Center Road now has a sidewalk.



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As you may already be aware, on October 25 we will have a new councillor since Clive Doucet is running for Mayor. I wish him all the best in this endeavour and I think we would be extremely well served if he became Mayor, but at the same time it will be very sad to lose him as councillor. Clive has worked hard for us over the years and without his support we would not be where we are today.

City staff and many other councillors have been rather unsupportive of small urban communities over the years, and Clive has constantly had to struggle against this resistance on our behalf. City staff priorities have been to build mega-structure recreational facilities, mostly in the suburbs where development charges go to pay for much of the infrastructure. Even getting windows in our community centre was a hard-fought battle. Obtaining funding for improvements to the playstructure in the park was another big victory that Clive worked for vigorously.

City-wide, Clive has fought for many years against urban sprawl and in support of "smart growth" that makes the city run more efficiently and more economically. Sadly, Clive and the city as a whole have lost many battles on this front over the years, most notably the disastrous decision to cancel the north-south light rail plan, a mistake that we are paying for today with the huge increase in car traffic through our area from Riverside South as well as with the \$37 million cost of the Siemens law suit settlement.

On a personal note, let me say that Clive has been very supportive of my own work for the community and has been a good friend over the years. I wish Clive every success in his campaign – we would be very lucky if he became our Mayor on October 25th!

As of this writing we have five candidates for councillor, and in this issue of the Herald you will find information about them that we hope you will find à will be useful in making your decision. Whomever you vote for, please be sure to vote on October 25th. Municipal politics is à are? very important to all of us, and the city council makes decisions that greatly affect our lives. Unfortunately, a lot of those decisions have been made pretty badly in the last few years, and it is up to us, the voting public, to examine the issues and the candidates and make sure we are electing the best councillors that we can.

There will be an all-candidates meeting on October 7 at Glebe Collegiate Institute Auditorium. The exact details of how this will unfold are still to be decided. It will definitely involve the councillor candidates, but it remains to be seen whether Mayoral candidates will be invited as well; it is difficult to plan these events when there are so many candidates (fifteen!).

Great news! Two developments in the community that we have been working on for a long time have come to fruition. Firstly, we have a sidewalk on Data Centre Road! No more risking your life going to Billings Bridge! The second is the new play structure equipment in Heron Park. All our fundraising efforts, combined with money that Clive was able to get for us from a city cash-in-lieu of parking fund, means our park has much more equipment than we originally thought we could afford. There is even fitness equipment for teens and adults as well as play structures for elementary-school age children and younger kids too. It is a wonderful improvement to our community.

Thanks to Maritala Robinson and Léo Derome for their tremendous work in leading the fundraising and planning effort! They have also led the effort to spruce up the equipment that won't be replaced, such as repainting the swings, along with a lot of other volunteers. Kudos, everyone!

James McLaren, HPCA President

PARTY NIGHT AT HERON PARK WADING POOL!

On Wednesday, July 27th the wading pool staff threw a party for us with a theme: A Night on the Town. People were encouraged to dress up in spiffy duds - or just come and enjoy the fun. There were prizes for the best costume, plenty of food, crafts and games galore to entertain the young ones. A good time was had by all. THANK YOU to all the summer students who worked hard to make this such a fun day for us from everyone in the community.

Heron Park Community Association

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Vice-president:	Vacant
Treasurer:	Colin MacLean
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Opinions and information published in the Herald in letters, individual columns and articles do not necessarily reflect the opinion of this newspaper, its staff or the Heron Park Community Association president, its directors, or its members. Submissions are edited for space, inappropriate content and language concerns.

Letters to the editor are always welcomed.

We welcome suggestions on what we can do better or things you'd like to see. Send your comments and/or questions to:

theherald@heronpark.ca

or call the Community Centre at 613-247-8278 and leave a message. We look forward to your insight.

Thank You to all those who deliver the Heron Park Herald

Angie Bueneman, Angie, Kate and Anne Kelm, Benita Kosabek, Bill Weatherup, Cynthia Modjeski, Diane Ferrier, Derek Maidment, Sarah and Brian Edgar, Gloria Williams, Harold Comeau, Isabel Gillissie, Jacob, James McLaren, Jane Supino, Joan Lesiak, Johanne Bérubé, Judy Mordy, Julia Driedger, Kelly Thomas, Laura Elkin, Lyn McDonald, Leo Wolferberger, Lynn McKenzie, Michel Sader, Milada Svoboda, Miriam Koene, Mrs. Larmonica, Mrs. Paquette, Noreen Gibbons, Rosella Mac Neil, Ruth McDonald, Suzanne Hiscock.

We need a few more volunteers to deliver the Herald on the south side of Heron. It's just four times a year and you're only asked to deliver on one street, so it won't take much of your time. Please contact either Judy Mordy (737-4196) or Ruth McDonald (737-3791, rmcdonald65@hotmail.com) to volunteer.

DATES TO REMEMBER

HPCA Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, November 9, 2010

HPCA Monthly Meetings
Tuesday, October 12 7 p.m.
Tuesday, December 14 7 p.m.

Deadline for Herald Winter Issue
November 26, 2010

CLASSIFIEDS

The Women's Applewood Acres Bowling League is looking for new members for the September to April season, at the RA Centre, on Tuesdays from 1:00 to 3:00. Call Mary Flowers at 613-733-9301.



COMMUNITY NEWS

LESSONS LEARNED, LESSONS SHARED

by Donna Silver

Several months ago, I had the opportunity to meet with the good folks at Crime Prevention Ottawa, a City of Ottawa program that works to make communities safer, more viable places offering a good quality of life regardless of the issues they may face. Every community is different, every community has something that make the people living in it find something of value.

They showed us a draft version of a new tool kit they have been working on for some time, and before launching it on their web site, they needed feedback. What unfolded was one of the more interesting experiences I've had. The material they have collected for their web site is an impressive amount of information designed to help communities understand how to analyze their strengths and weaknesses, and more importantly, how to make the good things better and the bad things less of a threat. I kept thinking of Heron Park's experiences as they walked me through the tool kit, and it became clear to me that this is a community that has made great strides in the past decade. In spite of many obstacles that face the community, be it a lack of recreation space that other communities have, or the lack of money or volunteers do as much as some would like, there is a spirit that always rises to the challenge. Allow me to elaborate.

Crime Prevention Ottawa was originally formed to find ways of making communities safe. They worked with many different groups to identify what makes communities safe, why one neighbourhood is safer than others even though they appear identical.

