

The Pathway Post

April 2014



Hello, Everyone,

The winter is done- crossed fingers-- and it is time for Pathway endeavours. So here is a catch-up for the end of last year and some plans for this year.

It's been a while since the last newsletter. It was a bit of a tough year for everyone, and a broken hand halted many things, including the newsletter last fall.

But we are back in business, we do have some news and here we go.

Overbrook Plaque

Sheila Perry and the Overbrook Community Association were delighted to receive the plaque with the poem "Ottawa" written by Benjamin Sulte.

Putting up plaques is never an easy process, and this one was the most difficult yet. Vanier's boundaries do not include any river shore- which is the Poets' Pathway route here- and although Riverain Park is leased to the City, a plaque was not deemed appropriate there. The land issues took months to unravel, but our plaque was unveiled Oct 28, beside the Rideau River at Prindiville and North River Road. We were delighted to be able to use this spot of City-owned land, and to have the poem "Ottawa" by francophone poet and historian Benjamin Sulte, to erect in Overbrook beside Vanier.



We are grateful to the strong, supportive and active community associations of both Overbrook and Vanier, and to Mike Bulthuis and Sheila Perry.

Speakers at our unveiling were the lyrical Michel Thérien, and the learned Jean Yves Pelletier. We were grateful to Councillors Fleury and Clark for their understanding and support and for actually coming out to tromp through the biting wind that day. Although the day was cold, and windy beside the river, it was beautiful, with a bright blue sky and sunshine glinting off our pink granite rock, our shining bronze plaque and the waters beside us.

About 25 people attended the unveiling. Our reception afterwards was at El Meson on Beechwood Avenue, where the owner opened for us outside his regular hours.

2014

We have been busy this year so far.

We participated in Britannia's always energetic Winter Fair in February, and we have been attending NCC meetings, and researching, planning, working on fundraising and preparing for spring!

Announcements:

- We are grateful to have received another grant from the **Heritage and Culture Department of the City of Ottawa**. We extend our sincere appreciation.
- We are happy to introduce the newest member of our board, member-at-large **Jodie McNamara**. Jodie brings with her much experience in not-for-profit work and in fundraising and event-planning. She will also help us get active on social media. Jodie is the Chair of Capital Pride.
- Congratulations to **Steven Artelle** who launches his chapbook, *Metropantheon*, on Wednesday, April 16, 7:00 pm., at Pressed Café, 750 Gladstone Ave.
Steve is a literary historian amongst other things, a wonderful speaker, and was co-chair of the Poets' Pathway until 2007.
"Join Ottawa's Steven Artelle and Montreal's Cora Siré for the launch of their new poetry collections, with short readings by fellow Signature poets Rona Shaffran and Rhonda Douglas. Come and join us for a special evening of wonderful poetry and tasty appetizers."
- Ottawa poet **Michael Heenan** passed away recently. He was a member of the Poets' Pathway Committee years ago, and also a member of the Poet's Hill Committee which established Poet's Hill in Beechwood Cemetery.
"On April 12, between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. at the Celtic Cross on Somerset Street, a simple service has been planned. In song and words, many his own, Heenan will be remembered for an usual array of ventures into city's literary, musical and historical life."
- Congratulations also to **Mark Kristmanson**, who is the new CEO of the NCC.
- We are sorry to see **Jim Mountain** move from Ottawa's Heritage to Heritage Canada, although we congratulate him and wish him every success. Jim has supported the Poets' Pathway since our first meeting at City Hall in 2007.

Spring on the River Archibald Lampman

O sun, shine hot on the river;
For the ice is turning an ashen hue,
And the still bright water is looking through,
And the myriad streams are greeting you...

For the waters brim over their wintry cup,
And the grinding ice is breaking up,
And we must away down the river.

They call it Spring, and so it is I know,

Spring should be doubly dear to us who go

One-half the year through Winter ice and snow.

Seranus

Jane's Walk: Sunday, May 4 at 11 am.

