

Hunt Club: My Community



Our New Name

At HCCO's 2018 Annual General Meeting, the decision was made to officially change our name from The Hunt Club Community Organization to the Hunt Club Community Association.

The change in name means we will be more consistent with other community associations in the city, leading to better identification with our local stakeholders and it better reflects the important work we do.

The Hunt Club Community Association will continue to offer a strong voice for our community. We will advocate the interests of Hunt Club to all levels of government as well as undertaking projects that maintain and improve the residential character, environment, and quality of life for all in our community!

Tips on being Plastic Smart this Christmas

Pascal Lacombe

'Tis the season for twinkling lights, playing in the snow, singing carols, and...so much plastic. Walk into any toy store and you may be overwhelmed by the amount of plastic. I know it can be difficult (if not impossible) to eliminate plastics from gift giving. However, I also believe in not giving the children we love mountains of plastic pollution that will contaminate their environment. After all, they are the ones who will have to deal with this mounting pile of non-degradable garbage and I bet that's not the gift you had in mind. Here are a few tips on reducing your plastic waste this Holiday Season:

1. **Just Buy Less:** It's easy to get carried away but consider just buying less (you'll be thankful when you receive your credit card bill in January). Research has shown that children engage in more imaginative play when they have access to fewer toys and that too many toys can negatively affect their mental well-being (just like clutter is a source of stress for grown-ups!).

2. **Consider Alternatives:** A variety of well-crafted wooden toys make wonderful presents. Also a hit among children are books, magazine subscriptions and creative cardboard box houses, spaceships and trucks - homemade and available for purchase.

3. **Buy Second Hand:** Think the kids will mind that it's not in the original packaging? It just means they get to play right away instead of watching you struggle with the box for 45 minutes (and it's good for your wallet too).

4. **Buy Gifts that are Not Things:** Older children especially may enjoy passes to the museum, movies, sporting event or even your local trampoline park (bonus, you get to spend extra fun time together).

5. **Buy Recycled:** Some plastic toys are made of recycled materials (and are just as much fun as their made-new counterparts).

6. **Consider the Longevity and Use of the Toy:** Will the child quickly outgrow or lose interest in the toy? Is the plastic toy being purchased as something you can really see the child playing with or is it just an add-on (to fill a stocking for example)? These are all signs that it's probably best to leave it at the store.

7. **Place those Gifts under a Local Tree:** An artificial Christmas tree may seem like a great way to save the forest but that tree will be on this planet for hundreds of years while your real Christmas tree is compostable (plus it smells a lot nicer)! Many local farms sell sustainable trees grown just for the Holidays and they'll even provide you with a saw if you want to cut your own (and possibly a hot chocolate too so don't forget your reusable cup)!

Wishing you lots of joy and less plastic this Holiday Season!

Pascal Lacombe is a member of the Ottawa South Eco-Action Network; @OttawaSouthEcoAction, oseau.info@gmail.com

Brief Update from Councillor Riley Brockington

Operation Big Turkey

All residents of the Hunt Club community are invited to attend a traditional community Christmas Eve dinner, on December 24, any time between 2:30-4:30pm at the Hunt Club Riverside Park Community Centre, located at 3320 Paul Anka Drive. I am pleased to support this community event, to ensure all residents enjoy a Christmas dinner.

Taggart Development Proposal Riverside at Hunt Club

City staff and Taggart Developments Inc. continue to review and discuss the components of the application to rezone 20 acres of land at the north-west corner of the Riverside/Hunt Club intersection. It is my intention to host a second Public Information Session once the details of the proposed development have been further refined. As previously stated, I am concerned with the current traffic challenges in the vicinity and this development will further exacerbate them, with no proposed relief. This remains unacceptable.