One of the groups they worked with was Women's Initiatives for Safe Environments (WISE). WISE conducts safety audits in the form of evening walking tours around a neighbourhood; the residents provide the anecdotal experiences. An audit was done in Heron Park quite some time ago, and focused on the Heron Transitway Station and Timmermans Park. The result was the installation of lighting along the park's pathway and the now the Data Centre sidewalk.

Another organization they worked with is Leadership Ottawa, a training program for the leaders of tomorrow. These are not the

usual leaders working within non-governmental agencies, businesses or government, although they may well come from those backgrounds. These are individuals who wish to break down the barriers keeping the three sectors from working together effectively.

A few years ago, a group of students from Leadership Ottawa met with Heron Park residents and led them through a visioning exercise. I was impressed with the large turnout and really impressed with the ideas they suggested. One idea, to hold a snowman building contest, melted away because it was one of those years when there just wasn't enough snow to build snowmen. But at the core of it, the idea was to do something fun and inclusive, to build friendships by getting neighbours to work and play together. It doesn't always have to be clearing the snow from the outdoor rinks – although that is also important. There were more ideas, lots of them. What impressed me most was that Heron Parkers knew what they wanted, and knew what would make the community work better. The sessions taught the fine art of prioritizing goals. The success of the play structure fundraising team is a result of doing just that.

Working with these groups and many others, Crime Prevention Ottawa looked at how to 'fix' communities unable to make the leap themselves. They realized that the best communities were those that were able to work together to achieve their goals. How did they do it? What worked best? How could the information they gathered be best used? It kept coming back to the same two points: the immense amount of resources needed, and the lack of those resources. The Community Development Roundtable was formed, and was tasked with finding a solution that could be readily available, accessible and inclusive; connecting communities with a problem to a resource that would provide direction. The tool kit was born from this group.

In Heron Park, many of those challenges are being met. The two most important challenges are communication and a common meeting place. Here, communication works through three channels: the Heron Park Herald (a great little paper, just needs more articles from the community); the web site which posts events, public service

Continued on Page 8...



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Le 24 septembre 2010, les élèves de la 5e et de la 6e année de l'école Lamoureux, auront l'occasion de se joindre à 3 600 élèves francophones des trois conseils scolaires francophones de l'Est, à l'ACFO d'Ottawa et à l'équipe de l'Écho d'un peuple pour créer un incroyable spectacle intitulé « L'esprit du lys et du trille » qui présente et célèbre nos 400 ans de présence francophone en Ontario au parc Lansdowne d'Ottawa.

Afin de faire rayonner ce grand événement unique en son genre, il y aura également une représentation en soirée, à laquelle tous les membres de la communauté seront conviés.

On October 25,
vote Isabel Metcalfe
for Councillor - Capital Ward

isabel Metcalfe
www.voteisabelmetcalfe.ca

**Experience
Leadership
Commitment**





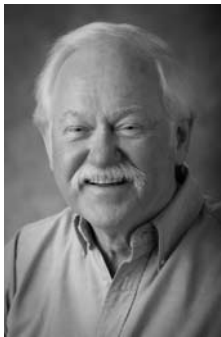
ELECTION COVERAGE

CANDIDATE ROUNDUP

by James McLaren

The coming election is especially important for us since, as noted elsewhere, we will be getting a new councillor on Oct 25. In order to help you make your decision, we have asked each candidate a number of questions. The names of the nominated candidates were obtained from the city of Ottawa website and each was contacted by email and given two weeks to reply. One candidate, Mano Hadovand, did not respond and so is not included here.

Please provide us with some brief biographical information about yourself.



Bob Brocklebank: I am a 65 year old candidate for Councillor in Capital Ward. I am a retired foreign service officer who was a Trade Commissioner in various Canadian diplomatic missions abroad. My job was promoting and protecting Canadian economic interests

abroad and seeking investment in Canada. My longest assignments were in Japan, Brazil and New Zealand. I have had a series of houses in the Glebe since 1975.

David Chernushenko: I am 47 years old and a resident of Old Ottawa South since 1993. I am an international sustainability consultant, green economy educator, filmmaker and professional speaker and workshop leader. I am a father of three, a cyclist and a cycling advocate. Recently I was



vice chair of the National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy and founder of Clean Air Champions, promoting non-polluting, physically active lifestyles in schools and to the public.



Ron Le Blanc: I am 38, my current occupation is Senior Purchasing Assistant for the federal government and elected to Regional Vice President for Government Services Union for the National Capital Area.



Isabel Metcalfe: I am 57 and began my career on Parliament Hill working as a Tour Guide. Over the years I worked on staff for Pierre Trudeau, Jean Chrétien and John Turner. For ten years I did partnership development work for Canada 125, the Spicer Commission and the International Year of the

Family working with the voluntary sector on public engagement. For the last decade I have been working in the government relations field for the film and television industry, Aboriginal clients and the solar industry. My business serves the not-for-profit community.

What do you consider to be the most important issue facing city council today?

Isabel Metcalfe: Creating a more cohesive and collegial approach to managing the City of Ottawa and equitably representing every community.

Bob Brocklebank: Instead of pitting urban, suburban and rural communities against each other, we need to collaborate while recognizing our different needs and points of view. Central to such collaboration is a degree of devolution of deliberation on some civic issues to a more local level. Such devolution would permit a higher degree of engagement by citizens and a greater sense that the city's actions are responsive to residents. This does not require the establishment of a borough system or a return to the multiple municipalities that existed prior to amalgamation; it simply means using the current city device of Standing Committees more imaginatively.

David Chernushenko: Good governance. City council has proven itself incapable of making decisions in a timely and thoughtful manner with the broader good of Ottawa residents as the primary objective. Instead, council has broken down into factions, has focused on differences rather than shared objectives, and has failed to work towards a more united vision of where Ottawa could and should be going.

Ron Le Blanc: The most important issue facing city council today I believe to be transit, more so the lack of it. For my ward alone, it would be the development of Lansdowne Park.

What experience do you have with municipal government?

Ron Le Blanc: I have never worked at the municipal level so I would have no municipal experience

Isabel Metcalfe: I have worked for several successful municipal campaigns over the years and like the immediacy of local politics.

Bob Brocklebank: I have appeared numerous times before Council committees representing the Glebe Community Association, the Federation of Citizens' Associations or as an individual. I was a member of the consultative committees for the Comprehensive Zoning By-law and revision of Development Charges provisions. I am a member of the Stakeholders Group for the Graffiti Management Strategy and of the Business Advisory Committee. On one occasion I appeared at the Planning and Environment Committee on behalf of the Heron Park Community Association.

