

Hunt Club: My Community



A Celebration of Volunteers

John Sankey & Christine Johnson

(contributions from Lola Sankey & Suzanne O'Byrne)

Most people receive more from giving than from getting. That's what volunteering is about: the joy that volunteers get, that warm, fuzzy feeling inside, from giving of their time to whatever project they choose to donate their time to. New friendships are often an additional benefit awaiting most volunteers.

And, volunteers turn a bunch of people into a community. Whether it's just the gift of a "good morning" with a smile while walking or helping to push a neighbour's car out of a snowdrift, volunteering begins with individual acts of kindness. There are organized ways too to volunteer within our community. Here are some of them.

Our Fall Community Festival

Nothing makes a community event more memorable than good food. Three local residents, a boy scout troop, and eight local businesses donated foods from many national cuisines. We had planned for 400 attendees, but got closer to 600; there were no leftovers.

Metro McCarthy Road manager Cindy Leamen donated drink boxes, bottled water, granola bars and candy packs, and BBQd the 500 hot dogs for our festival. They are a vital part of our community, not only as the sole food store most of us can walk to, but as donor to dozens of our community groups as well, including our Garage Sale. We buy a lot more than groceries when we shop there!

Burrito Gringo 2430 Bank St. co-owners, brother & sister Joa & Claude Nakhle, donated two huge boxes of their hand-made vegetarian Mexican burritos. They received rave reviews from all who tried them at the Festival and justly so. Visiting their restaurant (so new it isn't on Google Street View yet!), they present an awesome array of fillings, toppings and dressings, all freshly prepared that morning. Their 'small' size burrito contains more moist and tasty food than most establishments' large size. I highly recommend them.

SemSem's Mayssaa Chaltaf and business partner Mohamed Al-Abed donated several trays of their delicious home-made foods. Many of their dishes focus on sesame, the seed that traditionally brings health, happiness and increased energy around the world. For example, their signature coffee has a touch of sesame paste

mixed in and is topped with whipped cream sprinkled with sesame seeds. Lola's personal recommendation is their warm and crispy coffee buns, which are handmade in the restaurant. Every table was full when we visited for lunch, most with repeat customers, many with young and adorable children. Everything is freshly made, and comes in generous servings. Visit them, on the NW corner of Bank St. and Hunt Club beside Burrito Gringo, for a wonderful eating experience.

T&T Supermarket manager Jimmy Wen has been a generous donor of food to our Festival for two years now - 8.5 kg of frozen Chinese dumplings each year. I normally find shopping a chore to get over with as quickly as possible, but not at T&T; it's the most entertaining food store there is with an awesome array of modern food specialties from all over Asia. I bring guests to their cafeteria often, sit at a sunny table with them to enjoy dim sum and company, then follow them as they explore the store after.

The Lone Star Texas Grill Hunt Club Manager, Craig "Bucket" Wilcox, generously donated several large bags of nacho chips and salsa for our Community Festival. Needless to say, these were a hit. Thank you so much Mr. Wilcox, your support was much appreciated.

John Sankey: Cooking from the web is fun, as long as you use an expert-written site not an anyone-can-contribute one. When I googled "baked Italian gnocchi", I had lots of hits ranging from insanely complex to easy-as-you-get. I chose About.com's "Baked Gnocchi with Tomatoes and Fresh Mozzarella" and their "Simple Fresh Tomato Sauce Recipe". Simple indeed, easy to make and tasted great. The only problem was quantity: one Nicasastro gnocchi weighs 6 g, so 3.6 kg (the biggest baking tray I had) divided among 300 people is only 2 gnocchis each! It ran out early, but so did all other dishes we served. Next year, I'll look for a larger baking tray.

Christine Johnson: Not much of a domestic diva but an enthusiastic learner, I went the web way as well. I got lucky when looking for a Somali rice dish with spices (Bariis Isku Karis), choosing the second entry that popped up from 'The Somali Kitchen' website. Their tag line of 'Bringing people and cultures together through food' sold me, along with the clearly written and easy to follow recipe. Once I had decided that doubling the recipe should fill up the container that I had, away I went. My husband was so impressed with the aromatic flavours emanating from the kitchen that he had to serve himself up a large plateful - to make sure that it was suitable fare for our fine community. Next year though, I'll quadruple the recipe. Thanks to the

community centre for providing me with most of the ingredients, that they had on hand!

