

The Pathway Post August 2011



Poets' Pathway Bike Ride



Yes, the whole route! Ben is designing and leading a ride on August 27. The cyclists will leave from the Pauline Johnson plaque at the Britannia Park pier there. If you would like to ride the whole route, or just a part of it, joining somewhere along the way, **contact us for the final itinerary** to see if there are any changes.

If you would like to come to read a poem at one of the stops, that would be great– just let us know that too.

Here is the projected itinerary:

- Meet at the Britannia Park plaque at 10am
- leave at 10:30
- leave the bridge which crosses Pinecrest Creek at 11am
- leave the outside of the arena at Colonnade and Merivale at 12 noon
- leave from the corner of Rivergate Way and Riverside Drive at 1:30 after lunch at the restaurant there
- leave the front door of the Jim Durrell Recreation Centre at 2:30
- leave the Butterfly Garden at CHEO at 3:30
- leave the tennis courts at New Edinburgh Park at 4:15
- arrive at the bridge overlooking the north side of McKay Lake at 4:45
- and ride to Poets' Hill for 5:30–6pm.

Poets' 150th Birthday

Did you know that 2011 is the 150th birthday for FIVE Confederation Poets?

Archibald Lampman, E. Pauline Johnson, Bliss Carman, F.G. Scott, and William Wilfred Campbell were all born in 1861.

Land

In February Ben and Jane met for an hour with city planner Nelson Edwards to discuss land concerns on Colonnade, Woodroffe, the Banff–Ledbury area, and crossing the Rideau.

Hallelujah! The sod has been turned for a pedestrian bridge over the Airport Parkway– one of the three biggest difficulties of our pathway.

Lakeside Garden Party

The Poets' Pathway had a table, answered questions, passed out brochures, and contributed poetry at the fun-filled Lakeside Winter Garden Party, Sunday, Feb 27, at Lakeside. It was a busy, sunny day with a horse-drawn sleigh, dogs, lots of treats, a variety show and many visitors.

The Greenspace Alliance passed out brochures and answered questions for us at their booth at Billings Bridge in April.

City of Ottawa Arts and Heritage Grant

In March we received another small grant from the City of Ottawa for which we are most grateful. Our plan is to put up two more plaques this fall.

Jane's Walk

We participated in Jane's Walk again this year.

Ben led a walk from the Pauline Johnson plaque in Britannia Park to Mud Lake in May 8. Thirty to thirty-five people joined our walk. Thank you so much to the knowledgeable Ms. Peggy McGillivray, who helped us on the walk, and shared a lot of history about the area. Thanks also to Judy McDonald at Lakeside.

City Forum

Jane participated in a city forum on the future of the arts in Ottawa at City Hall on May 30.

Not For Profit Status

We had two students from Ottawa U. under the aegis of a pro bono lawyer, JP McAvoy, applying for NFP status for us. The status was granted, and we are now incorporated. Thank you to Nathaniel Brettle, Udy Bell and Mr. McAvoy.

Sad News

Former co-chair of the Poets' Pathway, George Wilson passed away in April. Amongst George's passions were walking, the land and poetry. Our next plaques are going up in the spot where George first imagined them. We send our deep condolences to his wife, Jen, his children, Ben and Anna, and to his wee grandchildren.

Fundraising

Chris has organized and run two successful fundraising initiatives. She held a garage sale in May and a coffee sale in July, and the Poets' Pathway is richer by another \$650.00 because of them. Thank you if you bought coffee or books or contributed to the garage sale in any way.

More Sad News

Our web designer and webmaster, Mary Anderson Hardy of YIC Computers, passed away suddenly in June.

Plaques

We are planning to put up two plaques in the fall on Colonnade Drive, off Merivale Road, one in English and one in French.

Future events

- Bike ride August 27
- Unveiling of plaques on Colonnade in the fall
- Concert/reading in fall

Memberships

Become a member on line at www.poetspathway.ca/membership.ca

From *An August Reverie* by William Wilfred Campbell

There is an autumn sense subdued the air,
Though it is August and the season still
A part of summer, and the woodlands fair.
I hear it in the humming of the mill,
I feel it in the rustling of the trees
That scarcely shiver in the passing breeze.

...

There are a thousand beauties gathered round,
The sounds of waters falling over-night,
The morning scents that steamed from the fresh ground.
The hair-like streaming of the morning light
Through early mists and dim, wet woods where brooks
Chatter, half-seen, down under mossy nooks.

The ragged daisy starring all the fields.
The buttercup abrim with pallid gold,
The thistle and burr-flowers hedged with prickly shields.
All common weeds the draggled pastures hold.
With shrivelled pods and leaves, are kin to me,
Like-heirs of earth and her maturity.

They speak a silent speech that is their own,
These wise and gentle teachers of the grass;
And when their brief and common days are flown,
A certain beauty from the year doth pass: —
A beauty of whose light no eye can tell.
Save that it went; and my heart knew it well.