

Hunt Club: My Community



Welcome back from your summer activities, which we hope have provided you with a bunch of great memories!

We've been hearing from many residents about various aspects of our community since our newsletter started to circulate in January 2013. Starting this issue, we will be inviting readers to send in their response to a question that will provide a clearer picture of who we are.

To make it a little more interesting we will draw one of the responses on Sunday 8 September. This person will win a pizza from Riverside Pizzeria. This issue's question is:

"What do you like most about living in Hunt Club?"

You can drop your answer in the box labeled Hunt Club: My Community at the community centre (Paul Anka Drive at the corner of McCarthy) or email it to editor.hcmc@bell.net. Remember to include your name and address or phone number on your answer to qualify for the free pizza!

The deadline for responses is Saturday 7 September. Since this is also the date for the 30th annual Community Festival at the Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre, why not drop by to meet other neighbours from our community? We hope to see you there! There will be a Hunt Club Community Organization table at this event, where you can fill in then drop off your responses and meet your community association.

If you have suggestions for future articles for our newsletter, please share them with me at editor.hcmc@bell.net.

Our next community association meeting is on Monday 9 September at 7:00 p.m. in the community centre. Visit our website for upcoming meeting dates at <http://hunt-club.ncf.ca>

Christine Johnson, Editor

Tai Chi in Cahill Park

Tai chi relieves physical and mental effects of stress on body and mind.

Do you have the skills needed and the time available to lead early morning Tai Chi sessions in Cahill Park? If yes, please email editor.hcmc@bell.net



Colour from our Past

John Sankey

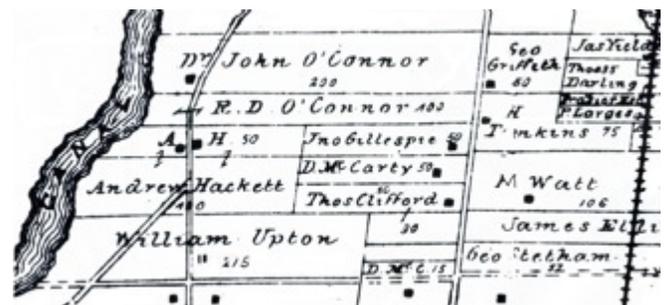
You had to be a colourful character to consider moving to Hunt Club in the early 1800's!

The first resident of our area was Captain Andrew Wilson. He built a house near where the Rivergate condos are today and named it Ossian Hall after a mythical Celt who lived 300 years. There he welcomed all who arrived by land or river. One of the first group of magistrates appointed by Bytown in 1828, Wilson held court in full Royal Navy uniform, doubtless with salty language to match the rowdies who appeared before him. He boasted one of the finest book collections in the area, and his evenings at Mother Firth's tavern were legendary.

Ossian Hall was the first place one Daniel O'Connor and his wife Margaret stayed on arrival from Ireland in 1827, and she loved it. Wilson encountered financial difficulties in 1829 and fled to Lower Canada (now the province of Quebec). Margaret, an heiress, bought Ossian Hall.

O'Connor had considered the priesthood, switched to being a mercenary in Venezuela, briefly settled down as a married storekeeper in Ireland, then sought his fortunes in the wilds of Upper Canada (now the province of Ontario). He was elected Bytown's first town clerk in 1828, was soon appointed magistrate, and was almost the only Catholic accepted in the local establishment of the time. During the peak of the Irish riots of the 1830's, Nicholas Sparks, an Irish Protestant, named an Ottawa street after himself and one after O'Connor, an Irish Catholic. These streets formed a Christian cross in the center of the most troubled area, as a symbol of reconciliation. They are still named that today.

Here is our area, 50 years later in 1879. Besides O'Connor's heirs, several names we know in our community are also there: Hackett, Gillespie and McCarthy (McCarty).



First Ottawa Asian Summer Carnival

Andy Phan

When I heard that the Ottawa Chinese Community was throwing a festival at the T&T on Hunt Club, I'll be honest, I was a little skeptical. Since moving to Ottawa from Toronto about a year ago I've tried eating Chinese food here many times and I've been disappointed.

Now, I love food, and I love eating. So when I got to the festival after a long day of motorcycle lessons I was sore, tired and most notably starving. So to give you an impression of what I felt like; imagine yourself wandering the desert for a year drinking nothing but stale water and eating nothing but mediocre Chinese cuisine and suddenly off in the distance you see a Vegas strip mall with overflowing fountains of sparkling water and a full array of delicious looking sizzling BBQ sea food. I cannot understate how much I love sea-food.