And what about those little cookie type nuggets? Well, they are called 'chinchins', and are especially popular in Nigeria (and a few other West African countries), where they are mostly eaten during festival periods and special ceremonies such as weddings, etc. Nowadays chinchins are sold and eaten as snacks everywhere in that part of Africa. Our own chinchin provider, Ijeoma Udechukwu, says that to make a perfect batch of chinchins takes four to six hours. Her ingredients are flour, sugar, butter, baking powder, eggs, salt, spices and cooking oil. Be careful - they can be addictive!

The 11th Ottawa troop of Boy Scouts boiled 12 dozen corn-on-the-cob, Cineplex Odeon South Keys donated bags of popcorn, Tim Hortons 372 Hunt Club Road donated Timbits, and David's Pizza & Shawarma a pizza prize. John Sankey, Ijeoma Udechukwu and Mary Khazel cleaned up the pots and pans afterward.

To get involved in the 2017 festival email our community center at hcrcc@ottawa.ca

Adopt-a-Street/Park Program

Our city has a program whereby organizations or individuals can volunteer to adopt a street or park: they agree to clean up litter etc. at least twice a year. Most of us do more.

Our premier volunteer is Liz Russell, who has adopted McCarthy Road, every street east, and Owl Park. It's a massive effort, one that immeasurably improves the friendliness of the original Western Community. Christine Johnson leads the HCCO adoption of Paul Landry Park, importuning the city for park improvements and rallying the adjacent community behind her. She is aided in Paul Landry by Celsa Barnhardt, Dianne Nahal and John Sankey. John has also adopted Uplands Park, where his three youngest granddaughters play, and is the Stream Watcher for Hunt Club Creek, a similar role under joint city/RVCA management, where he is assisted by Peter Foulger. The residents of Erin Crescent have adopted their street. And, Margaret Bristow has adopted Old Riverside Drive, Rivergate Way and adjacent Riverside Drive and leads the maintenance of a lovely curbside garden there.

All of us volunteers invite you, our neighbour, to join us in making our community a more people-friendly place. Contact our Councillor: Riley.Brockington@ottawa.ca

Hunt Club Community Organization

The HCCO is our local community association, 100% volunteer, that provides a united voice on matters which we would like to see changed or initiated. For example, the work of volunteers along with motions passed at our monthly meetings about the current upgrading of Paul Landry Park are shared with Councillor Brockington, who then does what he can to support

us through City staff resources and funds. Ten directors, including a Treasurer, a Secretary and a Vice President work with the President to keep our community's matters on the radar of our councillor, of other community members and of local businesses. We are constantly seeking to forge strong partnerships with all our community: residents, businesses, community centre, SEOCHC and municipal, provincial and federal elected representatives.

We meet the first Monday of every month from September to June, at 7 pm at our community centre. We invite all residents to become members (\$10 for a family living at the same residence), to show your support and to have voting rights on issues. We're looking forward to seeing you on December 5th.

Our Newsletter

Hunt Club: My Community was initiated four years ago. It's all volunteer except for the printing cost. We've grown from six community volunteers who delivered our very first issue back in January 2013 to 52 volunteers who delivered this December issue. We welcome more volunteers for this task, as our goal is to have all our streets covered by people who actually live on that street. If you would like to help out, please contact christine-ottawa@sympatico.ca. We deliver 3,000 copies per issue: March, June, September and December.

John Sankey has been our trusted layout master, with the Editor job shared first by Christine Johnson and now by Sue McCarthy. John and Christine look after the production and distribution coordination, and Christine finds our sponsors on whom we count to offset the printing cost.

We are most grateful to all current and past sponsors and encourage you to support them. To see all past issues of our publication, just go to our website <http://hunt-club.ncf.ca/> (designed and managed by John) and click on Hunt Club: My Community. We've had many community members contribute articles to our newsletter and always welcome new ones. Please send in your article ideas or completed pieces to suemccarthy1952@gmail.com.

Volunteering in our community has created a whole new network of contacts for many of us and has allowed us to find shared interests and discuss ideas to make our Hunt Club community a more vibrant place to live.

In celebration of completing our first four years, kicking off our 5th year of publication as of March 2017, and to especially thank all those who are making this project a success, volunteers will be invited to attend a reception where food and refreshments will be offered in your honour as a way to thank you for your help over the past four years. Whether you are a brand new volunteer or have been with us from the beginning in 2013, we hope you'll be able join us for this event.



Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch is a volunteer program to help neighbours watch out for neighbours, to discourage crime at the local level. A police officer driving through your community may not recognize a stranger in your yard, but your neighbour can.

