

Hunt Club: My Community



Independent Travel

Allan Viehbeck

Have you ever gone on a river cruise or bus tour in Europe? Most people who do fly right back home once the event is over. Some may extend their vacation by a day or two, however, the cost per person per day for this kind of travel is relatively high - about Cdn\$600.00 per person for each day of travel in most cases. I'm suggesting a way to extend your vacation for a fraction of the cost of your organized trip.

Next time you book a tour or cruise, look at your final destination and plan to extend your trip for a week to ten days by rail from that point. Rail travel in Europe is relatively inexpensive and trains go almost everywhere. They leave you at the station in or near the centre of the places you will visit, which is where most of the interesting things to see are found. Hotels are plentiful near train stations and available at a variety of price points. While it will take some time to plan and organize on your part, the rewards in terms of sightseeing and cost savings will justify the effort.

My wife and I always wanted to see the Alps so we booked a bus tour that took us through the Bavarian, Austrian and Swiss Alps finishing in Zurich Switzerland. Eleven travel days, plus a day at the front and back ends for a total of thirteen days. Had we stopped and flew back to Ottawa, our cost per person day of travel would have been about \$575. But we took the opportunity to see some of Germany and extended the trip by two weeks. We visited eight cities by train that included eight days of travel. All costs including train, hotels, taxis, meals, entrance fees and miscellaneous items came to a grand total of \$6,200. In other words, just under 50% of what the escorted part of our trip costs. Quite a large saving in favour of independent travel.

The best source of information for train travel in Europe is "the man in seat 61", www.seat61.com. This site covers everything you need to know about how trains work in Europe. However, the best site to see where trains go is the German National Railroad web site, www.bahn.com which covers all of Europe, not just Germany. Type in your point of departure and your destination, plus your earliest departure time, and up comes your choices of train times, transfer points even the track numbers - everything you need to plan your travel from one point to another. If your travel is within Germany, you can even buy your tickets on line and download them to your smart phone or print them at home.

Before starting, decide where to go, how long you want to stay at each location, and what you want to see and visit. Research always pays off and a Library Card is a must. I use Rick Steves' books, Lonely Planet, Frommers, Trip Advisor, and search Google by place name followed by "tourist information". Once you have an itinerary, use any of the hotel travel booking sites to find suitable hotels.

I hope this encourages you to strike out on your own and experience independent travel first hand. As Rick Steves says, "keep on travelling".

HIPPY - Helping Parents Since 2008

Monique Best

Over the past 10 years, Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) has provided Ottawa families structured lesson plans, practical information and community resources that develop mothers' parenting skills and ensure their children have a better opportunity to succeed in school. Ninety-one families enrolled last year, with more than half coming from the Ottawa South area: a record high.

The program, offered in Ottawa thanks to the Vanier Community Service Centre, delivers a win-win-win package. HIPPY parents, usually newcomer mothers, are at the forefront gaining confidence in their role as their child's first and best teacher, improving language skills, and spending more time learning activities and building a strong relationship with their children.

The HIPPY Children are the beneficiaries of the program. Home visitors do not work with the child per se, but with the mother who reproduces the learning activities practiced during home visits with her child five times a week.

Last, but not least, the HIPPY Home Visitors benefit from workplace training, where they participate in weekly role-play sessions, community resource mapping, goal-setting and job-search support to transition to other jobs and/or higher education. The Home visitors' position is often a first-time work placement for newcomers or HIPPY mothers. After a maximum of three years as a Home Visitor, these women are employable members of society who contribute to the economic well-being of their families and communities.

For more information, contact Monique Best, HIPPY Coordinator, 613 744-2892, Ext. 1075

Loving the 'hood!

Carole Haussier

Thirty five years ago, my husband, my pregnant belly and I moved to Ottawa from our home town of Montreal. We were used to the vibrant night life of St. Catherine Street, the organized queuing for buses and cuisine extraordinaire. Things seemed different here in Ottawa; just where did people go after work? Home, it seemed, and we were surprised by just how easy it was to slip into this new and more subdued lifestyle.

We found a home in the Hunt Club area on wonderful Sample Road. The neighbourhood was just a few years old at that time, and other young families, like us, were just starting out. We loved the location and still do - it is perfect! We are close to a strip mall housing a grocery store, a drug store, a bank, a hairdresser, a dry cleaner, a travel agency, and various places to eat. What more do you need?

