

December 2020

Hunt Club: My Community



Help Bring a Library Branch to Hunt Club

Christine Johnson

HCCA Chair, Library Services Matter committee

Some good news: Our return box and hold lockers are now accessible once again at our Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre, with the following updated hours:

Monday to Friday from 7:30 AM to 8 PM and Saturday and Sunday from 8:30 AM to 5 PM.

This means that you can return any of your Ottawa Public Library borrowed materials here in our community, as well as pick up items that you have reserved and for which you have designated 'Hunt Club Lockers' as your pickup point.

Remember to bring:

- a mobile phone to call the number posted on the main door of the community centre so that you can return your items or pick up new ones from a locker
- a protective mask as per Ottawa Public Health regulations for public spaces
- your library card as you will need to scan it in order to retrieve your held items.

Now imagine being able to walk to an actual library that would be as near as our community centre or our Hunt Club Centre (where the Metro and Shoppers Drug Mart are) – where you could:

- drop off your books or pick-up reserved materials
- sit down in a designated quiet space to read a book, a magazine or a selection of newspapers online or as hard copies
- have rooms available for:
 - various discussion groups (ie, Canadian or world politics, arts, genealogy, community issues) or for 'Storytime' for toddlers,
 - for homework clubs, and so much more!
- Have a place for culture and arts to flourish - this would change our community in such a positive way for the children, young families, youth, adults and seniors of all walks of life among us.

If you would like improved library services in our community, need more information or to get involved, please write to our email address library@hunt-club.ca.



OPL Return Box at Hunt Club Riverside Park Community Centre.
[Photo Ottawa Public Library]



OPL Book Locker at Hunt Club Riverside Park Community Centre.
[Photo Ottawa Public Library]

Please provide your name and the street in Hunt Club where you live, then explain how a small library branch within walking distance from your home would contribute to you, your family and our community. Many voices with the same message become quite loud and together we can make a difference in achieving our dream of having our own little library branch!



News and Views from Paul Landry Park The Park Angels

Pride in our community was on display with the dozen volunteers who came on Saturday, October 17 for the annual fall litter pick up at Paul Landry Park. Even our municipal councillor, Riley Brockington, joined in with rake in hand! It was a gorgeous day weather wise, and with so many helping hands we made quick work of the pick-up. The good news is that the quantity of litter continues to diminish over the years, with just a few 'usual suspects' seemingly unable to hold on to their cigarette wrappers, chip bags, candy bar wrappers, water, beer and juice bottles or cans, until they get home.

Unfortunately, last winter was rather dismal with our pristine snowy pathways continuously despoiled by dog poop droppings all along the way. This coming winter, we ask all dog owners to please 'Stoop and Scoop' (City by-law No. 2003-77 'Animal Care and Control') and respect others who use the park. We thank the vast majority of dog owners who do pick up after their dogs, for the pride and respect that you are showing for our community.

Garbage pickups have now stopped in the park, until next spring. Please do not dump your litter or dog poop bags in the bin at the Uplands Drive end, as they will not be picked up. You need to dispose of your own waste. Thank you for remembering this.

Very happy to report that seven new trees were planted on November 20 at the Uplands Drive end of the park: two each of Sugar Maple, Prospector Elm, and Honey Locust and one Hackberry. These trees will eventually provide food and shelter to birds and small animals, as well as shade for all of us. We thank our City's Forestry department for replacing those diseased trees that had to be cut down over a year ago because of the Emerald Ash Borer.

Next on our 'ask list', as shared by many neighbours, is to have a few more benches installed around the play structure – for adults who are supervising their children; and maybe a picnic table or two near the newly planted trees, where people will be able to find respite in the shade on those hot sunny summer days.

A Mathew Page Story

"2020/2021"

For Tyler, as for many, 2020 had not been a banner year. His restaurant struggled to remain open, and the mounting bills on the kitchen table hinted that even if he managed to keep the lights on, it would be some time before his ledger wasn't red.

A separation from his wife in the summer, partly the restaurant's fault but mostly his own, meant that he would not see his girls on Christmas morning. And now, COVID.

Tyler was in the midst of putting up his Christmas decorations when he felt his chest tighten. He retreated into his house to catch his breath but a few hours later he was in the emergency room. A month later, labeled a resolved case, Tyler still suffered from the effects of COVID, which left him tired, breathless, and weak.