Why the Bagpipes

Debbie Ahronson

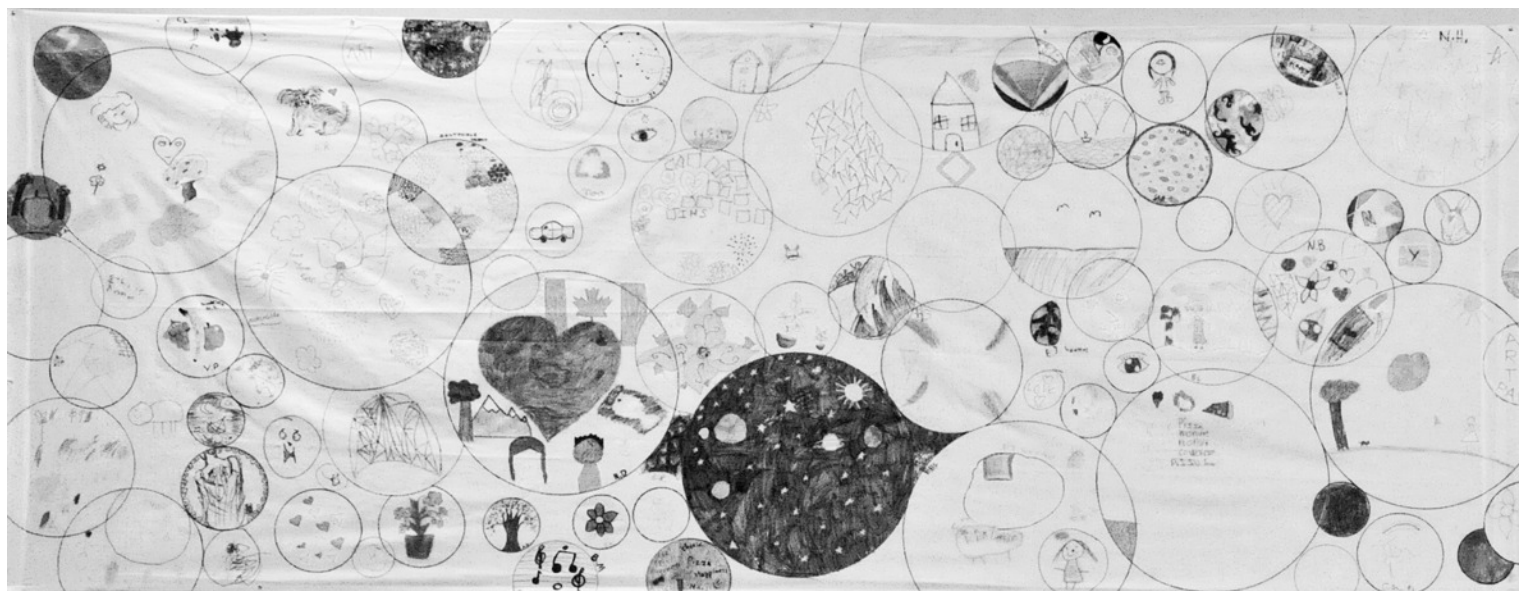
I was outside my condo with my bagpipes practicing for an upcoming competition when a voice across Uplands Drive called out "Leaving Liverpool". Wow, I thought. I must be getting better at this. Someone actually recognized what I was playing. It was my neighbour Sue McCarthy who, it turns out, has a musical background. Always on the lookout for interesting stories, Sue asked if I would mind giving some insight into why I took up the bagpipes. This is a question I often ask myself.

We were at the highland games in Almonte fourteen years ago with our good friends the Turcottes. Moe Turcotte had expressed an interest in joining a band as a tenor drummer and his son Eric was interested in pursuing either the pipes or snare drum. Our son, Mike, who had just completed his first year in army cadets, was determined to play the pipes and desperately tried to convince us to buy bagpipes that very day. The answer was a definite no. We figured by the time we got home that our fourteen year old would have forgotten about it. He didn't forget and even found an old set of pipes at the cadet corps that we refurbished for him with permission from the Corps. They also gave us the name of a good teacher, Beth Bisailon, Pipe Major of the oldest civilian pipe band in Canada, The Sons of Scotland. She suggested Mike come out to her band for extra playing time along with Moe and Eric; Moe on tenor drum and Eric on snare.

