

Hunt Club: My Community



The construction that began on Hunt Club Road this past summer is projected to continue right till the end of the year and beyond. Our patience will no doubt pay off with the resulting expected improvements. Meanwhile, just east of our community boundary, there are exciting plans in the making for the South Keys to Blossom Park, Bank Street Community Design Plan (CDP). There is one more Open House about this CDP planned for the fall of 2014; details are on the city website.

AND ... as this is being written, I saw today that the steel bridge of the Airport Parkway pedestrian and cyclist overpass has been installed. Stay tuned for the final product report in our December issue..

Next month, on October 27th, our City will be electing a new Council for another 4 year term. **The HCCO and RPCRA will be jointly hosting an all candidates meeting on Wednesday October 8, from 7 - 9 p.m. in the gym of our Community Centre.**

If you'd like to gain a better understanding of how our City is managed and how priorities are determined, consider taking part in the upcoming Fall Civics Boot Camp, hosted by the Citizens Academy. Registrations are now open at www.citizensacademy.ca. You may also be interested in participating in one of many Citizen Chats, another C.A. initiative that will enable everyday citizens to host conversations to share hopes, ideas, and actions for Ottawa.

In keeping with the ever changing face of our community, this issue's articles will focus on property matters.

Look for our Hunt Club Community Association's table at the upcoming Community Fest on Saturday, September 6th at the Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre on Paul Anka Drive at McCarthy; we'll have our large hand-drawn community map marked with various current construction projects. Hope to see you there as well as at our Hunt Club Community Association meeting the following Monday, September 8th at 7:00 p.m., also at the Community Centre.

Christine Johnson, Editor

Editor Wanted

Hunt Club: My Community is looking for a new editor.

The primary role of editor is to encourage members of our community to write articles that will help us all to feel more at home here. Shared history, community activities, celebrations and resources, fascinating members of our community...

If you are interested, I welcome a call from you at 613-260-0317 or an email to johnsankey@ncf.ca

John Sankey
President, Hunt Club Community Organization

Hunt Club Creek: A History

John Sankey

Before settlement our Hunt Club Creek was a seasonal rivulet whose source was a wet area located where the north-east corner of the Ottawa Hunt & Golf Club is today. It was so small that it wasn't shown on maps prior to 1950.

Originally, most of our community apart from the northern part of Hunt Club Woods was drained by tributaries of Sawmill Creek. Over the years, agricultural ditches diverted drainage of our western half over to Hunt Club Creek, where it remains today.

Its original bed down the slope to the Rideau River was about 60 m to the south of where it is today. Today's route there dates from 1910, when the Canadian Northern Railway built its bridge over the Rideau River now used by Via Rail. The most recent change to our creek's route was made in the late 1990's when Riverside Drive was realigned.

Our creek began life as an urban stormwater sewer in the late 1940's when DND dug a ditch from their new Air Force base to join the agricultural ditches just north of Hunt Club Road. Conversion of the creek to the open sewer we now have was completed in the 1980's by the Regional Municipality when Campeau and Urbandale developed Hunt Club Woods. All storm sewers between the hydro lines and Riverside Drive now empty directly into our creek.

Today, only a few sections of the creek are in anything close to a natural state. Community volunteers are planning to restore the rest to as near a natural state as possible. We invite you to join us! Call our Stream Watcher, John Sankey, 613-260-0317.

