

# The Pathway Post, October 22, 2010

Hello everyone,

Here is our latest news.



## PLAQUE at BRITANNIA PARK, on THE OTTAWA RIVER

Our second plaque was unveiled Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>, on the shore of the Ottawa River, in front of a blazing gold and scarlet sunset. The bronze plaque displays lines from Pauline Johnson's well-known poem, "The Song My Paddle Sings," and as so many people pointed out, fits perfectly into its new home. Pauline Johnson was part Mohawk, and is that rarity- a woman and an on-the-fringe Confederation Poet. Our plaque celebrates beginnings in Ottawa- the aboriginal people, the Ottawa River, the Chaudiere Falls, the beginning of the Pathway.

Our first speaker was Claudette Commanda, granddaughter of William Commanda, Chief of the Algonquin nation. She welcomed all good people to this Algonquin land. Armand Garnet Ruffo, poet, professor, writer, read poems by Pauline Johnson and reminded us of native history in Canada. Erwin Dreessen spoke lyrically of visions, Steve Artelle spoke of the river and made us laugh about the nature of poets, and Alex Cullen ended the speeches, valiantly competing with the sunset and noisy children.

(We had expected Charlotte Gray, who apologized for missing the event.)

Many people were reluctant to leave the sky and the water too soon, and went back to the Atrium of the Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre to socialize.

If you haven't seen the plaque yet, do wander down to the water to see it standing by the waves.

## THE 3rd PLAQUE: POET'S HILL, IN BEECHWOOD CEMETERY

Nov. 1st sees the unveiling of a plaque on Poet's Hill. We are very excited about unveiling this plaque which marks the end of the 34 kilometres of the Poets' Pathway.

This plaque explains the historic and literary significance of Beechwood National Cemetery, Poet's Hill and the Poets' Pathway. The speakers are Dr. Steven Artelle and Dr. Lucie Hotte, Susan McMaster and Andrée Christensen, and, just possibly, the new city councillor for Rideau-Rockcliffe. The executive director of Beechwood, Roger Boulton, will be the Master of Ceremonies.

Please join us for the ceremony at 11:30 am.

A catered reception and a poetry reading will follow the unveiling, in the beautiful Beechwood Cemetery Memorial Room.

Please let us know if you plan to attend, so we can have fairly accurate numbers for catering. Please RSVP to: [poetspathway@rogers.com](mailto:poetspathway@rogers.com)

## **WELCOME, ARC POETRY MAGAZINE and POETS!**

Arc Poetry Magazine ([www.arcpoetry.ca](http://www.arcpoetry.ca)) is joining us November 1<sup>st</sup>! They are bringing a celebration with them, and co-hosting the reception. We couldn't be happier!

Each year, Arc Poetry gives the Archibald Lampman Award to a poet in the Ottawa area. This year's contestants will read a poem from their new books at the reception. The poets are Izak Bouwer and Angela Sumegi, Cyril Dabydeen, Amatoritsero Ede, Blaine Marchand, Susan McMaster, Colin Morton, Barbara Myers, and Craig Poile.

## **BEECHWOOD NATIONAL CEMETERY, POET'S HILL, and THE POETS' PATHWAY**

The Beechwood Cemetery Foundation is putting up this plaque to the Poets' Pathway and Beechwood. The Foundation also made Poet's Hill possible. We salute them for their generosity, their vision, and their caring about Ottawa's community.

## **BRITANNIA PARK**

We are going to be a Britannia Park partner! Put the Winter Garden Party, the last Sunday of February, into your calendar, if you are interested in sleigh rides, a bonfire, an indoor show.

We are placing brochures and copies of the plaque poems at the community centres we have worked with so far- both the Hunt Club-Riverside Community Centre and the Ron Kolbus Lakeside Centre at Britannia- to help people learn about our poets.

## **HELPING**

Thank you to the enthusiastic Ottawa University students helping us with our quest for registered charity status, Nathaniel Brettle and Udy Bell, and the attorney helping them, Jeffrey McAvoy, of Kelly Santini, LLP.

In late spring it should be possible for us to issue receipts for income tax purposes to anyone who donates to the Pathway.

Is there anyone out there who would like to be a Poets' Pathway 'Tweeter'?

## **OUR COMMITTEE**

We need to expand our committee this year. We are finding that there is more and more to do, lots of exciting things, and lots of fun, but not enough of us to do it all. If you are interested in what we do, any aspect of it, and think you might like to work with us, please give us a call, or write us at [poetspathway@rogers.com](mailto:poetspathway@rogers.com), so that we can talk about possibilities.

## **ACCOUNTING**

We need the help of someone with accounting skills. If you have any, and would like to help out for a few hours, or know anyone else who might, we would very much appreciate hearing from you, or from them. Just email a note to [poetspathway@rogers.com](mailto:poetspathway@rogers.com)

## SPECIAL THANKS

For their expert help this last month or so, our thanks go to: Joanne Tait, Steve Artelle, Roger Boulton, Judy Macdonald, Lee Wyndham, Nita Bradley, Kevin Moore, Anik Despres, the staff at Beechwood National Cemetery. We also thank Dean Steadman of Arc Poetry Magazine.

See you November 1, as we complete this year's plaque unveilings!