If you've never left Canada and have no idea what Chinese sea-food is like, then imagine going to a restaurant run by Fear Factor and at the same time imagine your sense of smell is being assaulted and mugged by a whole troupe of Cirque Du Soleil acrobats. So if you're the type of person that's easily grossed out by strange smells or tastes than I wouldn't really recommend it to you. The first thing I ate there was the BBQ squid. I exchanged glances with my vegetarian friend with my face full of tentacles and she gave me a look like I had just killed Mother Teresa's orphaned puppy.

I continued my gastronomical adventure like a kid in a candy store. Did I say I'm a sucker for sea-food? I had the soft-shell crab, some mussels and some fish balls. It's really the combination of exotic texture and tastes that makes sea-food so distinct that everything else seems kind of bland and boring by comparison. Imagine deep-fried crab meat with its juices still freshly trapped inside the batter with a layer of mayonnaise and spicy Sriracha sauce on top.

Unfortunately the whole thing was a little pricey and I found my 20 dollars didn't really do enough of a job of filling me up. There were also some performances and cultural booths which, to be honest, I didn't really pay attention to as I was a little too focused on the food. I felt a little guilty about it, but I find it hard to be interested in things I can't eat when I'm tired and hungry.

So to round things off, if you enjoy some straight up quality street food and you have a taste for something new and exotic, then I highly recommend going next year. I wouldn't really call it 'authentic Chinese food' but honestly, I find 21st century Asian-Canadian food to be something unique and special that you won't really find in any other place or time on this Earth and I'm grateful to be a witness to that.

Surveying Hunt Club Creek

Karen Mikhail

It was my first stream survey with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA). "They're fun," I had been told by an RVCA employee. As I stood in pouring rain at the mouth of the Hunt Club Creek, it didn't look anything like my definition of a creek, as torrents of water hurtled towards the Rideau River. "You get to stand in the water and take measurements", I had been told. No way was I going to stand in this seething volume of water, I thought. Luckily, I was right!

Our intrepid leader Greg Melvin, a summer student with RVCA, advised us that we would take the creek's measurements, depth, volume of water, pH, temperature, salinity and dissolved oxygen, from the stream's bank, at 50 metre intervals. He handed me the end of a measuring tape, and told me to walk along the bank for 50 metres. This was easier said than done! It turned out to be more like a trek through the jungle than along a stream bank in Hunt Club, Ottawa! Plants, bushes and trees grew thick and plentiful, and my cheap waterproof jacket was soon shredded as I pushed my way through the undergrowth. However, our objective was achieved. In deluging rain, we measured 6 times 50 metres for a total of 300 before we called it quits. We marked the spot where we finished, so we would know where to start the next day, and went home soaked. I had to admit that, in a strange way, it had been fun!

The next day was unparalleled. The sun poured down and, being further upstream where the water was somewhat shallower, we were able to wade in to do the measurements more precisely. Whereas the previous day we had seen nothing but rushing water, dense vegetation and a downpour of rain, this hot, sunny day allowed us to take in our surroundings. We observed an abundance of yellow iris, an invasive flower species, which we tagged for uprooting at a later date. We noted a wide variety of trees, shrubs and aquatic plants, and observed and heard many birds. We were even treated to the flight of a blue heron!

However, we became very aware that there was actually little or no life to speak of in the water. Despite beautiful, wild surroundings, we only saw a couple of minnows, three frogs and some water striders. Very sad, as the environment around me looked like an idyllic Canadian habitat for stream loving mammals, fish and amphibians. But, that's what happens when streams are full of pollution from our streets and parking lots.

Something needs to change!!!



Getting to know your neighbours!

Julie Picard

Just off Uplands Drive there is a little Ottawa Community Housing (OCH) neighbourhood that goes by the name of Shearwater Court. Over 225 residents live in the court, with children and youth representing about 39% of the population. With over 32,000 tenants in more than 160 communities across the city, OCH is the largest social housing provider in Ottawa, and the second largest in Ontario. The Shearwater Court community is buzzing with activity. They have an active Tenants' Association which recently elected new members at their bi-annual elections on 4 July 2013. The Tenants' Association organizes events for the community such as an annual multicultural BBQ, spring clean-ups, Christmas dinners and bingo nights.

Another wonderful feature of the community is the heritage log cabin which is nestled in the middle of a park at the center of the community. The log cabin was donated by the National Capital Commission and transported to the Shearwater community in the 1980's. Today, it serves as a hub for all kinds of programs for the community including a homework club, summer camp programs and many tenant association activities. Many of these programs are supported by the South-East Ottawa Community Health Centre through the staff at their Hunt Club satellite location. The log cabin has recently had a facelift and is looking great.

We hope you'll stop by and visit us soon!