David Chernushenko: Broadly, I consult across Canada and around the world on sustainable city design and development, with a particular expertise in green building, transportation, energy, sport, recreation and community consultation. Locally, I have participated in numerous visioning exercises, presented to committees, and have been sought after for my input on a range of transportation, building, environment and recreation issues.

Are you an active member of your community association, or have you been recently?

David Chernushenko: I have not served on my community association (OSCA), but have frequently contributed to their work, as an event volunteer and a leader of several initiatives in support of both the community and OSCA itself. I actively participated in several aspects of the Old Firehall redevelopment. I frequently contribute to the newspaper, the OSCAR. I worked to save the Mayfair Theatre and to keep open the Sunnyside Branch of the public library.

Ron Le Blanc: I am not an active member of any community association; however I am a Regional VP for my union and volunteer an awful lot of time to assisting people.

Isabel Metcalfe: I am a member of the Glebe Community Association and, many years ago, was a member of the Old Ottawa South Community Association when we lived in that community.

Bob Brocklebank: I have been active in the Glebe Community Association for the past decade. I renewed the Glebe's connection with the FCA (the city-wide umbrella group of community associations) and was President of the FCA from 2003 to 2006. I was President of the Glebe Community Association from 2006 to 2009 and continue to be a member of the board.

Do you support the current transit plan to build a tunnel through the downtown core?

Isabel Metcalfe: I support the current transit plan but am uneasy about the cost of the tunnel through the downtown core. If elected, I will be looking carefully at the plan and ensuring that it is cost effective.

Ron Le Blanc: I do not support the current plan of building a tunnel period!

David Chernushenko: I am a passionate advocate of public transit that is accessible and affordable to all residents. For that reason, I do not believe that the tunnel is the best investment, nor that the current plan offers the most sensible and effective route. As this train may have already left the station, however, I will carefully consider all options. It may be wiser to work to improve the current plan, rather than opposing it outright. For example, are there sustainable solutions to the transportation problems that have been identified? In Capital Ward, our biggest concern will be with North-South movement. We cannot wait another ten years to offer viable alternatives to car commuting. I am working on proposals that I will float for discussion during the campaign.

Bob Brocklebank: I am not opposed to a subway through downtown but question the wisdom of a tunnel so deep below street level. I also do not believe that the alternative of light rail at street level has been sufficiently examined. I am concerned that we have had no meaningful discussion of other aspects of the Transportation Master Plan such as making Bank Street a transit-priority route, nor has the public been engaged in adoption of a "hub and spoke" transit plan which will be required to make any downtown transit improvement work.



ELECTION COVERAGE

Will you be attending community association meetings on a regular basis if you are elected?

Bob Brocklebank: If elected and my presence is welcome, I would expect to regularly report at each of the four community association meetings held in Capital Ward. If elected I will have most Tuesday nights booked for that purpose. I would also like to see some means by which the communities without associations can be represented. These are the residences in the Lycee Claudel to Hurdman strip and the Bronson to Lebreton area north of Carling.

Isabel Metcalfe: I have been attending all the community association meetings in the Ward for the last 8 months and look forward to attending community association meetings in the future.

Ron Le Blanc: Sitting councillors should be involved in these types of associations and close to the people, so yes, if they will have me.

David Chernushenko: It is my intention to attend each of the community association meetings in Heron Park, Old Ottawa East, Old Ottawa South and the Glebe on a regular basis. Where I may have other commitments, I will ensure that a staff member attends to listen and to deliver an update from me.

What is your primary motivation in running for city council?

David Chernushenko: I stand for making it a city-wide goal to ensure that the urban core is strong, healthy and vibrant. This is the heart of the place, and the welfare of the entire municipality depends on it. Council needs to become a unifying force for the entire city, and seeking to unite is the way I work. People know me as a practical guy: someone who puts best practice above ideology. I wish to place my abilities and energy at the service of the community. I want to see my city move from being a good place to live to being a great place to live, for all. Not just those who already have privilege and access, but those who are often left out. I will work for an Ottawa where transportation/mobility is available to all at a price they can afford, where healthy, quality housing is available at a reasonable cost, and where at-risk youth are offered the support they need to reach their potential. I want to see the city and its citizens build resilience in the face of growing resource scarcity and ecological stress. All of this requires support for life-long education, preventive health and social service networks, investment in basic infrastructure and access to greenspace and recreational opportunity.

Bob Brocklebank: I don't need the job but I believe municipal issues are important – they affect everyone's life every day. In my many appearances before Council and as I observe Council deliberations, I have been frustrated at the issues incompletely explored and the questions not asked. I think that an active Council willing to dig into the myriad of documents presented to it and prepared to challenge established courses of action is needed. I hope that I could contribute to that effort.

Isabel Metcalfe: I believe in public and community service. I work well with others and like to get things done. My life experience, my

commitment to my community, and my work ethic lend themselves very well to representing people's interests on city council.

Ron Le Blanc: I help a lot of people in my union position and that makes me feel great, if I could do it at the city level then I could help even more people, defending Lansdowne was a great motivation to run for this position also.

What specific actions would you take to ensure that residents get value for their tax dollars?

Ron Le Blanc: I would enhance transparency in all areas from procurement to contracting out, recommend that an ethics course and accountability course be mandatory for all city employees, get value for tax dollars by improving our quality public services through targeted investments in areas covering seniors, daycare, health clinics, green spaces, community associations/organizations, emergency services and recreational activities.

David Chernushenko: All spending should be evaluated against performance outcomes. Is the money spent actually achieving the goal? Have the primary objectives been accomplished? I am a frugal guy. I reuse and repair things. Often I don't buy them in the first place if I don't need them. I think this approach is as applicable to governing a city as it is to running a household and raising a family. We must be willing to evaluate city spending against a long-term plan for where we want to be, five, ten and fifty years from now, otherwise council and staff will simply be muddling along. One specific example is in building roads and increasing urban sprawl. Allowing low-density building to continue is not only ecologically disastrous, but is a recipe for out-of-control spending for decades to come. New roads in new developments can cost hundreds of millions to plow, repair and repave and they encourage flight from the city core, increase traffic, pollution and commute times, and render public transit less cost-effective. This is known as "design debt." I will work to eliminate design debt, and build "design investment."

Bob Brocklebank: An active Council with an interest in the City's finances is essential. In the past I have raised questions about financial issues that have never been answered. I would continue to press for greater transparency in City finances which would permit wider public scrutiny and analysis. I believe that there should be a rotating cycle of "zero-based budgeting" applied to City activity. This would mean that the resource requirements of different programs or operating units should be examined completely. Up to now the emphasis has been on looking at restraining marginal increases in ongoing programs rather than considering more broadly which program objectives deserve funding. As an example, I would like to see an examination of the city's vehicle parking activity or an airing of the factors included in the calculation of the tax-supported proportion of transit operations. Neither of those activities has been scrutinized fully in my view.

