

OSCAR

OTTAWA SOUTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION REVIEW

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OSCAR is a monthly, non-profit newspaper written and distributed by volunteers. Advertising from Ottawa South Merchants pay our printing bills with an assist from our Community Association. Three-thousand copies are delivered to homes in our area.

An Interview with our Alderman



Joe Cassey doesn't have much time for red tape or bureaucratic sludge. Instead, this big, affable Capital Ward Alderman believes in behind-the-scenes wrangling to get results.

"If I were electing an Alderman, I'd want to know how effective he was in the back room," says Cassey, "It's one thing to get up and make speeches -- politicians are famous for that -- but I judge a man on what he can produce in the back rooms in order to get the kind of legislation and the kinds of things that I want for my neighbourhood."

Contrary to what most people think, says Cassey, even after something is voted into the budget it can sometimes take years before City Hall acts on it. Often, it takes persistence by the Ward Alderman at the political level to get the bureaucratic ball rolling on a particular item.

If Alderman Cassey's apparent disdain for slowpoke administrators appears uncharitable, it does seem to arise from a genuine desire to get things accomplished. Several years ago, when City Council planned to replace Pretoria bridge with a couple of others across the canal, Cassey rallied the troops and stopped the decision cold, despite the fact that it had already reached the architect's drawing board.

Inspired by the discovery that City Hall could indeed fight, Cassey entered municipal politics formally in 1972 to serve one term as Alderman in Wellington Ward. In 1974 he ran for Board of Control but the 25,000 votes he managed to bank fell 1,000 short of his opponent. Since his re-election to city politics last December he's managed to join no fewer than 14 committees, including the Community Development Committee, the Regional Transportation Committee, the Lansdowne Park Board of Directors and Canada's Capital Visitors and Convention Bureau.

Despite the energy he devotes to City Council and committee work, Joe Cassey feels he's well plugged-in to the concerns of Ottawa South residents. Through regular contact with OSCA President Doug Menagh, Cassey is kept up to date on community feelings about broader issues. At the same time he provides Doug with intelligence on what's happening politically. Monday morning meetings with Ottawa South Planning Officer Stan Wilder give both men a chance to exchange progress reports on what's happening within the area, and compare notes on developments within the Land use, transportation and other committees.

For other matters, whether routine or catastrophic, Cassey has a fairly dependable barometer to help him gauge public weather patterns -- the telephone. An average day could bring five or six phone calls from people looking for jobs, newcomers to the community looking for housing, or residents inquiring into city planning issues. But on more crucial items such as last winter's proposed plan to dump snow on residents' front lawns, the bells start ringing. "We must have had sixty or seventy calls a day on that one," says Cassey, "and because of these protests, we were able to block that proposal."

Although an Alderman with Cassey's territory has to keep his eyes peeled for external and internal factors which affect his ward, particularly in the face of Ottawa's extensive and rapid growth, he says the small day-to-day things mean a lot to him too. "Helping a person--whether it's snow removal, or a lighting problem or a sidewalk problem -- is rewarding. When you call on somebody and the job has been completed and you see how happy they are, it means a lot to me."

After a little nudging, Cassey will spin the odd story of people he's been able to help. There was one elderly lady whose neighbour's tree had fallen onto her property. Upon calling City Hall she found that because it lay on private property, it was a legal problem between neighbours and the City didn't want to get involved. "By going over myself and talking to the woman next door to her, and recruiting three or four people from the neighbourhood, we cut the tree up and hauled it away," said Cassey. "That to me is a way you solve the problem for everybody without hurting anyone--and we all enjoyed doing it."

One of the more recent problems that Cassey helped out with, and one that gained a little notoriety around town was the Dresden Cafe's parking battle. The new bylaw required that the cafe owner provided 13 one-site parking spots for the 26-seat capacity inside. Because there was no room for parking the City asked that he pay cash in lieu of parking, a mere \$70,000. "When he came to me, it became a case again of working behind the scenes to convince the planning board to throw out that part of the parking bylaw, which they did. They reverted in this case to the old bylaw which allowed him an exemption on his first 500 square feet. Because he only had 350 square feet he got his licence without paying a cent for parking--which seems only reasonable to me for somebody opening a new business like a cafe."

