

Hunt Club: My Community



Library Services Matter in Our Community

Christine Johnson

Did you know that we are the only ward in Ottawa without a library branch? Things improved in 2010 when the Ottawa Public Library (OPL) opened a kiosk in our community centre to dispense books, DVDs, and museum passes. Hold lockers were installed in August 2014, for patrons to pick up reserved OPL materials.

Recently we learned that the OPL board recommended that the kiosk be operated only until the end of the machine's lifecycle, expected sometime in 2022. Locker services could disappear as early as 2020. The rationale is that both services have been underused and therefore long-term operation cannot be justified. The OPL Board recommendation states that the bookmobile will suffice to meet the needs of our community members.

HCCA learned of this decision from an article in 'Your Community Voice'; we had neither been consulted nor invited to provide any feedback to the OPL. We immediately circulated a 'Library Services Matter in Hunt Club' survey to our community members to express their concerns.

From this survey we learned that many people did not even know about the hold locker service. Many didn't know how to use it, and there was concern regarding limited and unvaried materials in the dispensing machine.

On behalf of HCCA, Councillor Brockington invited staff from the OPL to attend our February monthly meeting to discuss this decision. Thanks to Councillor Brockington's public advertising, the meeting was well attended with a powerful outcome: a partnership has been forged with the OPL, South East Ottawa Community Health Services (SEOCHC), HCCA and Councillor Brockington to work together on strategies to preserve and improve future library services offered to our Hunt Club community members.

We have now launched a second "Library Services Matter in Hunt Club" survey. The objective is to hear what library programs and services are important to you: services we don't have but are available at other branches across the City. This survey can be accessed on our website at <http://hunt-club.ca> or you can pick up a hard copy at the Community Centre info counter and leave your completed survey there. Closing date is 31 March.

To stay informed about this and other local news relevant to our community, consider becoming a member of our Hunt Club Community Association (annual membership fee is \$10.00). HCCA membership forms are available at the service counter of our community centre. You can leave your application and fee at the service desk and pick up your membership card the following week.

Spring Clean Up at Paul Landry Park

All people of the community are welcome to participate

Meet at 10 am on Saturday 4 May at the Uplands end of the park (just south of Paul Anka Drive, next to the play structures). Bags and gloves on site. Join your neighbours & friends in exploring our park and getting it ready for this summer's events.

Rain date: Sunday 5 May.

TD Park People Events this June in Paul Landry Park (dependent upon grant approval):

The Great Give Away / Take Away / Play Day

Saturday 1 June 11 am to 4 pm

Follow up your spring cleaning by offering up your 'treasures' for others in the community to repurpose them. Start putting aside items that you no longer use but that are in good condition: books, CDs, DVDs, furniture and small appliances, sports equipment and toys, tools, yard and gardening equipment, kitchen gadgets, dishes, cutlery, pots & pans, unwanted gifts, electronics, clothing, holiday decorations. Enjoy some collective outdoor games, Mōlky and others.

Arts in the Park

Saturday 15 June 11 am to 4 pm

Interactive visual arts, music, dance, literary & crafting activities for young and old alike. Try your hand at painting on canvas! Share your instrumental playing. Displays of local artists' works, dance, singing & ukulele workshops. Free food and refreshments. Come, share and be part of this free creative experience.

Picnic in the Park

Saturday 29 June 11:30 am to 2:30 pm

Bring your blanket, your friends, outdoor play equipment & your favourite picnic foods. Also enjoy some of the free food and beverages provided for everyone.

Stay tuned for more information about each of these events on our community association Facebook page [HuntClubCommunityAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/HuntClubCommunityAssociation)

Climate Change at Warp Speed

Judy Burwell

The tornadoes that hit our area last September were a not so gentle reminder that we are all vulnerable to the effects of climate change. For some it was a quick fix, but in the hardest hit areas homes were destroyed and many are still trying to put their lives back together. Worse was yet to come.