His decorations remained unfinished and half hazard, including the beautiful conifer at the Bourbon Street entrance of Owl Park. While it was a city tree, Tyler took it upon himself to decorate it. It was his flagship. And now, with only days until Christmas, it was barren.

He kept it simple. Each year he would buy and hang new balls and garland on the tree, top it with a sparkling star, and light the tree with spotlights. With the decorations and a light dusting of snow, Tyler thought the tree was perfect. Neighbours and visitors to the park would often stop to comment and take pictures of Tyler's tree. 2020 would take that from him too.

Tyler looked out on his naked tree, as a few snowflakes drifted past his window. From Mina Lane, Tyler noticed a figure approaching, bundled up and cradling something in their mitts. He watched, intrigued, as the figure approached his tree and carefully hung a homemade Santa Claus ornament on the highest branch they could reach. Once placed, they stepped back to admire their work; from his window, so did Tyler.

Caught up in the moment, Tyler didn't immediately notice the others. From all directions, figures cut through the thickening flurry, each carrying an ornament to place on the tree. He saw some snowsuits and toques he recognized, and many he did not. After forty, Tyler lost count.

The figures slipped back into the snow storm and, as quietly as they came, they were gone. Tyler was left alone with his now decorated tree (well, at least the bottom two-thirds), his thoughts, and his tears.

For the first time, Tyler thought maybe 2021 would be better.

Riley Brockington

City Councillor (River Ward)
Conseiller Municipal (Quartier Rivière)



City Councillor's Update

I trust you and your family are well. December is already here. 2020 has been challenging in so many regards. With a COVID vaccine almost ready for distribution, I hope that we will be better protected from this deadly virus and can return to a greater sense of normalcy and safety.

McCarthy Park

At the HCCA AGM held in November, I stated my desire to commence a review of the amenities in McCarthy Park and strike a small working group to note what currently exists in the park, with the objective of making some additional improvements. Although I do not have a significant budget for this matter, I have been asked to review the possibility of expanding the current basketball court and illuminating it. There is also discussion in the community about expanding community gardens.

I like McCarthy Park, it is large and has a lot to offer and in many regards is a hub for our community. What do you like about it? What does it need? Feel free to share your thoughts with me.

Renaming Uplands Park

Uplands Park is a tiny park located on Uplands Drive in our Hunt Club community. It contains a small playground, tennis courts, wooded area and manicured lawn.

It has been my intention for some time to engage the community and recognize a significant local leader and contributor for her/his efforts with a park naming commemoration. I intend to strike a working group with the HCCA to discuss this further and develop a short list of names to be considered to rename this park in 2021.

Cannabis Dispensaries in Hunt Club

The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario has notified my office that the application to open a dispensary at 800 Hunt Club Road, Unit 3 at Uplands Drive has been approved and a license was issued on November 16, 2020.

A second application earlier this year for 3310 McCarthy Road was objected to by myself and the HCCA. This application remains under review by the AGCO.

Juno Beach Memorial Bridge – Winter Maintenance

During my recent annual review of winter maintenance with snow operations staff at the City, I reinforced with them the need to have the Juno Beach Memorial Bridge well maintained by the start of the morning rush hour, to assist pedestrians headed over to the South Keys Transit Station. Within the vicinity of the bridge, I have also been working with Public Works staff to address the significant cracks and decay on the pathway network, around the Wendy Stewart stormwater ponds. A geotechnical study has been actioned to try to understand what is happening under the pathway that is causing such strong deterioration. Once this is fixed, I will be able to get this pathway network plowed in the winter, likely, next year.

Best wishes to everyone for a safe and festive holiday season.

Riley Brockington

City Councillor, River Ward

Telephone: 613-580-2486

Sign up for my newsletter at
<https://rileybrockington.ca/>



McCarthy Park. Photo Google Maps

The Sky's the Limit for the Hunt Club Neighbourhood – Let's Soar!

Christine Johnson

What do you love about living or doing business in the Hunt Club neighbourhood? What would you change?

These two pressing questions were the hottest topics during the Hunt Club Community Association (HCCA)'s September Zoom meetings, and the debate was certainly lively!