Hunt Club Creek: An Urban Feature to Treasure

Chelsey Ellis

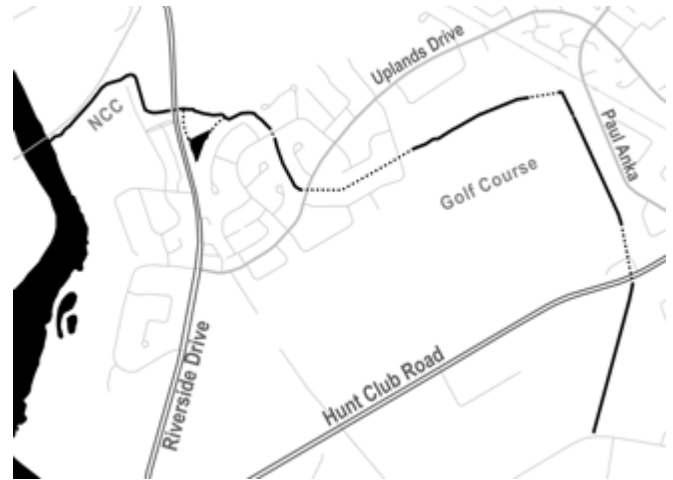
City Stream Watch Coordinator

In the summer of 2013, Hunt Club Creek was monitored for the first time by the City Stream Watch Program of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. The goal of the program is to obtain valuable information on the physical and biological characteristics of creeks and streams in the City of Ottawa, while ensuring that they are respected and valued natural features of the communities through which they flow. To this end, the program relies on and encourages the interest and participation of volunteers in monitoring activities on 25 creeks across the city. In 2013, fifteen community volunteers helped to survey 28 sections of Hunt Club Creek and gather important information on water chemistry, surrounding land use, in stream substrate, habitat, vegetation, wildlife, invasive species, enhancement opportunities and more.

There is no hiding that Hunt Club Creek is an urban stream system. As staff and volunteers walked through the creek in chest waders taking measurements and making observations, residential homes and streets were rarely far from view. Some sections of the creek are piped underground and only 15% of the sections monitored were free from garbage. In addition, five invasive plant species were found along the creek, many of which are known to be introduced from ornamental gardens. In these ways Hunt Club Creek displays characteristics similar to many other urban streams.

What the groups of stream surveyors also noticed and what may be surprising to some, is that when you take a moment to listen and watch, Hunt Club Creek is home to many different kinds of wildlife. Eighteen bird species were observed along the creek including a great blue heron and a family of mallard ducks. There was also evidence that deer, beavers, muskrats and raccoons reside in the area or find refuge as they pass through. The waters of Hunt Club Creek are kept cool by dense surrounding vegetation that shades the creek. Many areas displayed characteristics of good fish habitat, although only one fish species was caught. Unfortunately the low fish species diversity may be attributed to the significant portion of the creek that is piped underground.

The time spent on Hunt Club Creek showed us that the creek is providing valuable wildlife habitat in an urban area and that there are important steps that we can take to help improve the health of the creek. Many different opportunities to enhance creek health were noted during stream surveys including stream garbage cleanups, invasive species removals and fish habitat enhancements. With the help of the community the City Stream Watch Program has already started implementing some of these projects.



There are many opportunities to get involved. If you are interested in joining the City Stream Watch team of volunteers and helping with stream monitoring and enhancement projects on Hunt Club Creek and across the city send an email to citystreamwatch@rvca.ca.

A Special Place in the 'Hood

Christine Johnson

Whimsical; charming; contemplative; inviting; all feelings evoked by this unique garden along Paul Anka Drive, abutting the Hydro Right-of-Way. Over the years, I have been fascinated by its evolving artistry and captivated by its serenity and joy. Initially, a few years ago, it was twelve foot wooden modern Totems which first grabbed my attention.

Peering in from the sidewalk, pedestrians are charmed by the wood slatted and wrought iron bench and the birdhouse perched in behind it on a branch staked into the ground. Mature deciduous trees watch over the spruce and maple trees more recently planted.

Against the backdrop of the house's brick wall, three separate artistic gardens surround this bench, each with a distinctive appeal.

The first, along the rustic fence on the north side, features a cluster of tall Pampa grasses surrounded by several creatively painted rocks. A flat log lying on two other logs serves as a low-rising bench, beckoning to youngsters, who often happily stop to sit.

The next garden has two branches staked into the ground mounted with black and white painted pieces of chopped logs, flanking a magnolia, a smokebush, and a rock at the front sporting a blue and white target symbol 'with eyelashes' painted on it. Then another garden of hostas, lilies, brown-eyed Susans, dianthus, potentilla, gaillardia and coralbells, is graced with three more tree branches staked into the ground and mounted with brightly painted pieces of chopped logs and a metal hub cap on one of them with twisted copper metal 'branches' jutting out from along its length.

Seoras, the creator of this enchanted landscape, explained to me that the character of the garden was a natural extension in design of the neglected little apple orchard and pasture, once he cleaned it up.

As for the initial modern, wooden painted totems, (created from dead and fallen trees) they resonated in merging the feel of the wild pastured orchard, with the residential community. As he viewed it, the tall vertical varnished light colored totems provided a nice contrast to the existing weathered horizontal rail fence and added an inviting perspective that pulled the eye from the overall property, back into the apple orchard. There was also a sacred element to the Totem Garden back then, as it rested beside the low hanging branches of an old, tall, dying elm tree. Seoras had lost some of his closest friends to illness and the minimalist simplicity of the Totem Garden was a way of honoring and remembering.