Isabel Metcalfe: Diligent budgeting. I sat on very large public boards – the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Royal Ottawa Health Care Group and the Ottawa Hospital, serving on the Finance and Administration Committee. My experience

and solid approach will ensure residents are well served with their tax dollars.

What actions would you take regarding the "Lansdowne Live" proposal if you are elected?

David Chernushenko: If I had been on Council when this came to a vote, I would have voted "no". Lansdowne should be redeveloped, but deserves a better plan. But the vote has happened and unless there are some dramatic developments, it is unlikely the redevelopment process will stop. What we do now is get the best result possible. We have to be vigilant about the process to protect the limited good which has been achieved, and get more where we can. The process that led to this represents a total failure of good governance. Glebe residents were unfairly criticized for being "NIMBYs" when they were just trying to stop a poorly conceived and improperly executed development plan. We can never let this happen again. I believe it is not only legitimate but critical that the views of people in the communities who stand to be most affected by a major project of this type are heard and respected. If this project was in Barrhaven or Kanata and the ward affected and all adjacent wards were opposed, it is hard to imagine the rest of the City ganging up to force it through.

Ron Le Blanc: I will defend Lansdowne with all my heart to make sure public land is not handed over to private enterprise. I will work to green the whole park not just a "front lawn".

Isabel Metcalfe: In my door-to-door conversations, many people have said that they would like "something special" at Lansdowne Park. Capital Ward will bear the brunt of traffic and transportation issues and have a direct impact on our local businesses. If elected, I will work to see additional facilities for our children, our families and our seniors. I would use my ability to work with others to ensure the current proposal is improved so all can benefit.

Bob Brocklebank: I have been an opponent of the so-called public/private partnership for redevelopment of Lansdowne, not because of an ideological opposition to the P3 concept, but because this particular proposal is unwise. The taxpayers' interest is not protected in the arrangement and the entire deal is far too favourable to the private sector partners. Moreover there is no pressing need to hand over public assets to private interests to have Lansdowne revitalized. Assuming the present Council is stampeded in its final meeting into committing the City to this undesirable deal, I would press for an independent financial analysis. I would anticipate that such an analysis would establish that the City's withdrawal from the arrangement (even if a penalty is payable to the private sector partners) would be appropriate. This analysis would include the City's role in the relocation of local trade fairs from Lansdowne and the obligations associated with the relocation of the Ottawa Art Gallery to Lansdowne. When we have managed to get out of this bad deal, we should go on to revitalize Lansdowne following established procedures. That might lead to a P3 arrangement for some aspect of the project, but it would be a deal that is beneficial to the taxpayers and protective of residents' long-term interests.



COMMUNITY NEWS

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED – THANKS TO YOU!

Heron Park Playstructure Fundraising Completed

Over the last few years you may have noticed big, brightly coloured signs as you drove or walked through our neighbourhood – signs about fundraising activities for a new playstructure at Heron Park. You may have chosen to help out or you may just have used the signs to learn about what was happening in your neighbourhood.

Léo Derome, Peter Fourney and I had never taken on such a great project (both in size and in how it now makes us feel). We were completely new to the “fundraising world”.

Over the past three years (yes it’s been three years!) we have held many meetings, written many letters to solicit funds, sent grant applications; we sold MacMillan’s cookie dough, collected countless empty liquor and beer bottles (this place sure likes to party!), held Christmas bazaars, garage sales, family picnics; we sold top soil, raffle tickets for two barbecues & a patio set (donated by Canadian Tire), planned Pampered Chef, Norwex and Gold parties. The staff at Convergys held a car wash to raise funds for us. Children donated birthday money for the park improvements and families contributed generously out of their budgets. In short, we have all spent countless hours on this project and we succeeded!

On the last few weekends of August, painting parties worked to complete the look of our revitalized park to incorporate the new colours of purple, yellow and green. On August 30th the old structures were removed and the ground was broken for the new structures. By the time this reaches your doorstep, the new structures should be fully installed: a toddler play structure, a larger one for older children and a Ten Station Fitness Station (for youths and adults) though I imagine the children will find a way to incorporate it into their fun. The original structure for toddlers (with small slide and playhouse) was removed but will be fully refurbished and repainted over the winter months and re-installed next Spring. You may notice the play structure for the older children is in a new location. This is due to logistical and environmental reasons as the installation in the former area would have required a much larger area and the removal of maturing trees. There will therefore be two convenient play zones for the youngsters on the nearby sandy areas adjacent to the rotunda by next Spring.

From the bottom of our hearts - and on behalf of the community’s children - we want to thank every one of the wonderful volunteers who made our MISSION POSSIBLE...

Léo Derome, André Derome-Pinto & Linda Gama Pinto; Randy Paladeau; Sarah Paladeau; Breanna & Brandon Kelly; Brenda Conlon; Jessica Glasbergen; Rolf Hansen; Mike Bednarek; Marie Corkett; John & Marie-Rose MacFarlane; René Bueneman; Jody Mason; Diana Ellis; Mike & Janet Adams; Emma Gama Pinto; Sandy Kaz; Heather Earl,

Quinn & Trey Bunke; Owen Devine; Caiti Ford; Ruth McDonald; Jennifer, Nick & Nadia Boucher; Hijal DeSarkar; Lynn Trevor & Rod Anderson; Peter & Kelly Fourney; Ron Landry & Judy Mordy; Em Standen; Susan & Isabelle Dearman; Angela DiAngelis; Anne & Sarah Woods; Adam Dodd; Jason Garlough; Colin & Michaela MacLean; Carol Artz; Sarah Dillon; Liz Fudge; Jennifer Jackson; James McLaren; Rosella MacNeil;

Kim & Mark Bonnet; Kayla, Marty, Kiera & Abby McKale; Gloria Williams; Kelly Ryan; Eileen McGurrin; Heather Moir & Gina Caruso; Alex, Gabriella, Kiara & Orlando Robinson. Thanks also to all those who helped us by coming out to events and supporting the fundraising activities.