From the abundance of green space to its proximity to shops and services, the airport and downtown, to the incredible diversity of its neighbourhoods, new and seasoned residents alike agree that Hunt Club is a great place to live.

But we also agree it could be even better. Imagine if we had:

- A covered, year-round outdoor central meeting place that could host events like a farmer's market, a winter holiday/Christmas market, outdoor yoga or even open-air concerts (when safe to do so)?
- Given that many of us are spending more time at home, how about some independent coffee shops, bakeries, and a greater selection of bricks-and-mortar eateries and pop-up food vendors and food trucks?
- A library branch that could do double-duty as a cultural venue within our Hunt Club-Riverside community centre?
- At least one community garden per neighbourhood – green thumbs not required!
- More amenities for the fabulous parks in our area – including Uplands Park, Cahill Park and Owl Park – such as chess/checkers tables, performance spaces and gazebos to provide shelter from the sun/snow/rain... while savouring a gourmet ice cream or hot chocolate from a nearby vendor?
- More things to do for the different age groups and resident profiles that make up our fantastic part of Ottawa!

As you can see, there are lots of opportunities – and spaces – for our neighbourhood to grow and expand, and there is no shortage of enthusiasm to help it along!

To borrow from the movie Field of Dreams, our unofficial motto is, "if you build it, they will come!" In fact, there's another opportunity: community movie nights in the park...

The sky truly is the limit, but we need to hear from you, our Hunt Club residents and businesses, about what you want our community to be.

If you have ideas or resources and want to help our community grow and prosper, we'd love to hear from you!

If you want to meet us and see your HCCA in action, we'd love to have you attend our monthly meetings (held via Zoom) the first Monday of each month. Just send an email to outreach@hunt-club.ca and we'll be in touch!



Hunt Club Community Association 2020 Election Results

As part of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on November 2nd, elections were held for positions on the Board of Directors. This year due to COVID 19 restrictions, votes were cast over the preceding weekend using an electronic vote tabulating system called Election Buddy.

Please join me in congratulating long time Director and former Past President John Sankey and former Secretary Peter Brimacombe for their many years of dedicated service as they will be leaving the board but staying on as lifetime members of HCCA. Peter Foulger remains on the board as Director but has stepped down as Treasurer.

We welcome new Directors Jason Dubue, John D. Reid, Kat Gracie, Sabrine Barakat and Zivana Pavic. Brian Wade was acclaimed as President and Sue McCarthy as Vice President. Jason Dubue has stepped forward as Secretary and Sabrine Barakat has agreed to take on the Treasurer's role.

Continuing as Directors are Abiodun Mosuro, Lynette- Joseph-Sankey and Marilyn Koch. Christine Johnson continues as Past President.

We are looking forward to a dynamic and fruitful year serving our community.

Not ready to commit? No problem! Get to know us and what we are up to:

- Visit our website <https://hunt-club.ca/>
- Find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/HuntClubCommunityAssociation/>
- Submit an article, recipe or, better yet, advertise your business in the Hunt Club: My Community newsletter: <https://hunt-club.ca/news/>

We're open to all your ideas, so please drop us a line at outreach@hunt-club.ca and let's keep this conversation going. Our community depends on it!

What We Learned This Summer at Our Community Garden

(By: Alexis, Christine, Emily, Kim, Len, Marie, Moto)

Once all of the hard work of building our garden in June and July was done and we had finally sown our garden and planted young seedlings on July 20th, the fun just continued. Here are a few things that we learned through this experience:

Alexis was reminded of how much she enjoys working in the ground and growing her own food, and teaching folks how to garden; that she needs to work on her own abilities so as to pass along the best information; and that gardening is such a personal thing.

Christine learned that green beans are much more difficult to harvest than yellow ones, because they are so difficult to see; beet greens are exquisitely delicious to eat in sautéed garlic and onions with some red pepper flakes and just a wee bit of salt; and carrot tops are edible and can be turned into pesto and other delicious dishes, all packed with good nutrients!

Emily learned how rewarding it is to plant a seed and watch it grow; so heartbreaking to watch a plant struggle; and that the food you grow is sooooo delicious!