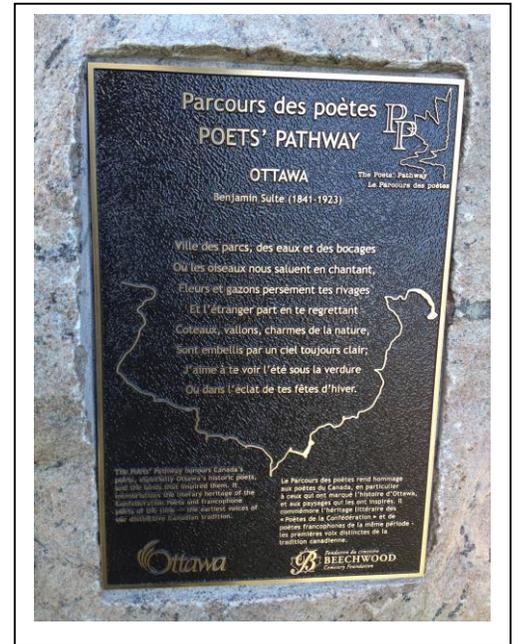
Enjoy Spring along the water's edge of the historic Rideau, with its ducks, old trees and waterfall.

Our fifth Jane's Walk is in Overbrook, along the Rideau River's serene and lovely shore line. The walk begins at our latest plaque, which displays Benjamin Sulte's "Ottawa", at Prindiville and North River Road, and continues downstream along the Rideau River past the Rideau Tennis Club.

Hear some facts and history of the Rideau, our own UNESCO World Heritage Site, and of the Rideau Tennis Club, which opened in 1912. Listen to some 19th century poems about the Rideau River, by our most celebrated poets. We will finish the walk at the tennis club, where we will have a tour, hear about the club and its past, and have a drink to end the walk.

To get to this walk, if you are driving, drive down the Vanier Parkway and turn north toward the river on Queen Mary. This road ends almost at the plaque.

You will find up to date details about this walk on www.janeswalkottawa.ca/ within a couple of days.



Alta Vista plaque

We will be unveiling a new plaque, our ninth, in Grasshopper Hill Park in Alta Vista as soon as the ground is ready to support a heavy truck and a 3-ton rock. This will likely be towards the end of May, we are told by the landscape company.

Many thanks to the different community associations in Alta Vista, who all supported us, and to Councillor Hume and his assistants, Susan Scott and Alison Lynch.

Speakers will include Councillor Hume, Tony Bernard, President of the Alta Vista Community Association, historian and poet Steve Artelle, and student poet Adele Keyes.

The informal reception after the unveiling will be held at Rideau United Church.

We will let you know in an email and on our site, www.poetspathway.ca, as soon as a date has been arranged.

Woodroffe Plaque

We are hoping to unveil two more plaques this year- we want to finish unveiling at least one plaque in each of our walks by July 1, 2017, in time for Canada's sesquicentennial celebration. The first plaque is for the Centrepointhe Community Association who support a plaque in their area. We have not settled on the spot yet, because our preferred site has been refused. This is the area where the Pathway changes direction to the east, at the entrance to the woods beside the new Archives building on Woodroffe. The City may want to sell or build on this land.

Areas we are considering this year for our second plaque include the holding ponds near South Keys; somewhere near McKay Lake; and a second area in Alta Vista, as we have two walks there.

National Capital Commission

The National Capital Commission has been having discussion on its Urban Lands policies and has had several public meetings which we have attended. It is in large part thanks to the NCC that we have this beautiful city with its unspoiled areas of natural land along our river shores and other waterways. We would like the NCC to keep its urban lands too- especially those around McCarthy Woods, the Southern Corridor, and the land they own between Merivale and Woodroffe roads.

We have made proposals to the NCC under Urban Lands discussions. We are suggesting plaques along the Ottawa River and a stage where we could have talks, readings, concerts, theatre, art shows...

Other groups could use our playing space. Performance spaces are few and far between in the city, and they are much in demand and almost always very expensive.

If you are interested in what happens to the green and to the watery spaces of our city, you can come out to the NCC meetings to voice your opinions. Check their website, www.ncc-ccn.gc.ca/ to read about activities, policies and plans, and to see how you can contribute

The Diary of Anne Frank

For a second year we are partnering with the Phoenix Players. We are always fundraising, and this year we need another \$2000. to afford our second plaque in 2014. If you would like to help out by buying a ticket to see the famous *Diary of Anne Frank*, playing at at the Gladstone Theatre April 10-19, at 7:30pm, or 2:30 Saturday matinees, call us at 613 792 4288. We will sell you a voucher. We share in the proceeds of tickets we sell.

For more information, go to: www.thegladstone.ca

Perennial Plant Sale

We are having a plant sale, with plants straight from Chris's beautiful perennial garden- healthy plants, raised with the best of care! There are many kinds and colours.

At 649 Brierwood, on May 10. The rain date is May 17.