Léo Derome, Peter Fourney and myself, on behalf of the Heron Park Community Association, would also like to give a big “Thank You!” to the following contributors who made the buying and building of our new playstructure possible:

Matthew Johnston, Manager, Canadian Tire, Bank St. at Heron

Joanne Moran, Sr. Project Mgr-Landscape Architecture, Recreation Planning & Facility Development, City of Ottawa

Renée Proteau, Project Mgr-City Operations Recreation Development, City of Ottawa

Debbie Beck, Marianne Donoghue & Shannon Donoghue, Playground Planners

Cibele Walsh, Owner & Manager, Shoppers Drug Mart, Bank St. at Heron

Brian Mahmoud, O’Brien’s Pub, Heron Rd. at Gilles

Biruk Gmedhin, A&M corner store, Clementine Ave. at Rockingham

Councillor Clive Doucet and staff, Capital Ward

We must also note: this community project was made possible through partnership with the City of Ottawa.

Last but not least, we would really like to thank our families for their support in our mission! Now let’s get out there and enjoy our new park!

Yours in play,

Maritala Robinson

Editor’s note: No thank you list would be complete without acknowledging the daring and heroic determination of the person at the heart of this successful campaign and improvement to Heron Park. On behalf of the Heron Park Community, thank YOU Maritala!



HELP PUT THE “PLAY” BACK IN HERON PARK’S PLAYGROUP

The Heron Park Community Association is inviting someone or a small team of people from the community to step forward to re-start this great local activity for Heron Park’s youngsters. It’s also a fun way for parents and caregivers to connect and meet other neighbouring families. The playgroup is typically run by volunteer parents willing to help with a craft, circle time and clean up so all the work doesn’t fall on the lead organizer.

Toys, playmats, tables and chairs and some craft supplies are all ready and waiting. The bonus this year will be the great new play structures the children can enjoy during outdoor playtime.

Maritala Robinson, who has organized it in the past, has kindly agreed to help someone get it running once again if that individual is willing to be the “team leader” once it’s re-established.

Whether you’re interested in organizing or prefer simply to participate and lend a hand, please contact Maritala at maritala@sympatico.ca or call 613-316-3979 to indicate your interest. Once a sufficient number of parents and caregivers sign on, a time and day for gathering can be determined.



COMMUNITY NEWS

AU REVOIR ALTA VISTA LIBRARY, BONJOUR SUNNYSIDE BRANCH!

by Eileen McGurrin

As of September 7th, the Alta Vista library is temporarily closed for extensive renovations including improved meeting spaces for the public, installation of a self serve check-out, improved borrower services counter and accessible washrooms. The book drop is not open during the renovation process. Requested items will be automatically forwarded to the Greenboro branch unless patrons advise otherwise. (See below for links and contact numbers.)

The Alta Vista library is scheduled to re-open in January 2011 - barring any unforeseen circumstances. The Sunnyside library closed almost a year ago for similar upgrades and only recently re-opened due to the "typical surprises" one encounters during an extensive renovation process. The outcome is really wonderful which is good news for Heron Park as the Sunnyside Branch is our closest library for the next four months. Although parking is minimal and extremely awkward for drivers to exit if you're turning left to head back south on Bank Street, it's a relatively short walk or bus ride (the #1 bus stops almost at the front door). They also have bicycle stands for the hardy cyclist brave enough to travel on Bank Street. (I've cycled up the quieter side streets with the kids and that was less of a white-knuckled trip.)

The Children's Section (downstairs) at the

Sunnyside library is a particular delight. Featuring a large mural on one wall with doorways opening into the storybook zone, it's a perfect invitation to step into the world of reading. Upstairs, there is a reading room, a study zone, a computer room and a modest Teen Zone. The atmosphere on both levels is open, bright and airy and (finally!) with more accessible washrooms. It provides a preview of how the Alta Vista branch might emerge from four months of intense renovation but on a larger scale as Sunnyside has less square footage. And to think that the Sunnyside library was slated for potential closure by the City in 2004!

These extensive upgrades were primarily made possible through Federal-Provincial Infrastructure Stimulus Funding (\$750,000 towards the Alta Vista branch, \$1.25 million for the Sunnyside) but costs are shared equally between federal, provincial and municipal governments. If you consider what it costs now to upgrade your kitchen, the City was wise to move on these shared costs improvements now. These libraries are busy places! I do wonder how all those students from St. Patrick's and Ridgemont High School are going to manage without the study/computer zones they frequent so regularly at their neighbouring Alta Vista Branch.

For library patrons who prefer to drive to

the library, Elmvale Acres and Greenboro branches present the next closest options with substantial parking. The Elmvale Acres library, at Smyth Rd and St-Laurent Blvd, is located in a mall adjacent to many stores and services. The Greenboro library, which connects to a community centre, is located at 363 Lorry Greenberg Drive. What an amazing facility! Built in 2006, it covers 29,000 square feet and has over 100,000 books, 60 computers for public use, and is open Sunday afternoons from 1 to 5 p.m. There's a drive-through book drop and a great little park behind the library for young readers to use up some energy before/after the library visit. It even has a gas fireplace in the study/reading zone upstairs. (Maybe one day our Main library will be as nice!)

Regardless of the interior design or age of the library branch in question, thanks to the internet, Ottawa's library patrons can request any of the over 2 million items available through the city's branches and have them delivered to the library most convenient to them. Reading programs and storytime are also offered at many locations as well as computer training sessions, literacy programs and so much more.

For more information on library programs available at Sunnyside or other branches, please check the website: <http://bibliooottawalibrary.ca> If you don't have access to the Internet you can call Infoservice at 613-580-2940 anytime that the Main Library is open or simply ask for help at the information desk at any of the 33 branches (well, 32 branches until the Alta Vista library re-opens).

Inspiring Leadership in Capital Ward

DAVID CHERNUSHENKO



Vote on October 25 to build a vibrant, healthy and accessible Ottawa for everyone

- Let's transform politics by building trust and collaborating in the interests of *all* residents.
- Let's nurture communities of engaged citizens.
- Let's get people onto the sidewalks and into the streets for a safer, more vibrant city.
- Let's recognize the value of public services and spaces.
- Let's harness the dynamism of individuals and businesses.
- Let's invest in supportive, appropriate infrastructure.
- Let's provide quality, affordable housing.
- Let's invest wisely to build resilience, improve autonomy, and strengthen regional food security.

For information, to volunteer or to donate to David's campaign for City Councillor, visit www.davidc.ca or call 613-730-0870

Heron Park Meet and Greet with David Chernushenko

Please join David and members of his campaign team at O'Brien's Pub, 1145 Heron Rd, from 7 to 8.30 pm on September 23rd. David will briefly introduce himself and his platform, followed by discussion on issues raised by those attending.



COLUMNS

...TIMMER WHAT? BRUCE WHO?