Kim learned that nature was smarter and far more talented than us, considering the late date at which we sowed our seeds. Although we had agreed that this season would just allow us to gain practice for the next season ... what happiness and what a great surprise to have been able to harvest from all of our plants! Kim always thought that carrot tops and beet leaves were rabbit food, but since tasting them, she now knows that rabbits have long been outsmarting us. And, her trick of planting forks in the ground, the tips in the air to keep squirrels away from the plants? ... Well, it turns out that on the contrary, it gave them the message that the table is set and that there is nothing left to do but to serve themselves!

Len observed that garden plots grow as differently as gardeners' personalities.



Marie learned that there is a better use for autumn's fallen leaves than putting them in the recycle bins: they are the perfect 'blanket' for our garden plots as we 'put them to bed', an end of October activity, which allowed us to spend some time together again. Marie also learned that we can plant Egyptian onions and garlic in the fall and that they will survive the winter and give us some delicious greenery in the spring. She is looking forward to the coming planting season to keep learning new stuff!

Moto learned that green tomatoes at the end of the season should not be thrown out! She had four big green tomatoes sitting on her kitchen counter, which finally turned red after a few weeks and ... were delicious!

And we all learned that gardening as a group is lots of fun, a great way to meet others in the neighbourhood and a definite source of joy for everyone involved directly or as interested observers and supporters. We are looking forward to a regular gardening season with our seed planting sometime in May 2021, with new gardeners Noëlla and Denyse joining us.

To view our garden, which is now 'sleeping', walk along the pathway running along the south-east end of the Emmanuel Apostolic Church (3347 McCarthy Rd) next to the condo complex.



Wendy Stewart Ponds

Sophie Reussner-Pazur and Christine Johnson

The Wendy Stewart Ponds (aka the Sawmill Creek Constructed Wetlands), have become the outdoor activity hub for our community. Walkers, runners, in line skaters, love birds, bird watchers and photographers, berry pickers, picnickers, naturalists and babies in strollers – all have discovered the beauties of the seasonal transformations of this natural oasis alongside the Airport Parkway.

Over a dozen volunteers participated in a clean-up around the Wendy Stewart Ponds on Sunday, September 27, organized by James Mihaychuk, President of Ottawa South's Federal Green Party. Relatively little garbage was found thanks to the weekly cleanup efforts of the Reussner-Pazur family and friends who have informally adopted this area. This has given them a deeper understanding of the flora and fauna here along with the various bird species and humans present and not. I'll let Sophie tell the story now.

Since the start of the pandemic, my husband and I have been walking daily around the Wendy Stewart Ponds, just East of the Airport Parkway. For the first time – because we were confined and working from home – our neighbourhood has become our main destination for outdoor exercise and fresh air! Day in and day out, we witnessed the wonders of nature in motion: the last snow of April, the budding leaves, the pulse of summer heat and the arrival and departure of migrating birds...

Yet, we noticed that people with reduced strength/mobility were rarely, if ever, seen on this path. Indeed, one does have to be fit to walk the 40-minute loop, as there are no benches beyond the Airport Parkway's Juno Bridge...! Thus, we were wondering: How fantastic would it be if the City of Ottawa installed benches around the Watershed? How lovely if people with reduced strength/mobility could rest at various intervals and enjoy this natural gem, like everyone else?

These two questions were followed by action. My friend Christine and I went on a "scavenger hunt" to find seven desirable bench locations around the Wendy Stewart Ponds. We had fun pretending to sit on imaginary benches.

So I wrote to Councilor Riley Brockington and submitted our bench location suggestions, along with GPS coordinates and photos. For the cherry on the cake, I asked Riley if the City of Ottawa would also plant a (fruit?) tree by each bench, so as to provide some nice shade on a hot summer day...!

It is our hope that this inclusive project – to benefit people of all abilities – comes to fruition once the snow melts next spring! If you think this is a good idea, please let Councilor Brockington know.

Although many of us are used to calling this area the Sawmill Creek Constructed Wetlands, we are trying to use its new official name – Wendy Stewart Ponds. A plaque in honour of the environmental commitment of former councillor Wendy Stewart is installed on a rock at the south-west end of the ponds, just north of the Juno Beach pedestrian and cycling bridge.

James Mihaychuk



Volunteers ready to start the clean up. Submitted Photo



Sophie sitting on an imaginary bench. Submitted Photo



Plaque in tribute to Wendy Stewart. Photo Waymarking.com