

Poets' Pathway Newsletter Sept 14, 2010



Hello everyone,

It's a busy and wonderful month for the Poets' Pathway!

PLAQUE at McCARTHY WOODS

Our first plaque was unveiled Sept 9 at the entrance to McCarthy Woods at the Hunt Club–Riverside Community Centre. Archibald Lampman's last poem, "Winter Uplands," will sit outside the wood, in Uplands after Sept. 22 and before Sept 29.

Clive Doucet opened the speeches by reciting a poem by Arthur Rimbaud, and reading one of his own from his book, *Canal Seasons*. Rhoda Bellamy told us of her husband, Bill Royds, and his wanderings, and his idea of the pathway; John Sankey welcomed us to the neighbourhood, and Steven Artelle spoke about Archibald Lampman. Maria McRae said the plaque was long overdue and congratulated us.

Everyone unveiled the beautiful bronze plaque, which because of the rain had not yet been affixed to the rock.

Refreshments followed in the community centre.

Amongst those present were Dr. Erwin Dressen, and chair of Carleton's English Dept., Dr. Paul Keen and his wife, Cynthia.

Councillor McRae has suggested a poetry reading in the community centre soon. We can't wait!

POETS' PATHWAY GARDEN PARTY

Our garden party on Sept.5 was a big success, with the moving and evocative images of poets **Henry Beissel**, **Terry Ann Carter** and **Diane Schmolka**. Images of an island in Georgian Bay, violins under the rafters, apple blossoms and the bones of Cambodia still hang in the air of the garden. Also quivering there are the music of Thérèse Behm's violin, and Heather Macdonald's oboe, and the songs of Ben Glossop on guitar. Punch, squares, home-made hummus and salsa, huge chocolate chip- pistachio cookies, a stone bench under the apple tree, birdsong and a curving garden all contributed to a warm and joyful afternoon.

Thanks so much to Diane and Peter Schmolka for hosting this fundraiser, and to all who came, as well as to all who performed so beautifully. We are so lucky.

POETS' PATHWAY PLAQUE in BRITANNIA PARK

Sept 29th sees the unveiling of a plaque with lines by Pauline Johnson on the shores of the Ottawa. We are very excited about the unveiling of this plaque, which marks the beginning of the 34 kilometres of the Poets' Pathway. "First" is a theme of this unveiling.

The bronze plaque displays lines of poetry by Pauline Johnson. Speakers include Claudette Commanda, Chief of the Algonquin Nation, Armand Garnet Ruffo, poet and professor of First Nations poetry at Carleton University, Dr. Steven Artelle, Dr. Erwin Dreessen and Councillor Alex Cullen. We are delighted that award-winning Charlotte Gray, one of Canada's best-known writers, will be attending the unveiling. One of Ms. Gray's historical works is *Flint and Feather*, the biography of Pauline Johnson.

There will be a reception in the Atrium of the Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre.

Please join us for the ceremony at 5:30.

PLAQUE at POET'S HILL, in BEECHWOOD CEMETERY

Our third plaque will be unveiled in Poet's Hill, probably October 25. Details will follow. This plaque explains the relationship between Poet's Hill and the Pathway. The lovely poem, "Beechwood Cemetery," by Archibald Lampman is a little further down the road.

CHARITABLE STATUS

In other good news we have finally found a lawyer to help us gain charitable status. As a matter of fact, we received three offers within three days. In late spring it should be possible for us to issue receipts for income tax purposes to anyone who donates to the Pathway. Each monument costs us about \$2500.

THANK YOU

We all give thanks to

The Beechwood Foundation for their work and help with our so-beautiful bronze plaques

All our speakers for their generosity of heart

Maria McRae for her help and support and warm welcome, and her assistant Nichole Clive Doucet, who first said, "This is an idea whose time has come," and then started us on our way

Donna Silver for her help

Judy McDonald for her knowledge and support

The City of Ottawa for their Heritage grant. (And many more, we hope!)

Melanie and Lee and Jodi who have helped us so much in the last few weeks

Kevan Shantz and the staff of the Community Centre for their welcome, and their efficient work.

Those who have believed in us and helped from the beginning

The community associations

The poets and artists who perform, and have performed, for us

Everyone who supports us.