Early in October, the International Panel on Climate Change, (a group of the world's top scientists) released a devastating report advising that strong action is needed in the next decade if we want to limit climate change catastrophes. If we ignore this warning we can expect the real chaos to unfold between 2030 and 2050. The message is clear - the planet is in big trouble and it's going to take commitment and hard work from all of us, but especially from our elected officials, if we want to turn things around.

I know that many of us do what we can to reduce our own carbon footprint. We recycle, reuse, turn the heat down in the winter, take the bus whenever possible, and support local businesses and restaurants who are making green changes. We hope that we are somehow helping and making a difference. That's all well and good but obviously the big fix sits squarely on the shoulders of governments, manufacturers, corporations and businesses, large and small.

For decades scientists have been warning us to act now to put the brakes on global warming and climate change. While governments often appeared to be listening at election time, their promises too often fade in the face of victory. If government is the Hare and climate change the Tortoise, you know who's winning this race.

Looking on the bright side and yes, there is a bright side, not everyone is dragging their feet. Across Canada, cities, towns, and environmental organizations are working together making positive changes: investing in renewable energy, improving public transportation, providing incentives to businesses and home owners to convert to green energy, and banning the use of single use plastics, to name a few. Any climate friendly approach to reducing climate vulnerability will save money, improve our quality of life, and build more resilient communities. It's encouraging.

As the Capital of Canada, surely Ottawa should be at the forefront of positive change. Even the World Bank says that "building cities that are green, inclusive, and sustainable should be the foundation of any local and national climate change." It's the responsibility of our newly elected city council to take that statement to heart and move forward to make Ottawa the greenest and most environmentally progressive city in Canada. If we all work together, we can make this a reality. The possibilities are limitless.

Judy is a member of The Ottawa South Eco-Action Network (OSEAN) osean.info@gmail.com @OttawaSouthEco-Action

Councillor's Report

3930 and 3960 Riverside Drive Development Proposal

Readers of this newsletter and/or the Ottawa South Community Voice Newspaper will know, from my previous reports, that Taggart Developments Inc is moving forward with their development plans for the 20 acre parcel of land at 3930 and 3960 Riverside Drive. However, their plans for this development continue to change. Two different dates in February were established to have their application heard at the Planning Committee, but Taggart withdrew to focus their efforts on further revising the plan. At the time I submitted this report, their revised plan was considering the incorporation of single family homes, a new component that would either add to or replace the original components.

The best way to be kept informed of this development is to ensure I have your email address on file, as I provide updates by email to a dedicated group of local residents who are following this matter closely. Please contact me at Riley.Brockington@Ottawa.ca or call 613-580-2486.

Ward Office - Drop In Welcome

As a reminder, my ward office is located in the Hunt Club Riverside Park Community Centre and open on Tuesdays and Fridays. I work there on Fridays. All residents are welcome and invited to pop in any time. For matters of substance to be discussed, it is recommended you secure some time in advance by calling 613-580-2486. It is my goal to be the most accessible member of Council. If you would like to meet me at your convenience, please contact me.

Winter Fun

Ian Christie

There aren't many things better than seeing kids outdoors, getting exercise and having fun. In the winter, outdoor rinks are enjoyed almost every day by kids of all ages, and even a few adults who've still "got game".

Owl Park has two outdoor rinks: a regular hockey rink and a pleasure skating rink built in a figure-8. Frozen paths lead to each of the rinks and there is a walking path for non-skaters and dog walkers.

It takes a lot of work to build and maintain an outdoor rink. The City of Ottawa puts up the boards, then volunteers take over to pack down the snow and build a good base to flood the rinks. It's a winter long activity maintaining the rinks and our volunteers are out there for hours at a time after a full day's work. If you think keeping your driveway clear has been a lot of work this winter, imagine clearing something the size of ten driveways and you get the picture.

Volunteers don't do this expecting any thanks other than seeing people benefit from their efforts. Given the long, cold, snowy winter that we have had, these volunteers should be recognized.

While I am sure that there are others that have pitched in along the way, the four primary volunteers are Bill Land, Frank Poce, Peter McIlwaine, and Brian MacEachern. If you know them, or happen to see them at the rink, take the time to thank them. They deserve it!