Seoras makes connections with natural beauty and the intrinsic value of appreciating the evolving cycle of things living. "There can be great beauty in a rock, or in the art left by insects on the wood under the tree bark. You just have to take the time to look."

The garden is now quite different with the long grasses and Magnolia bush replacing the wooden Totems. As for art, all that remains now is what Seoras calls his Cosmic painted rocks, and Cosmic flowers in wood and metal. It is unpretentiousness, welcoming, rich and warm, and sends out many subliminal messages as to how he wants people to feel about the community, and about their own creative spirit and authentic expression. He does not think it is a coincidence that often a stranger walks in just to sit, and that a conversation of some purpose usually seems to happen.

In conclusion, he was quick to point out, that none of his recent efforts would have been possible if it were not for his wife Janet's foresight and commitment in planting all these many trees on the condo property so many years ago, when Paul Anka Drive had just a few homes overlooking the Hunt Club Golf course.

Thank you Seoras for offering this vision of our neighbourhood spaces.

10 Ways to Improve Your Home's Curb Appeal Candy Kroeger

My husband and I live in the Western Community area of Hunt Club. It is a mature neighbourhood filled with 2 story family homes with many original owners who have lived in their houses 30+ years. When we walk our family dog, Bella, I am always pleased to see what good care most people take of their property. There is definitely pride of ownership on display! As a local Real Estate Sales Person, I am often asked for tips on how to

improve curb appeal, especially by those considering selling their home. Here are my top 10 ways. They'll make a dramatic difference, won't cost a fortune and can be done in a day or less!

1) Dress up the front door

A fresh coat of paint can transform your front door. Use metal polish on the door fixtures and knob. Better yet, replace outdated locks and handles. Add a storm door with a glass design to improve the entrance and provide better energy efficiency. Hang a decorative wreath. Place a welcome mat in front of the door.

2) Upgrade the hardware

Replace rusty or outdated light fixtures, house numbers, mailboxes, or railings. Oiled bronze finishes suit traditional homes, while brushed nickel suits more contemporary ones.

3) Install new garage doors

Garage doors don't have to be drab or purely functional. Upgrade to a door with a vibrant colour, engaging design, or window inserts.

4) Cut back trees and bushes

Trees and shrubs can obscure your home's features and make it seem dark and uninviting. Those that rub against your house can damage the siding, limit the amount of sunlight you receive, and offer a bridge to squirrels, mice, and other critters that want to get onto your roof or under your siding.

5) Plant flowers

Flowers along the sidewalk, in front of the house, in flower boxes & planters, or pouring out of hanging baskets, provide a giant colourful boost that's visually appealing.

6) Mow, trim, prune and weed.

A manicured lawn and weeded garden beds show that you take pride in your home. Add a fresh layer of mulch to retain moisture and improve the look of your yard.

7) Give your yard a nightlife

Low-voltage or solar lighting makes a dramatic impact while also providing safety and security. You never know when people are going to drive by.

9) Add outdoor art

Give your yard a little spunk by adding weather-resistant artwork. Birdbaths, metal cutouts, sculptures and water fountains are good choices.

8) Dress up the driveway

You can improve the look of your driveway without doing a complete redo. Repair cracks, remove stains, kill the weeds and then dress it up by applying a fresh coat of black matte driveway sealer.

10) Don't forget your fence

It's easy for a homeowner to get used to looking at the back fence and not notice discoloration from water and sun. Power wash or apply a fresh coat of stain. Replace any broken boards.

Environment Matters: Fall Clean Ups

Through perseverance and determination, a few volunteers have been having an impact on our park lands and open space areas, making them more desirable places to be. Fall clean ups have once again been planned for a few areas here:

Saturday, September 27th, 10:00 a.m.: Paul Landry Park on Uplands Dr.

Saturday, October 4th, 10:00 a.m.: Sawmill Creek between Hunt Club Road and Daze. Meet in the parking lot of the old Bingo Hall in behind the Chiropractor Business at 1195 Hunt Club Road.

Saturday, October 18th, 10:00 a.m.: Hunt Club Creek, between Uplands and Gillespie.

Many hands make for light work so if you are available to help out for any of these Ottawa Cleaning the Capital fall clean ups in our area, please plan to join us. Gloves and garbage bags are provided by the City of Ottawa.

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

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If you have an article that you would like to submit for our next issue, please e-mail it to editor.hcmc@bell.net.

We welcome your ideas for future issues; please submit them to us or come to our monthly meetings to discuss them.

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River Ward City Councillor



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