

# Hunt Club: My Community



No one has volunteered to be editor of a continued HCMC, so this is our last issue, in which we celebrate our Hunt Club community. With the Airport Parkway bridge now open, we should expect greater interest in our 'hood'. We've got parks, pathways, woods, unique library services, a vibrant community and health centre and even an organization that caters specifically to the needs and interests of boomers and older adults amongst us. We can walk to grocery stores, beauty salons, health practitioners and fitness centres. We've got pharmacies, shopping centres and an interesting array of restaurants. By reaching out to others to promote better integration into our social fabric, residents are actively engaged in making Hunt Club a better place to live.

There is an abundance of musical talent amongst residents of Hunt Club. What if those interested were provided an opportunity to perform at a weekly 'Community Coffee House', Hunt Club's own "Performers' Night" right here at our Hunt Club Community Centre? If this is something that you would want to be involved with, we'd like to hear from you! Please send an e-mail to [editor.hcmc@bell.net](mailto:editor.hcmc@bell.net) to share how you might want to contribute. Together we can build an even more vibrant community.

With a newly elected City Council, a federal election coming up, AND a new bridge into our community, this is an exciting time for us. It has been a pleasure reaching out to you through this publication over the past two years. May the year ahead be filled with a new dynamism and outlook that continues to enrich us all! Wishing you all health, happiness and good fortune in 2015.  
Christine Johnson, Editor

## Dear Residents of Hunt Club,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to represent you at City Hall. Your support, trust and confidence in me is very much appreciated. I look forward to meeting many residents in the community and to begin working with you and the Hunt Club Community Organization.

I will make it a priority to work on issues such as: Prudent spending of your tax dollars; Community safety and security; Reliable public transportation; Recycling and waste diversion plans; Maintaining and protecting the environment.

If I can be of any assistance or if you would like to discuss a topic or concern, please do not hesitate to contact me at (613) 580-2486 or [Riley.Brockington@Ottawa.ca](mailto:Riley.Brockington@Ottawa.ca).

May the Christmas and holiday season be enjoyable for you and your family.

Riley Brockington, City Councillor, River Ward

## The Saga of Our Bridge

John Sankey

Ottawa began to build its long-planned Eastern and Western Communities (east and west of Bank Street) north of Hunt Club Road in the late 1970's. However, the Western Community - us - ended up west of not just Bank Street as originally planned, but west of the 1972 Airport Parkway as well. There was so little change to old plans that Cahill Drive still exists in both communities, as does a vestigial road allowance for their connection across Bank Street. The 1994 Hunt Club Secondary Plan even includes this original connection between Cahill west and east, just stretched over the Airport Parkway and the newly-fenced bus transitway.

Given the long distance north to Walkley and south to Hunt Club Road, communication directly across the parkway between the two communities rapidly developed. The parkway was unfenced, and there was a level crossing over the railway built by the Plante Dairy in 1926. However, crossing the 80 km/hr parkway was obviously a safety hazard and there were frequent close calls over the years for residents.

In 1996 the South Keys Shopping Center opened, providing an additional reason for Hunt Club residents to cross the parkway. Between 2004-7, the Sawmill Creek Constructed Wetlands were built, adding to the attractions there. It was only in October 2007, when Kenny Dagenais was killed crossing it, that demands for a safer way to cross the parkway reached critical mass.

In 2008, the process started with an Environmental Assessment to choose the route; it was finally approved in 2010. A Request For Proposals for a pathway was issued, two firms were shortlisted and Genivar selected for its design. There were successful and practical covered pedestrian bridges crossing the 417 at Orleans, Blair Road and Kanata, but at some point during the process the idea became entrenched that this bridge, rather than be a tried and trusted design, should be dramatically new, a statement of the 21st century, a gateway from the south that would eclipse those from the east and west.

In 2011, a design for an uncovered rigid-stay bridge supported by a swept-back 30 m high tower was accepted and a construction Request For Quotes issued by the city. The quote from Louis W. Bray was accepted and official sod turned in June, with completion promised by the end of October.

By September, the complexity of the design became evident, with delay after delay fitting tower reinforcing steel

and formwork to the required precision. But it was only in November, when the formwork for the lower half of the tower was removed, that disaster was obvious: the specification for the concrete was equally demanding and a supplier had failed. The tower was so structurally weak that it had to be torn down and rebuilt. The rebuild took an entire year, to October 2012. And, this was only the lower half of the tower.