Looking towards the future, Cassey talks of the interdependency of communities and the challenges of rapid growth. He doesn't agree with the Mayo Report's estimate of one million residents in the Ottawa area by the year 2000, but feels that 750,000 to 800,000 might not be too far out of line. In discussing limits to growth, he feels there's a lot to be said for the concept of satellite cities that might help ease transportation, employment and recreational problems.

As for industrial growth, Joe Cassey would like to see more light industry move into the area and feels that Ottawa could welcome it without fear of diminishing our quality of life. "I wouldn't particularly like to see a steel mill set up shop, but there's a lot to be said for secondary industries that would create more employment. "We have a wonderful city in Ottawa, and we still have some room for growth but one day I think we'll have to be realistic and say 'how much bigger should we go'".

by Mike Alexander.

Ottawa South Community Centre

"THE OLD FIREHALL"



*The Mayor and Council
of the Corporation of the City of Ottawa
request the pleasure of your company
at the Official Opening of the
Ottawa South Community Centre
260 Sunnyside Avenue
Saturday, January 14, 1978
at 7:30 p.m.*

Saturday, January 14, 1978

**OPEN HOUSE and REGISTRATION
for WINTER PROGRAMS** 1p.m. to 5p.m.

OFFICIAL OPENING 7:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY DANCE 9:00 p.m.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT CENTRE DIRECTOR,
TED BEATON AT 563-3139**



**RECREATION BRANCH
BREWER PARK
563-3222**



Ottawa South Community Centre

JANUARY 23 - MARCH 17

Monday	Mom and Me (Preschoolers) (weekly fee to cover cost of refreshments) After School (6 - 12 years) Bridge (Adults)	9:30 - 11:30 a.m. 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. 7:30 - 10:00 p.m.
Tuesday	Stay Trim (Adults) Seniors Drop-In (Seniors) free After School (6 - 12 years) Tai Chi Teen Drop-In Disco Dancing	1:30 - 3:00 p.m. 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Wednesday	Pre-School Co-op (weekly fee for refreshments) Rag-Doll making Tapestry Yoga After School Dog Obedience Oriental Dancing	9:30 - 11:30 a.m. 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Thursday	Stay Trim Seniors Drop-In After School Theatre Workshops (Adult)	9:30 - 11:00 a.m. 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Friday	Ceramics Pre-Schoolers After School Teen Drop-In Adult Drop-In (Free)	10:00 - 11:30 a.m. 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. 7:30 - 10:00 p.m.
Saturday	Childrens Workshops (Mornings) Theatre Pottery & Ceramics Plant and Pet Care (Afternoons) Multi-Media Puppetry Knitting & Needlepoint	9:30 - 11:30 a.m. 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.
Sunday	Childrens Films Theatre Workshops (Teens) Photography Teen Drop-In	1:30 - 2:30 p.m. 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