The Community Centre had just opened its doors, and it still continues to offer a variety of interesting courses and activities. The Ottawa Library's Bookmobile stops once a week at the Hunt Club Centre on McCarthy Road. We are close to reliable bus routes and have easy access to South Keys. Nearby Hunt Club Road takes us right across the city. But, in my book nothing compares to the most beautiful drive in the city - heading downtown by way of Hogs Back and then following the canal into downtown Ottawa. The green towers of Parliament Hill and the Chateau Laurier provide a dramatic skyline. Glorious.

And here on Sample Road the people we met when we moved here are still dear friends. Several of us with new babies formed a Bridge Club that met on Thursday nights. Thirty-one years and counting, we still meet. Our babies have grown, several moves have taken place, and our hair is getting greyer, but the solid Sample Road friendships formed so many years ago have weathered the test of time. We also hold an annual street party. Lawn chairs are put out front and tables are set up for Sample Roadies to share salads and desserts. We barbecue up our own main courses and join our neighbours for an evening of laughter and camaraderie. About 13 years ago, a Book Club was formed, and now we meet once a month to discuss a variety of wonderful books. It's a great thing knowing your neighbours! And it is fun for me to see that Sample Road is becoming young again, with lots of new children playing outside.

On a recent trip to Paris, I met a lady at the Charles de Gaulle airport who was asking for directions to the metro. I detected a North American accent and asked

where she was from. "Canada," she replied. "Us too!" I said excitedly. "Whereabouts?" "I'm from Ottawa," she shared. "Oh for heaven sake. Us too!" I said in disbelief. "Where in Ottawa?" "The Hunt Club area," she answered. "You're kidding!" I laughed. "So are we! We live on Sample Road." The woman stopped in shock for a moment. "So do I," she said.

How lucky I felt. Yet another new friend and neighbour!

Delayed Fuse on Hunt Club Road

Peter Brimacombe

On January 23, 2018, City Planning Committee approved a development at 1026 Hunt Club Road for a retirement home and hotel. The proposed development is just west of the intersection with the Airport Parkway, the most complex intersection in the City. It will generate only 100 vehicles an hour but this will result in more accidents as there are no turning lanes and no traffic lights. Access in and out of the proposed development requires U-turns on Hunt Club Road.

Hunt Club Road is the most heavily used arterial in the City. Aside from the 417, it is the main east west route across the City, connecting the 417 to the 416. The businesses along Hunt Club Road represent an investment of billions of dollars - they need the Road to work. Accidents at this site will cause delays. As they add up, City Staff will be asked for ways to mitigate the problem. The solution is simple - extend Wyman Crescent to join Hunt Club Road and make it a secondary parallel road. However there would be a huge increase in traffic that would drastically change the character and nature of Wyman Crescent, and would be totally opposed by the residents. This is why Councillor Diane Deans spoke so vigorously against the development at Planning Committee.

So, if this development is contrary to the interests of business and of the community, why did Planning Committee vote for it? Because if the Committee had rejected the proposal, the developers would have appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB), resulting in substantial costs to the city as the OMB rules favour developers. Unfortunately, the application for development was submitted just before the OMB was replaced by the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal, which will provide a more balanced appeal process.

On January 23, I spoke before Planning Committee. The points I made were not refuted. The ordinary political process is exhausted but given the long-term damage the development will cause, the City or Province should expiate.

A Record Breaking Summer

Judy Burwell

How many times this summer did someone greet you with "hot enough for ya?". During July, Ottawa bravely held its own with other cities around the globe experiencing record-breaking temperatures. A Facebook post I saw looked as if there was a huge red belt around the world that stretched from the far north to the far south. So, yeah, it was hot.

The culprit, of course, is climate change and the results are becoming all too familiar ... devastating hurricanes, wildfires and forest fires, floods, searing summer temperatures and bone chilling winter temperatures. It's not going to go away. The scientific community is stressing the need to act now if we want to protect the planet for our children and grandchildren.

Clearly, the big solutions require strong action from our elected officials. Governments need to approve laws that will reduce wasteful over packaging, ban single use plastic (it's happening in cities across the country), provide incentives to companies and homeowners to switch to energy saving techniques, and introduce and support renewable energy projects. We can help them accomplish this by keeping in touch and reinforcing our concerns and our expectations for realistic and viable solutions.

Next, it's important to look at what we, as individuals can do. I'm starting with single use plastics. The statistics can make your head spin. For instance, Greenpeace tells us that almost 10,000 tonnes of plastic enter the Great Lakes each year and the equivalent of a truck-load of plastic enters the oceans every minute. In Canada, about 3 million tonnes of waste plastic is generated each year and only 10-12% is recycled ... that's a lot of plastic lying around in landfills, or worse, in our forests, parks, rivers and lakes - all those places where we go to enjoy nature.