By Rosella Mac Neil

When it comes to parks, we've got a few: Kaladar Park, Heron Park and... that other one. Oh yes, Timmermans. Bruce Timmermans Park. Who the heck is he, and why is one of our parks named after him?

Who is he? Bruce Timmerman was one of us, a resident of Heron Park. He lived on Brulé Avenue in the northwest corner of our neighbourhood.

Why? Because of his accomplishments and valued contributions to Ottawa's cycling community. For many years and for many people in Ottawa, Bruce Timmermans was Mr. Bicycle. Many people ride more safely and efficiently - and fix their bikes more skilfully - having been taught by Bruce. Many years ago, a colleague and I signed up for a bike mechanics course at Algonquin College. Walking into class on the first night, I was chatting with my friend - and stopped abruptly when I saw the instructor: Bruce.

In the 1970s, cycling in Ottawa was expanding rapidly due to the popularity of what we called "ten speeds". At that time, adults who hadn't ridden a bicycle in years were buying bikes for themselves, not just for their kids. As biking became more "cool", kids no longer stopped riding bikes when they hit their teens. But more riders meant more collisions and falls. For Bruce, that meant greater need to educate riders and motorists on how to share the road safely.

He was well known by many in local governments, both city and regional, for his work as a cycling educator and advocate. Bruce donated countless hours in promoting the safe use of bicycles as transportation. In response to the record number of cycling deaths in 1984, he helped found Citizens for Safe Cycling (CfSC), a non-profit organization that works to educate the cycling public while advocating for their rights as road users and an increased respect overall for cyclists. He helped CfSC establish the region's first education program aimed at young cyclists in 1985. He was a member of the

Intergovernmental Bicycle Committee which planned a regional cycling network years ahead of its time, in the early 1980s.

In 1998, CfSC established the Bruce Timmermans Fund for Childhood Cycling Education to support cycling skills education, to promote cycling to children and their parents and to continue Bruce's mission: to help ordinary people improve their cycling skills and enjoy cycling.

I first got to know him in the late 70's-early 80's through the Ottawa Bicycle Club's Rideau Lakes Cycling Tour. This is a two-day ride from Ottawa to Kingston and back, staying overnight at Queen's University. Bruce rode this in the first years, when only experienced riders took part and no support was provided. In 1972, 75 riders paid the \$12 entry fee that entitled them to beds in a dorm and breakfast, a hat and a chocolate bar. By the 25th anniversary, there were 1424 riders, a commemorative jersey, and participants of all abilities and levels of experience - all supported by trucks and mechanics; Bruce was a regular in the support truck for years.

Bruce was proud of his Dutch heritage, and of their reputation as a nation of cyclists. He often spent time in the Netherlands and knew the value of bicycles for utilitarian purposes as well as for pleasure, for improving fitness, and for relieving traffic congestion. And when Bruce was convinced of something, he wasn't easily discouraged: he didn't rest until he had convinced you, too.

He was an active member of the Ottawa Bicycle Club for many years and served on the board of directors, in one role or another, for much of that time. In the "leaner" years, before membership in the club exploded, Bruce took on the role of producing the OBC newsletter, the Spokesman, whose return address was his Brulé Avenue address.

Even today, the club's group rides begin every

Sunday at Billings Bridge Shopping Centre because he was a key organizer and he went for years not owning a car, so Billings was a convenient place for him to meet up with the other riders. These rides are divided into groups so that people of similar ability can ride together, making it safer and more enjoyable. Distances vary, depending on the level of ability and the weather.

An avid cyclist, Bruce liked helping others to enjoy cycling. He was also a CAN-BIKE instructor evaluator. As a pioneer, trainer and examiner of nationally-certified defensive cycling instructors in the CAN-BIKE program, Bruce was one of Canada's top cyclists. He worked extensively to improve cycling skills and safety. Bruce shared his knowledge of cycling by teaching traffic cycling skills, bicycle mechanics, cold weather cycling and bicycle touring, both locally and abroad.

Bruce's legacy lives on through the awards program created by the City of Ottawa in 1999 to recognize individuals and organizations demonstrating a commitment to cycling in our community.

Tragically, Bruce died suddenly in 1998, well before his time, of a suspected aneurism, doing what he loved best: riding his bicycle. The first Bruce Timmermans Cycling Award given to an individual was awarded posthumously to Bruce himself. He was 55.

Interested in learning more? You can get cycling information from these resources:

Citizens for Safe Cycling <https://safecycling.ca/>
Ottawa Bicycle Club
<http://www.ottawabicycleclub.ca/>

City of Ottawa cycling awards
http://www.ottawa.ca/residents/onthemove/travelwise/cycling/timmerman/index_en.html

LESSONS LEARNED CONT'D FROM PAGE 3

announcements and some group discussions; and the email distribution list which has been used for everything from announcing upcoming community association meetings to finding the owners of lost cats. Many communities do not have this strength.

The other challenge is a common meeting place. Public spaces are very important to a community because they are places where the community can get together and share a wide variety of experiences. They serve as a hub where neighbours meet neighbours, whether in a play group, a yoga class, a winter or summer carnival, a pot luck, or a community association meeting. Bonds are formed, names are exchanged, concerns are expressed. If you're lucky, collective concerns can be resolved. The Heron Park community is lucky to have such a space (yes, I know, it is less than what is

needed) and an arrangement with the city to run programs and improve the space.

To bring this conversation full circle, I'm glad to have been given the opportunity to meet with the folks from Crime Prevention Ottawa, and to be reminded through their eyes of the privilege I've had to work with Heron Parkers in many capacities, and to reflect upon the growth that has taken place since I first went to a community association meeting out of curiosity so many years ago. From working on the rink to tree planting on the edge of Sawmill Creek, it is always educational and fun. There are many more positive experiences than I could ever recount, but they have all taught me what a determined group of people can accomplish together. When a leader takes the reins and runs with an idea to the finish line, what an exhilarating journey it can be!

I'm delighted to see that the Crime Prevention

tool kit will soon be available to you so that you can continue to grow and one day meet your next goal, adding a multi-purpose room to the field house (really, it is a community centre, just small is all).

The Crime Prevention Ottawa web site is found at: http://ottawa.ca/city_hall/crime_prevention/index_en.html

By Donna Silver

For information on how to hold a community program or event at the Heron Park Community Centre or to bring your energy and ideas to the Heron Park community, please contact: President@Heronpark.ca or call and leave a message at the community centre, tel. 613-247-8278. You are also always welcome to join the HPCA monthly meetings at the Clover Street community centre, 7 p.m., second Tuesday of every month.