The upper half of the tower was ready for pouring by early 2013, but there were problems building the cap for the top of the tower where the support stays would attach, and in aligning it to the required precision. It was only then, two years after design acceptance, that it became obvious that the design itself was fatally flawed: the bridge could not be built as designed.

An outside-province consultant was engaged and came to the same conclusion: a total redesign was required. Genivar was replaced by the design firm that came second in the original RFP, Delcan. Their redesign was accepted in December, reconstruction began in May 2014, and has been completed this November.

And that's how it took 6 years and 4 months after the launch of the Environmental Assessment for us to walk over our bridge, a route that will be open to winter winds and summer storms, that will have to be cleared of snow all winter for as long as we use it. The cost: \$11.5 million, with years of legal bills and winter maintenance still to come.

But, we can now walk or cycle to superb trails along Sawmill Creek, to the south Transitway, to South Keys shopping, to family and friends in the Eastern Community, and soon to the expanded O-Train. When all of the hassles, legal fights and cost overruns have been forgotten, our community will still have these.

### **Enfin, notre pont !**

Sophie Reussner-Pazur

Ce samedi 29 novembre 2014 fut une journée mémorable pour le quartier de Hunt Club: l'inauguration tant attendue du pont Airport Parkway! Bravant un froid mordant, les résidents furent nombreux à rejoindre le maire réélu Jim Watson, la conseillère sortante Maria McRae et le député provincial John Fraser, pour écouter les discours et participer à la coupure du ruban. La joie était visible sur les visages, chacun expliquant à ses proches comment cette ouverture allait permettre de nouveaux déplacements : station de bus South Keys, train léger, centre commercial, pistes cyclables, promenades autour des étangs et les canards! L'événement, retransmis par CTV, était encouragé par les klaxons des automobilistes.

Dès le lundi 1er décembre, trois membres de notre famille vont utiliser ce pont quotidiennement et raccourcir d'environ 15 minutes le transport entre la maison et le travail, l'école, tout en bénéficiant d'une marche revigorante!

### **Climate Coffee House in River Ward**

Aija Auzina

Earlier this fall, a 'Climate' Coffee House was held at the home of one of River Ward's first time voters, 18 year old Lauren. Gathered around her were nine friends, their parents, neighbours and three of the candidates from this past municipal election. Those artsy enough will know that a coffee house is a kind of open mic night - a chance for people to share their playing of music in a casual way. But this time around a wildly important twist was added: the role of city politics in mitigating climate change. The result was an evening of guitar, piano, ukelele and voice; this last being the most important. As first time voters, the youngest citizens wanted their concerns about climate change to be heard.

Lauren's friend, Aija, started the discussion by announcing that she had added her voice to Ecology Ottawa's goal to make Ottawa the green capital of Canada. And so began a sincere discussion about city policies and climate change.

Given that city councils set rules and bylaws determining how half the population on earth lives, they determine much of our future. How much and what kind of energy we consume, waste and conserve is affected by city policies. The City of Ottawa set out a Clean Air and Climate Change Management Plan in May of 2014. Our newly elected council will be defining council priorities and setting the budget accordingly.

It was the voice of Dr. John Stone, resident of River Ward, who framed the serious nature of climate change and its causes and effects. He also stated that moving away from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources, changing our lifestyles to lessen our carbon footprint and changing our built environment to encourage local living and working, thus cutting out the long commute, were our best choices.

There was great discussion about the role of the city in mitigating climate change. Renewable energy, energy conservation retrofits and financial incentives to encourage home owners to improve their homes were some of the ideas shared. The fact that people like their lifestyles and are often not very flexible to change arose as a discussion point. One interesting innovative solution mentioned was solar roadways. There is a town in the US that is experimenting with solar panel modules that can be driven over, are lit in various ways, provide heat to allow snow to melt and generate electricity. All agreed that it is time for innovative ideas to help develop Ottawa for an improved future.

After discussing what a city can do to protect the interests of residents concerned about escalating climate change, the evening was rounded out by music. Participants played the piano, sang, and strummed the guitar. Talk turned to favourite composers and musicians. Just another 'Climate' Coffee House.

## **Library Services in Hunt Club**

Alexandra Yarrow (OPL - Alternative Services)

For more than a decade now, Bookmobile stops have been made at the Hunt Club Centre on Wednesday mornings, and at Bayview School on Wednesday afternoons. In 2010, OPL launched the Hunt Club Riverside Park Community Centre Kiosk. The kiosk consists of two vending-machine style lending libraries - the first of their kind in Canada - and a library returns box. In 2013, checkouts at the kiosks averaged 752 items per month, and approximately 315 holds per month were picked up.