Introducing Our New Community Police Officer

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Constable Mahahmud Elmi and I am the new Community Police Officer at the Cedarwood Community Police Center (CPC). I also serve the Hunt Club community. CPCs provide a direct link between the community and the Ottawa Police Service (OPS). Volunteers at the CPC assist in delivering OPS core Crime Prevention Programs such as Neighbourhood Watch and Home Security Inspections. We are currently recruiting new volunteers who want to join our team to proactively reduce criminal activity.

In order for police to effectively combat criminal activity we rely on your assistance. Did you see something suspicious? Did someone enter your vehicle and ruffle through your glove compartment overnight? Was your vehicle broken into and items stolen? If so, we need to know. When criminal trends and occurrences are identified in certain areas, we as an organization are better able to deploy resources and attempt to stop such activity. You can report several criminal occurrences over the phone through our call center at 613-236-1222 ext. 7300.

I look forward to meeting and working with you in the community. If there is an upcoming event or a meeting that you think I could provide assistance with or if you want further information on volunteering at the CPC please contact me at 613-236-1222 ext. 8436 or through e-mail at elmim@ottawapolice.ca.

Hunt Club Estates: On the Move

Paul Whitney

You've often passed by the red brick row houses on the north side of Hunt Club and McCarthy, but did you know that they are on the move too?

We have some pretty terrific people living at our 148 unit Condo Corporation, all ages, all walks of life. CCC. 66 was built in the mid-70's. Since that time many residents have upgraded their interiors, so we're now entering into a very exciting phase of looking at ways to refresh the exterior, common element. We're looking at greater energy efficiency, keeping costs down, protecting property values, streamlining of services and the overall cohesive look of the property.

It's part of a process we started a few years ago by allowing Velux solar energy units to be installed on our common roofs. A number of unit owners report 75% savings on hot water bills. We're upgrading our swimming pool and adding solar heating next year. Modern, high efficiency casement windows from Clera have just been added; we're also upgrading entrance ways with non-slip, colour co-ordinated Rubaroc. Roofs, insulation and exterior appearance are next on the list. We're even looking at 'green' roofs as an option!

Keep an eye out. Hunt Club Estates is on the move!

Simply Unique: Ottawa Valley Weavers' and Spinners' Guild Exhibition and Sale

Francesca Overend

Our annual exhibition and sale takes place the first weekend in November at the Glebe Community Centre.

A Hunt Club resident and a long time member of the Guild, I will once again be a participant in the exhibition and sale. I dye or paint silk fibres before weaving them into complex designs using a multi harness computerized loom. The result is a variety of fashion items such as scarves, vests and other accessories. My love of fibre, texture and colour is also revealed in my handwoven table linens.

Other members of the Guild produce a wide range of one-of-a-kind items for sale that would satisfy anyone's gift giving needs. Vendors will be selling baskets, hooked rugs, custom fashions, woven yardage, needle felted artworks, mixed media fibre art and more. You may also purchase a variety of handspun yarns, novelty yarn, assorted fleece (wool, alpaca and mohair) and tools to meet your own creative needs.

If you are unable to find a special item, many vendors are also prepared to produce a custom order for clients.

Please join us at the "Simply Unique" exhibition and sale where you can shop for special gifts for yourself and others and view the demonstrations of weaving and spinning by members. At the Guild exhibit area you can obtain information about membership applications, the monthly programs, and sign up for workshops held at the Guild's new resource centre.

Simply Unique

The Glebe Community Centre, 175 First Ave.
Nov. 1, 2, 3, 2013, Fri. 4-8, Sat. 10-5; Sun 10-4
Free Admission

www.ovwsg.com

Environment Matters: Fall Clean Ups

Please join your neighbours at these events:

Saturday 28 September 10:00 a.m.:
Sawmill Creek just east of the old Bingo Hall, west of Bank St. on the north side of Hunt Club. Meet in the parking lot of the old Bingo Hall.
Register at www.shorelinecleanup.ca
Take Action/Search for a cleanup/2013 Fall cleanup
Type in 'Ottawa', click on blue dot for Sawmill Creek

Saturday 5 October 10:00 a.m.:
Paul Landry Park on Uplands Dr.

Saturday 12 October 10:00 a.m.:
Erin Crescent and the Hydro Right-of-way that runs between Hunt Club and Lilloo. Meet at the island at the north east end of the crescent.

Saturday 19 October 10:00 a.m.:
Uplands Park on Uplands Drive

We thank our local businesses who make **Hunt Club: My Community** possible and ask that you support them.

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If you have an article that you would like to submit for our next issue, please e-mail it to editor.hcmc@bell.net.

We welcome your ideas for future issues; please submit them to us or come to our monthly meetings to discuss them.



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