COLUMNS

COMMUNITY SHARED AGRICULTURE: A (NOT SO) NEW WAY TO EAT DELICIOUS, SUSTAINABLE, LOCAL FOOD

by Derek Gour

In an age of industrialized crop production, factory farming, genetically modified plants, ecologically destructive fishing practices, and diabetes-inducing fast food filled with high fructose corn syrup, it is not surprising that many people are upset and suspicious about the food they consume. There are numerous films and books which shine a spotlight on these issues, including *Food, Inc.*, *Fast Food Nation* and *Super-Size Me*. These resources are welcome bearers of information and awareness of the issues, but can leave us feeling helpless about how to ensure we are feeding ourselves and our children healthy food that is grown and harvested by means that are both sustainable and safe.

Our family has long tried to eat well, and the more we learn, the more changes we make in our lives to improve our diet and lifestyle. Recently, I've struggled with the depressing issue of where our food comes from. I wanted to eat more food that was grown locally, organically (with no pesticides or chemical fertilizers), and was harvested by people who were not being exploited. These sound like reasonable expectations, but I challenge you to fill your shopping cart at a major grocery chain with food that fulfills these criteria. You often find such food only at smaller, natural food stores and farmers markets, and you will pay a premium.

While farmers markets are great, and we need more of them, there is another little known alternative. It has a fancy name, Community Shared Agriculture (CSA), but it is a simple idea: buying food directly from local farms. This sounds a lot like what happens at a farmers market, but market food often isn't organic (Heron Park's Organic Farmers Market is an exception), and the food isn't necessarily local either.

There are numerous CSA farms in the Ottawa area, and each one operates a little differently. You will have to call them or visit their web sites to find the one that fits your needs. Some farms require you to commit to a season up front, while others let you join in and leave at any point in the year. Some require you to pickup your food, and others will deliver. Some only operate during the summer, while others provide food year-round. There are as many options as there are farms.

We settled on Bryson Farms, who offer a wide variety of organic heirloom vegetables (no meat or fruit) all year long, and who deliver to your house weekly. We get the 2-person basket for \$45 per week, which combined with our backyard gardening efforts has kept us scrambling to eat all the vegetables while they're still fresh. We haven't gone through a winter with them yet, but I understand they save many of the longer-lasting vegetables so they have produce to offer through the cold months. While it doesn't replace all our trips to the grocery store, the bounty of vegetables forces us to eat better, and I feel better knowing we're taking a small step in the right direction.

By supporting Community Shared Agriculture, we are encouraging diverse, small-scale, local farming operations, which is everything that modern industrialized agriculture is not. If more families buy food from such farmers, more of them will appear, which will benefit our local economy and encourage a return to the small-scale family farm that has effectively died. The only ones we hurt will be the major food corporations, who have been poisoning us and our planet for the past 50 years. Community Shared Agriculture is voting with our dollars. It is eating local. It is eating organic. It is delicious. It is not expensive, and it is convenient. So give it a try.

A local overview of Community Shared Agriculture (also known as Community Supported Agriculture) can be found at:

www.justfood.ca/community_shared_agriculture.php

Here is short list of some CSA's I've come across.

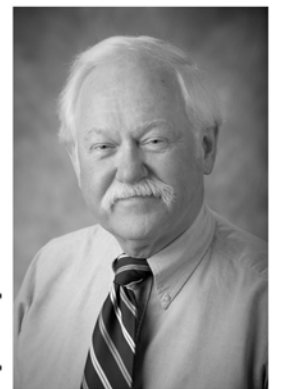
- Aubin Farm, 613.658.5721
- Bryson Farms, brysonfarms.com
- Connaught Acres, connaughtacres.ca
- Riverglen Biodynamic Farm, riverglenfarm.ca
- Saffire Farms, saffirefarms.ca
- Veggie Patch, vegetablepatch.ca

A more detailed version of this list is online here:
bytownmom.com/about/csa-services-in-ottawa



Bob Brocklebank

for Capital ward Councillor



Bob Brocklebank is no stranger to City Hall or to the concerns of our communities. He has addressed Council dozens of times on topics ranging from preserving our libraries to traffic safety on Sunnyside Ave.

Bob has appeared on behalf of the Heron Park Community Association on zoning questions and spoken out to save the Old Town Hall in Ottawa East.

Bob is Past President of the Glebe Community Association and of the FCA (the city-wide grouping of community associations). He is currently a member of the City's Business Advisory Committee.

Real ideas, Real Results, Real Community

Bob would:

- Bring efficiency to City, asking the right questions to get value for tax dollars
- End the politics of divisiveness & bring together urban, suburban and rural communities
- Ensure our transit system works for everyone
- Make sustainability more than a slogan - we need strong environmental and financial strategies
- Work more effectively with the federal government and better understand our biggest employer
- Ensure the City, the community and developers work together to build the City we want

More information is at www.brocklebank.ca



COLUMNS



Report on Ottawa Carleton
District School Board

Zone 9
Rideau-Vanier/Capital

by Rob Campbell
Trustee for Zone 9 Rideau-
Vanier/Capital

Arts for OCDSB Students!

There is new energy in arts education as a result of new Ontario arts curricula: a new elementary curriculum document implemented last September and a new secondary schools one this coming year. These changes demonstrate that the arts are no longer an “add on”, subject to being sidelined when times are tough, but rather are an essential part of educating the whole citizen in their own right, in addition to their proven positive effects on literacy and numeracy.

Dance finally takes its place alongside the literary arts, visual arts, music and drama as a core arts subject. Two hours and thirty minutes must be devoted to the arts per week and the responsibilities of the parent, student, teacher and school administration in arts education are clarified by these documents. We’ve reviewed arts education at the OCDSB from JK to Gr12 as a result. This all noted, without either new Provincial arts money or tying existing money to arts, funding priority for the arts remains largely up to each Board and each school, as well as their respective policies and implementation.

The OCDSB offers a specialist high skills major diploma and cooperative program in communication and design at Merivale HS and in digital media at Sir Wilfrid Laurier. As well the OCDSB has Arts Canterbury, accessed on an application basis, for literary, visual, dramatic, dance and musical arts for exceptionally committed students. Every OCDSB high school has however amazing arts departments able to suit almost every demand.

The OCDSB is involved in several multi-partner initiatives locally including the CAPPIS program (high school musicals competition with finalists at the NAC), the Young at Art visual art festival (a galleried juried competition), the Canadian improv games and the Kiwanis music festival. Some OCDSB-only initiatives include the Sears high school drama festival, the annual Dance Showcase and an elementary drama and dance festival at Carleton University (12 schools last year). School participation in these initiatives is voluntary.