The impact of all this plastic in our waterways is overwhelming. Each year millions of birds and other marine species die from ingesting plastic that we used once and then threw away. We can do something about that by making a few simple changes. Here are some suggestions to get you started:

- Ditch the plastic water bottle and carry your own reusable bottle. Those plastic bottles lying around take hundreds of years to break down.
- Use cloth bags for grocery shopping. Cities like Montreal, Victoria, Fort McMurray and many others are banning the use of plastic grocery bags. Let's encourage Ottawa to jump on the bandwagon.
- Plastic straws - even the Queen doesn't like them! You can now purchase your own reusable stainless steel straw. It will come in handy when you find yourself in a coffee shop, pub or restaurant where plastic straws no longer exist (it's going to happen). To avoid eating with plastic cutlery, you might also like to add a Spork (combination spoon and fork) to your backpack - less than \$5.00 at MEC.

Simply by making these three things a habit, you will be making a difference. Birds, marine life and the environment will thank you for it.

Judy Burwell is a member of The Ottawa South Eco-Action Network (OSEAN). You can contact OSEAN at osean.info@gmail.com or join us on Facebook @Ottawa-SouthEcoAction

The Lowdown on the Locals

Cindy Missen Ross

I'm back and bringing you the down-low on another local establishment. Although not a typical 'local' in the traditional sense of the word Pub, the Moxie's at 3967 Riverside Drive is, most certainly, local.

The space is open, airy, and the decor is modern and sleek. Patrons do not need to dress up but the experience provided makes one feel comfortably pampered.

The staff is efficient, friendly and attentive. A server quickly welcomes you and offers to take your beverage order from a wide and changing menu that offers daily specials, seasonal concoctions and their own Big Life craft beer. I would be remiss if I didn't draw attention to Happy Hour from 3 to 6 pm with its own snack menu or the half price for bottles of wine on Wednesdays to help ease the pain of 'hump day'.

The menu is far too broad to break down in this small column but, I can confidently report that there is something for everyone. The Chef draws inspiration from seasonal foods, international flavour palates and current food trends to invent incredibly complex and innovative offerings across the menu's subsections. From sharing plates to burgers, sandwiches and salads to entrees and desserts, the food is both beautifully plated and delicious.

It may feel like a special-occasion place, and it certainly would serve as a great venue to host a celebration, but it is also a fabulous local option for a casual place to meet.

No matter what your reason for going, or what you choose from the menus, you will leave feeling satisfied, appreciated and maybe a little bit special.

Don't miss our Annual Fall Festival!

September 8th, 11 am to 3 pm
McCarthy Park, 3320 Paul Anka Drive

Free food, musical entertainment, workshops, exhibitors, bouncy castle, games, plant exchange, bookmobile, and more...

If it rains, we move next door to the Hunt Club Community Center.

See You There!

"Hunt Club Cares" Garage Sale raised \$4,029!

Because of all your efforts, the SEOCHC was able to include 15-20 more children in their summer programs.

A very special thank you to Dr. Eva Furesz's estate who donated the ENTIRE proceeds of the sale to the kids. Denis Aubin, her neighbour, volunteered to facilitate the total process from beginning to end and now joined my team to become the director of fundraising.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday June 8th, 2019 for the 5th Annual Garage Sale and watch for details in the March newsletter. This community is indeed one who cares so thank you to all who participated. See you next year.

Linda King. Chairperson
linda@lindaking.com

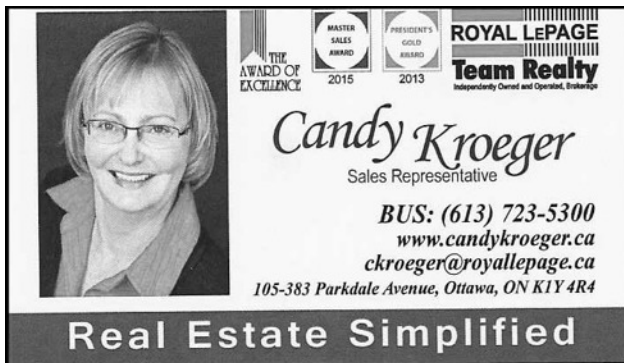
Hunt Club: My Community is published by the Hunt Club Community Organization
3320 Paul Anka Drive, Ottawa K1V 0J9
Web: <http://hunt-club.ncf.ca>
Facebook: HuntClubCommunityAssociation
Twitter: HuntClubCA

Editor: Sue McCarthy
Distribution & sponsors: Christine Johnson
Layout & graphics: John Sankey

Distribution is free to Hunt Club homes and businesses. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily of the HCCO. Press run this issue: 3000

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 who make Hunt Club: My Community possible and ask that you support them.



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