A selfish look at climate change

Julie Bourdon

Let's face it. We humans have a lot to answer for when it comes to climate change. Apparently, it's our fault. Of course, we are sad about polar bears losing their habitat and glaciers shrinking. But then we jump into our four wheeled buggies and complain about gas prices without batting an eye. Hey, we have more pressing problems, right? And how bad can a degree or two be anyway?

So what if, being the self-centered animals that we are, we turn our thoughts to something far more important: how will climate change affect us? Science tells us that within a few decades, rising seawater will result in mass flooding, increasingly violent and unpredictable storms, drought resulting in significant shifts in arable land, degradation of air quality and the northward spread of tropical diseases among other effects. Nothing to worry about right? It's not like that stuff is going to happen to me!

Bur wait: We also need to think about but the socio-economic storm that will be climate change. So even if you don't get sucked into a tornado or fall sick, you can bet that climate change will affect you. Think our health care system is strained now? Getting hit by Lyme disease or mosquito spread illnesses and rising rates of respiratory and heart disease (for which air pollution is a well established leading cause) won't help.

Think the cost of living is bad now? Just imagine what your grocery bill will look like as food production is affected and the cost of insurance rises with the severity and frequency of storms.

Think the world is dealing with a migrant crisis now? Well, nothing displaces people like the lack of food, drought, economic and political instability ... and on that note: Think the world is unstable now? Just imagine when governments become overwhelmed by the costs associated with domestic and international aid, rising health care costs, mass migrations of people not to mention dealing with climate change itself!

OK, so we can't know for sure how it's all going to go down but just like Hollywood blockbuster disaster movies that start by ignoring the advice of scientists, you can be sure that the status quo is a bad idea. So be one of the heroes in this story. Act on climate change now by reducing your carbon footprint, contacting government officials or engaging in environmental causes before it's too late. Do it for yourself, our future generations ... and the polar bears.

Julie is a local environmentalist.

PowerShift: Young and Rising

Aija Auzina



How does a young person, aware of the detrimental effects of climate change that will affect their future take action now to salvage that future? They turn to other young people and First Nations land defenders.

Hundreds of young people from all across Canada recently convened in Ottawa to attend PowerShift: Young and Rising. The curriculum included a non-violent direct action skills track, a social justice art space, political organizing workshops, and keynote addresses from inspiring Indigenous land defenders.

Organized by youth climate activists, the program included keynote speakers, workshops, discussion panels and a community action to build political momentum in Ottawa for a New Green Deal: a bold, progressive vision for climate action that acknowledges what the science is telling us and understands that it requires us to create a new social contract that supports workers, families and vulnerable communities as we do this transition on a timeline.

The event was sponsored by organizations such as 350.org, Greenpeace, Angela's Bed and Breakfast, Green Economy Network, Carleton University Graduate Student Association, Nature Canada, Canadian Federation of Students, St. Paul University Elizabeth Bruyère School of Social Innovation, David Suzuki Foundation and LUSH.

During their four days in Ottawa, on the land of the Algonquin Anishinabe, the youth, aged 18-35, gained skills, knowledge and further inspiration to become climate action organizers. This movement is growing in response to the climate crisis with no time to waste. They will continue their work to keep fossil fuels in the ground divest institutions from big oil and build a 100% renewable future.

Aija is also a member of OSEAN

Taste Treats in My Community

John Sankey

St-Hubert Express, 4010 Riverside Dr (opposite Bambú) is a chain serving chicken designed for fast takeout; eating in is cafeteria style. Besides lots of tables for customers eating in, they have a drive-thru, do catering, on-line ordering and delivery.

When I ordered piri-piri chicken breast for takeout, it was hot and tasty, with a generous serving of both chicken and fries. Staff had a smile and service was prompt.

When I ate in, there were unlimited refills of self-serve coffee, tea and sauces, kids got their fries in cute cardboard cars, and small ones had the choice of high chairs loaded with crayons and colouring paper, or of booster seats. And just ask at the counter for extra buns or cole-slaw.

It's a very friendly ambience, especially for families with children. Well worth visiting.

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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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