Jan Turcotte and I often followed our boys while they paraded. Jan said that we might as well join the band since we spent the majority of our time there anyway. The rest is history. Jan joined Moe for a time as a tenor drummer and then switched to bagpipes a few years later. For awhile there were five of us from two families and another neighbour in the same band. All have moved on from the band to pursue other interests except me.

It has been a journey to say the least. I watched Mike for a year, who caught on quickly. How hard can it be? There are after all only nine notes. Nine notes and umpteen embellishments, memorizing numerous tunes because there is no place to hang music; trying to keep the three drones going and sounding like one; and remembering to blow and squeeze to keep everything sounding nice and steady. All this is easier for a fourteen year old because they have an ability to do these things without thinking and analyzing. Not so easy for a fifty-one year old! Did I mention that while doing all this stuff, you are required to march in unison like the military or march in winter parades where mitts are not an option?

Yet, fourteen years later, I am still at it. Why? Because of the community events such as walk-a-thons for dementia and cancer, the concerts at seniors' residences and being asked to play for dignitaries. Some band members played in France at Vimy last year and during a trip to China. Last August, band members played for the Queen at Balmoral Castle. There are lots of opportunities to play and everyone is encouraged no matter what their abilities. You just have to show up with a great attitude.



Community Fabric Banner

Dianne Nahal

Earlier this year, a sub-group of the Hunt Club Community Association applied for and received a grant to hold three events this past summer.

The Community Fabric Banner Artwork was one of the projects and work began during the "Arts in the Park" community event at Paul Landry Park on June 2nd, 2018, with great participation from the community.

The banner was first displayed for four weeks, attached to the basketball fence at Paul Landry Park, until the opening of the new play structure on June 30th. After the grand opening many people stayed and continued to work on the banner for a couple of hours.

The final stage of this artistic project was completed at the Community Centre with the help of the creative youth from the After-School Program. Thank you to the many participants who helped make this beautiful eighteen foot long fabric piece of artwork.

The full-colour banner will be on display at the entrance of our Community Centre until the New Year. Don't miss it!

Gifted Negotiators

Matthew Page

Abby stared at Samuel. Samuel stared back at Abby.

Abby was seated on the big couch, curled up with her blanket, nestled in her mother's arms, and basking in the glow of the Christmas tree. On the coffee table was a nearly full mug of hot chocolate with the marshmallows already fished out and eaten. Beside it, a plate sprinkled with only the crumbs of home baked sugar cookies.

"Honey," Abby's mother whispered. "Are you still awake?"

Abby didn't answer. She closed her eyes, nuzzled her blanket, and let out a small sigh. Very carefully, Abby's mother slipped out from under what she thought was her sleeping daughter and quietly collected the mug and plate from the table, carrying them to the kitchen to tidy up for the night.

As soon as her mother was out of the room, Abby bolted up straight and locked eyes with Samuel. She knew she didn't have much time.

Samuel, the elf, was seated on the TV stand, one of his arms wrapped around a candy cane striped candle. His watchful eyes stared back at Abby, his smile permanent and knowing. He had been watching Abby since December 1st. Samuel had set up new posts nightly to monitor her and report back to Santa. He had spied on her from the mantle, snooped from the bookshelf, and tried to camouflage his surveillance from the branches of the Christmas tree. Abby had even woken up once with Samuel looking down on her from her bedside table.

Thing is, Samuel had been seated on the TV stand, cozied up to that same candle, for the past four days. He hadn't moved a muscle. He wasn't doing his job - Santa would be upset. Now was her chance.

"Hey, Samuel," Abby said, as loud as she dared.