Interested community members can contact any local school’s administration or school council. The OCDSB encourages community involvement in the arts at a Board level through its Arts Advisory Committee. This dedicated group of volunteers from arts agencies, OCDSB staff and parents advises on arts needs and opportunities, has an annual arts award, raises awareness of the Arts with School Councils and advises the Board on all arts policy and funding matters. It just developed a partnership with CTV and the NAC to showcase OCDSB students and is organizing a District Culture Days event for this coming year.

The importance of the arts for the development of improved and creative thinking and in promoting the full potential and engagement of our young citizens seems clear. Fortunately, the arts should no longer be on the defensive with these new curriculum documents. And, I’m proud to claim, the OCDSB does take the arts seriously.

If you have a suggestion or a concern then please contact me via rob@ocdsbzone9.ca or at 323-7803. Meeting and document info available at www.ocdsb.ca



David McGuinty



Member of Parliament—Ottawa South

Député-Ottawa-Sud

*My office provides information
on the services offered by the
Government of Canada, including:*

- ◆ The Canada Pension Plan;
- ◆ Old Age Security;
- ◆ Guaranteed Income Supplement;
- ◆ Small Business Assistance;
- ◆ Citizenship Inquiries;
- ◆ Canadian Passports;
- ◆ Immigration Matters;
- ◆ Grants & Funding;
- ◆ Students Loans; and
- ◆ Taxation Issues.

*If I can ever be of assistance to you,
please contact my office.*

*Mon bureau vous renseigne sur les services
offerts par le
gouvernement du Canada, notamment:*

- ◆ le Régime de pensions du Canada;
- ◆ la Sécurité de la vieillesse;
- ◆ le Supplément de revenu garanti;
- ◆ les occasions d'affaires;
- ◆ les demandes de renseignements relatives à la citoyenneté;
- ◆ le passeport canadien;
- ◆ les questions d'immigration;
- ◆ les options de financement;
- ◆ les prêt aux étudiants; et
- ◆ les questions sur l'impôt.

*Si jamais je peux vous aider, n'hésitez pas à
contacter mon bureau.*

David McGuinty, M.P.

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K1G 6C9



Tel/Tél: 990-8640
Fax/Télex: 990-2592
Email/Courriel:
McGuinty.D@parl.gc.ca



“Are we done yet?” Heron Park volunteers spruce up the swing sets to colour coordinate with new play structures.



Neighbourhood kids enjoy one last playtime on the old Heron Park play structure prior to its removal in late August.



COLUMNS

CITY BEAT

By James McLaren

Mayoral Traffic Jam

There is currently a 15-candidate pile-up on the road to the mayoral election. I don't have room to list them all here; you can find their names, phone numbers and email addresses at this URL: http://ottawa.ca/city_hall/elections/nominations/index_en.html. The front runners I suppose would be Jim Watson, Larry O'Brien, and of course our own Clive Doucet. Alex Cullen has now stepped down from the mayoral race and is running again in Bay Ward – he couldn't raise enough money to run a mayoral campaign. It's a bit challenging when there are so many candidates, but I hope people will take the time to learn their platforms and make a decision. It's distressing that so few people vote in municipal elections. Roads, transit, garbage pickup, snow removal, sewer pipes, and city planning don't sound exciting but all of them affect our lives more directly than anything at the provincial or federal levels.

From the Book of Pedestrians, Chapter 4, Verse 3

In the Park of Heron, some of the people did walk up Data Centre Road to Billings Bridge Mall for the procurement of victuals. And the people did lament, saying,

“Why the heck is there no sidewalk on this road? Verily, it is freakin' dangerous walking here! What's up with that?” Yea, and the people did cry out for a sidewalk. And the councillor did hear them, and he went unto the city council, and they did agree that a sidewalk was probably a pretty good idea. But it came to pass that the budget for capital projects was small, and somehow it always seemed that left turn lanes were a bigger priority than sidewalks. Lo, and many years did pass, but finally the sidewalk did come to the head of the line, and funds were made available. And the President of Heron Park Community Association did rejoice, inasmuch as he would no longer have to complain to all and sundry, “Where's the sidewalk? Why is there no money for the sidewalk?” And the people did rejoice too because they would no longer have to hear his lament. Amen to that.

Cool Web Site

I discovered a nifty web site that, unbelievably, the city concocted: traffic.ottawa.ca. It's a map of the city that you can zoom in on, and you can make it show various useful things, such as construction, locations of traffic incidents, bike routes, and traffic cameras. It's actually fairly useful, and I invite

Wednesday Nights in Heron Park



Free!!!

Supervised activities
for Kids and Teens

Parents Welcome

Wednesdays-5:30pm to 7pm

Heron Park Community Centre

Heron Park (Heron Road and Clover Street)

you to check it out for yourself. One wonders why they haven't publicized it – apparently it's been running since the bus strike. There's an interesting story to how I discovered it: I got invited to one of those research focus group thingies that turned out to be somehow related to it. They brought up the site at the focus group and asked us if we thought it was good. Why can't they just put an ad in the paper, and if lots of people use the web site, they'll know it's good. If no one uses it, not so much - simple. But no, they have to pay for a focus group. Sigh.

Next Stop: Expensive Machine!

OC Transpo has launched an automated next stop announcement system trial

program. Basically, it will be a machine that calls out the next stop because apparently some of the bus drivers can't do it. A lot of drivers DO call out the stops, but as far as I can figure the next stop is always “Kshhhhhhhhhhh” (that was supposed to be static). Wouldn't it be cheaper just to put actual working PA systems on the buses? Anyhoo, if you ride Route 1, 4, 98, 116, 118, 146, or a few others you might have already noticed these machines. They also show the next stop, route and direction, and current time on a sign inside the bus. Cool! Still don't understand why the drivers can't call the stops though.



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*Combination or Hawaiian
Medium = \$12.50 (+tax)
Large = \$13.50 (+tax)
Includes 2 canned soft
drinks*

Brian is pleased to invite you to visit his newly opened
Cedars and Company Food Market
at 1255 Bank Street (former site of the Fresh Food Company)

Cedars features a great variety of fresh produce, baked goods, excellent seafood, and prepared foods including fish and chips, shawarmas and more! Helpful and friendly staff are ready to serve you in this fully renovated and inviting location.

Shop, Take-Out or Eat In: Three great reasons to visit
Cedars and Company Food Market!

Cedars & Company Food Market hours:
9 am – 10 pm
7 days/week

O'Brien's Pub Hours:
Monday- Saturday 11 am - 1 am
Sunday 12 pm - 11 pm