This past August, OPL launched the first holds pick-up lockers in Ontario. Customers who request items online from the OPL catalogue and select the Hunt Club Lockers as the pick-up location are now able to retrieve their items from these lockers when the HCRPCC is open, Monday to Friday from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday from 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. We still have an employee on hand at the community centre on Monday evenings from 4:00 - 7:30 pm, so visitors to the community centre can get an OPL membership, if they don't already have one.

OPL, led by Board Chair Councillor Jan Harder, championed the improvement of Library service in this community, but the Kiosk and hold lockers projects could not have moved forward without Councillor McRae's leadership and support. Many OPL departments were involved in thinking outside the box in order to implement services like the kiosk and the holds lockers. From research, to the integration of various technologies, to accessibility regulations, there were many factors to consider in making this service at the HCRPCC possible.

The existing infrastructure that OPL has implemented at the HCRPCC makes it adaptable and innovative, allowing new technology to be easily integrated. OPL will continue to monitor its services at the HCRPCC, and the two local bookmobile stops, to ensure that these remote Library services continue to serve the community's needs. We will continue to explore best practices through conversations with libraries in other North American cities who have alternative services. The OPL Bookmobile will continue to attend community functions and OPL staff will continue to offer class visits to children in your community schools.

## **Free Tennis Lessons**

Beginning early May, 2015, the Ottawa Tennis Association will implement "Capital Kids", a community tennis program providing cost-free tennis lessons for children aged 6 to 12. These lessons will be offered at the tennis courts on Owl Drive 2-5 days a week for approximately 16 weeks, with professional certified instructors. Watch for more information in your child's school and elsewhere in the community. Online registrations will be available as of March 2015.

## **Retirees in Motion Ottawa**

Jean-Luc Racine

Through a federal grant issued for Senior Programming to New Horizons, and sponsored by the South-East Ottawa Community Health Center, this new program was launched on September 10th 2014, with 27 persons in attendance. Within 2 months, it has already tripled its membership, to more than 86 members and it keeps growing.

Membership registration is free for the first year, although there are fees attached to some outings/activities. This is a volunteer-based organization which counts on individuals to lead some activities. As membership continues to increase, the organization looks forward to offer a wider selection, reflective of the seasonal interest of the membership.

Activities currently available include:

- Social and Recreation: Flavours of the World, Multi-cultural pot-lucks, the Joyful Songsters, Breakfast Chats
- Travel groups within Canada and abroad
- Cultural and Educational: Watercolour workshops, Art Club, Business Tours, Visits and Day Trips, Writing Circles and Literature, Computer Club, Photo Club.
- Community Involvement program
- Healthy Living and the Outdoors: Hiking/Walking Clubs, Cycling Tours, Golf league, Snowshoeing, Alpine and Cross Country Skiing

Programs are launched 3 times a year, in September, January, and May with most of the activities taking place during the week. The Hunt Club/Riverside Community Center is the first and unique site offering this program; as the membership expands, the organization looks forward to start other groups across the city.

For more information on Retirees in Motion or to register, please call Jean-Luc Racine at 613 612-2119 or go to [www.retireesinmotion.ca/ottawa](http://www.retireesinmotion.ca/ottawa)

## **You are Invited**

With a view towards strengthening health literacy and community engagement, Vanessa Sutton, Public Education Director, Hunt Club Community Organization, will be hosting free monthly information sessions in relation to important community-building topics such as youth mental health, aging with dignity, new citizen orientation, cycling safety and crime prevention. The first session on Youth Mental Health will be held at the Hunt Club Community Centre from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 5, 2015. All are welcome to attend.

## Just For You!

Suzanne O'Byrne (SEOCHC)

Did you know that South-East Ottawa Community Health Centre has a satellite site located in the Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre, 3320 Paul Anka Drive?

The SEOCHC is a non-profit, community-governed organization that provides a range of services to individuals and families including primary health care, health promotion, social services, community development, home support and advocacy to address the social determinants of health. SEOCHC particularly responds to persons who face barriers to accessing health and social services and who live in South-East Ottawa.

It offers programs for young children and youth, adults, families and seniors at low or no cost. For a complete list of programs and services or for more information, visit our web-site at [www.seochc.on.ca](http://www.seochc.on.ca), or contact us at 613-247-1600. You can also drop-in any time to see us! We'd love to meet you.

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