

From Jane Moore, Monday, April 26, 2010

POETS' PATHWAY NEWSLETTER, APRIL 2010

Hello, Everyone,

We are sending you this newsletter embedded and without photos in an attempt to reach you easily.

Did you know

- that April is poetry month in Canada?
- that 2010 marks the 150th birthday of Confederation poet, Sir Charles G.D. Roberts? And that 2011 marks the same birthday for Archibald Lampman, E. Pauline Johnson, William Wilfred Campbell, Bliss Carman and F.G. Scott?

The Poets' Pathway was very busy last year, working on plaques and a new website, making presentations, attending meetings about land, planning and creating concerts, and communicating with community groups, the City, and councillors, poets and musicians. We spent well over 2000 hours on the Pathway. This newsletter will catch you up, and let you know some of this year's plans. We are asking you to please renew your \$20.00 membership, to help us with our next plaque, if you can. And on a personal level, we are very sad to tell you that our friend and colleague, George Wilson, past co-chair of the Poets' Pathway, has been diagnosed with multiple myeloma.

JANE'S WALK

The Poets' Pathway is participating in Ottawa's Jane's Walk, May 2 at 1 pm. Ben Glossop will be leading a walk from Pleasant Park Woods and its trilliums through Billings Park to the lovely Butterfly Garden at the Children's Hospital. The walk is about a kilometre in length. We'll meet in the parking lot of Pleasant Park Public School, 564 Pleasant Park Road, at 1 pm. We will read some poems along the way, and hear a little local history. Do join us – bring boots or solid shoes as some ground is boggy/muddy, drinking water, a poem you'd like to share (if you have one), written by you or anyone else, and any stories or history of the area you may know.

PATHWAY OVER THE AIRPORT PARKWAY

We are happy to say that the city of Ottawa has decided to build a pedestrian footpath over the Airport Parkway, and Ben and Chris were at meetings helping push for it. A consultant suggested that the path be called the "Poets' Pathway Bridge." Wouldn't that be great!

PLAQUES

Our first plaques are going up!

A plaque will be erected at Britannia Beach at the edge of the Ottawa River as soon as we finalize arrangements for the ceremony. The plaque will feature lines from "The Song

My Paddle Sings,” a poem by Aboriginal Confederation poet, E. Pauline Johnson. For our first plaque we thank the Bell Town Community Association, the Britannia Village Community Association and Councillor Alex Cullen, as well as City staff, for their enthusiasm. We will send out a notice when we have the exact date.

A second plaque is going up at the entrance to McCarthy Woods. This plaque will feature “Winter Uplands,” a poem by Archibald Lampman. We thank the Hunt Club-Riverside Community Association and Councillor Maria MacRae for their support. We will let you know when the plaque is going up, soon after the one at Britannia.

www.poetspathway.ca

The new website, nearing completion, has photos and descriptions of the 12 walks we have divided the Poets’ Pathway into, biographies of the Confederation Poets and poets of the Mouvement littéraire, information on the three anchors, a gallery of photos and poems, and more. The site will have links to the Poet’s Pathway section which is already on the website of the Greenspace Alliance.

We are delighted that professors and students from the English Department at Carleton University and the French Department at the University of Ottawa helped us with work on the poets for the website. We thank Professor Sara Jamieson at Carleton University and Professeur Lucie Hotte and her assistant, Emir Debec, at the University of Ottawa for sharing their students, their writing and their discoveries.

MEMBERSHIP

All the memberships have expired and we ask you to renew them! Your membership means that you receive a 20% discount on our activities, the newsletter is sent to you, and you have a voice whenever you want to be heard.

Please send a cheque made out to the Poets’ Pathway for \$20.00 to 1217 Maitland Ave., Ottawa, On., K2C 2C4.

Do you not use cheques any more? Once the new website is up you can use the PayPal link on the site.

FUNDRAISING

We are planning a concert with music and poetry to celebrate the 150th birthday of our poets. We plan to sell flower bulbs for different flowers from Veseys in May. Please buy some bulbs, and ask people you know whether they want any.

Come out to our fundraising events – we will let you know details as soon as we have them arranged.

VOLUNTEER

We are looking for volunteers- if there is something you would like to do with us, or for us, please let us know. Call @ 613 723 6196, email poets_pathway@rogers.com, or write us!

Wondering how to help? Here are some ways...

- Would you like to be a marshal on the walk, May 2?
- Would you like to help organize a walk or bike ride, or reading?
- Do you know someone who would do pro-bono work to help us become a charity?
- Do you have, or do you know, someone with management skills to help us keep track of our many activities?
- How about someone to help organize concerts and readings?
- Can you share a flower brochure with your colleagues at work to help us sell some bulbs?
- Would you like to help out with serving, decorating or ushering at shows?
- How about publicity?
- Do you have ideas for us? Share them with us.
- Let us know if you might like to join our steering committee.

ARTICLE

The EMC Ottawa South newspaper published an article about the Pathway in January. Thanks to John Sankey for his support and for his help with information on McCarthy Woods.

BILL ROYDS

We remember our energetic Bill, whose idea was the seed of the Pathway vision. Feb. 20, this year, was the first anniversary of his death.