What prompts many to get involved is ongoing issues in their neighbourhood park: vandalism, smoking of drugs and drinking in areas designed for small children. People aren't comfortable bringing their kids to play in such a situation.

With assistance from your councillor and a Community Police Officer, you can start a Watch. The hardest part of starting one from scratch is going door to door and signing up neighbours, especially those who come from areas of the world where police are more feared than all but the worst criminals. It's easier to extend one that already exists if there's one close enough.

Having a Watch in your community will help to reduce crime. If nothing else, would-be thieves recognize a Watch sign and tend to go somewhere else. Watch member photos of suspicious people in the neighbourhood have helped identify and arrest many people responsible for multiple break-ins in our city. Neighbours join because they hear from others about the positive effects your Watch has had. Even though the politicians and community police officers change over the years, the message remains the same: keep a watchful eye out and report any suspicious activity.

The HCCO encourages everyone to find out who their nearest co-coordinator or block captain are and join up. Follow the signs! There are 8 watches in Hunt Club, with a total of about 500 homes. That's a lot of volunteers helping to make our community safer. You'll feel safer too when you join us.

Maintain Community Rinks

Our outdoor skating rinks at McCarthy and Owl parks are mostly maintained by a dozen or so volunteers. We are motivated by community spirit and by the joy of seeing youngsters learn how to skate, not to mention being able to skate ourselves close to home.

To join us, email seasonalrecreation@ottawa.ca

Hunt Club Cares Garage Sale

This annual event is also run by volunteers: Linda King (linda@lindaking.com), Brian Ward, Denis Aubin and Allison Malloy, with sponsors Metro McCarthy Rd. and Capital Dental Centre.

This June it enabled 55 households to meet our neighbours and get rid of excess things clogging up our cellars while contributing \$1000 to our Community Health Center summer camp fund.

HCCO Has its First Plant Exchange

Dianne Nahal & Alexis Doyle

Success, Success, Success:

The HCCO led by volunteer Alexis Doyle partnered with the Ottawa Plantcycle Facebook group headed by Viv Griffin to hold a free plant exchange as part of Hunt Club's Community Festival. Thanks to a request from John Sankey, Viv and about 80 of the 2000 group members attended, bringing and exchanging plants. Social media callouts by Ottawa Plantcycle and HCCO resulted in donations of about 200 perennials, annuals, indoor plants, herbs, and about 50 pots.

With volunteers Eva Baldock, Monique Belliveau, Kimber Doyle, Joanne Fairbairne, Dianne Nahal and Arthur Sankey assisting Alexis and Viv to organize the plants coming in, going out, and sharing their knowledge, the morning went by very quickly.

We felt this event was a great success, and look forward to having another plant exchange. It was great to see people of all ages enjoying the activity of this awesome event. The success of this event means that this is a must have for next year's festival!

Art Club

Dianne Nahal

Since September, a drop-in art club has been meeting every Tuesday at 9:30 am at the Hunt Club Riverside Community Centre. Information about the club was publicized through flyers, on HCCO Facebook and with Councillor Riley Brockington. This is a non profit club for adults with creative minds to help, share and engage together for a small drop in fee of \$2 to help pay for the room. This session will finish on Dec. 6, 2016 and will hopefully resume again in January 2017.

If you are curious or would like to see what we are about please feel free to drop in, or contact me through email at d.arts@bell.net Bring your thoughts, inspiration, ideas, and create with others from the community. Build a strong connection within yourself and others, as a club of artistically active people. Use a media that work for you: paint, canvas, wood, coloured pencils, supplies from your home....

South-East Ottawa Community Health Centre Welcomes Volunteers

SEOCHC is a non-profit, community-governed organization that provides a range of health and social services to clients who live in South-East Ottawa. Most programs are offered at the main site, 1355 Bank Street, 6th Floor, across from Billings Bridge Shopping Centre. A satellite site at 3320 Paul Anka Drive, in the Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre also offers programs at low or no cost.

Volunteers are critical to the Centre! We are always looking for motivated and dedicated community members to join our dynamic volunteer team.

For a complete list of programs and services offered at our sites visit our web-site at www.seochc.on.ca. For more information on how to become a volunteer, contact Nicole Li at 613-737-5115 ext. 2294 or nicolel@seochc.on.ca. You can also follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

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If you have an article that you would like to submit for our next issue, e-mail it to suemccarthy1952@gmail.com. We welcome your ideas for future issues; please submit them to us or come to our monthly meetings to discuss them.

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

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