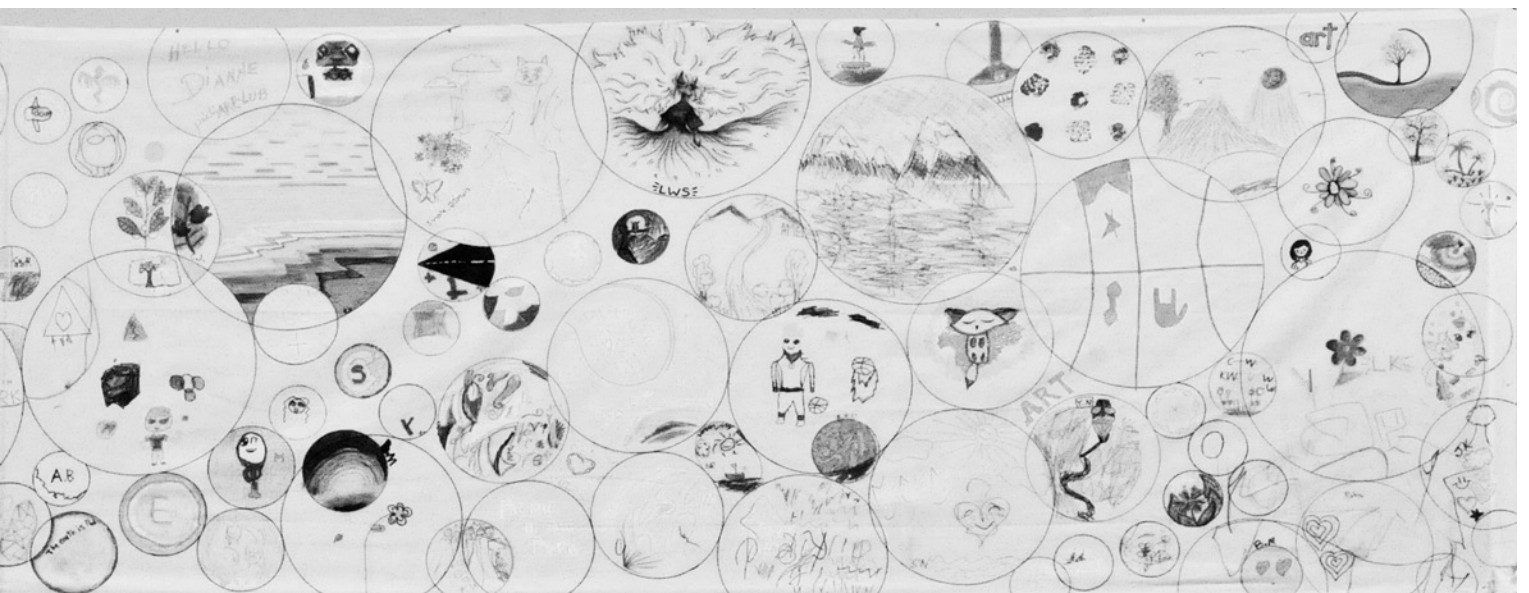
Samuel stared and smiled.

"Look, we both know you haven't been doing your job. Santa would be real mad if he found out. I can write him a letter, you know? I have his address at the North Pole."

Samuel stared and smiled. Abby pressed on.

"But I won't, if you don't tell him about the chocolates. Deal?"

Before Samuel could answer, Abby heard her mother's footsteps approaching, and the tiny negotiator crumpled like a rag doll, pretending to again be asleep. Abby's mother lovingly scooped her up to carry her daughter to bed. As they left the room, Abby peeked over her mother's shoulder and swore that Samuel had lost his smile. She had made her point.



Welcome to New HCCA Board Members

Please join us in welcoming the new members elected to the HCCA Board at the AGM on November 5th: Dianne Nahal, Lynette Joseph and Abiodun Mosuro. Dianne has been a long time volunteer with HCCA and runs the drop in Art Club at the Community Centre. Lynette has also been volunteering at our events and she and Abiodun have been attending HCCA's monthly meetings. It's a pleasure to have new directors who will provide fresh insights and bring new energy in tackling the many challenges and opportunities that this community offers.

The board recently met at President Brian Wade's place to socialize and get to know each other. We were treated to Brian's fabulous Apple Cheese soup and other delicacies.

We'd also like to thank departing Directors Ijeoma Udechukwu who likely will be focussing more on her work with South East Ottawa Community Health Centre (SEOCHC) and Dan Kaplansky. We appreciate Ijeoma and Dan's contributions over the years.

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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 write us or come to our monthly meetings to discuss them.

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

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Mercredi/Wednesday	9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Jeudi/Thursday	9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Vendredi/Friday	9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Samedi/Saturday	9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



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