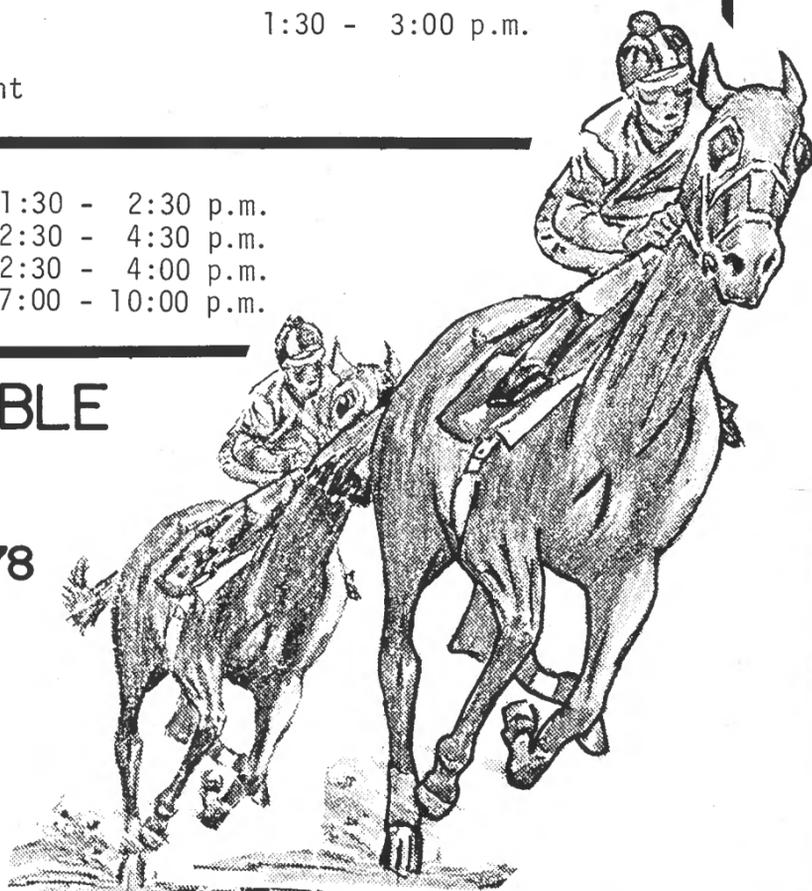
**CHECK OUT THESE DAILY DOUBLE
SPECIALS!**

REGISTRATION: Saturday, January 14, 1978

1p.m. to 5p.m.

January 16 to 20, 6p.m to 9p.m

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
TED BEATON at 563-3139

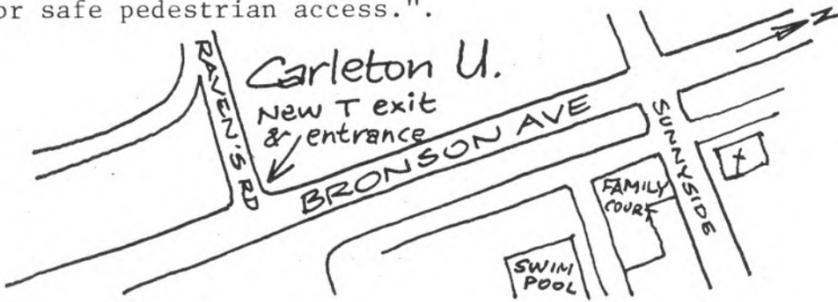


Carleton University wants to be a good neighbour

It seems that Carleton University is offering Ottawa South a temporary playground and a new crosswalk in exchange for providing residences for students.

In his response to the Report of the Rooming House Advisory Committee, J.E. Whenham, Director of Carleton University's Physical Plant, says the creation of easier access and the development of facilities of use to the population of Ottawa South should help develop a closer relationship between the two communities.

What is actually being planned for the near future is a set of lights and additional entrance to the campus off Bronson Avenue., South of the present Sunnyside access road near the gymnasium. This is now being considered by the Region and the Univeristy, explains Mr. Whenham, and will provide "a crossing for safe pedestrian access."



Also, the north twenty acres just past Sunnyside, are being considered fro some kind of joint project. It is just weeds now and could be used for a playground. "A playground could be reverted back and the equipment removed in five or ten years if Carleton wanted the area for athletic fields", says Mr. Whenham.

However, Mr. Whenham stressed that residents of Ottawa South already use the campus a great deal. Many people in Ottawa South use the picturesque University campus as a park, especially in the summer. Because of its proximity many people also attend open houses, auctions and public lectures. The pool and other athletic facilities are open for public membership. Tours are often arranged, for example, some Ottawa South day camp children toured the campus this summer.

"I believe we also have rental arrangements for other facilities", he says.

Mr. Whenham says the City jumped the gun by wanting to make a limit of ten people per rooming house in Ottawa South when it is usually set around four. However, as the planner explained at the November 28th meeting, "they probably reacted to Carleton's needs but without communication with Carleton University".

"I would hope that our neighbours would not find students are such a bad deal", says Mr. Whenham.

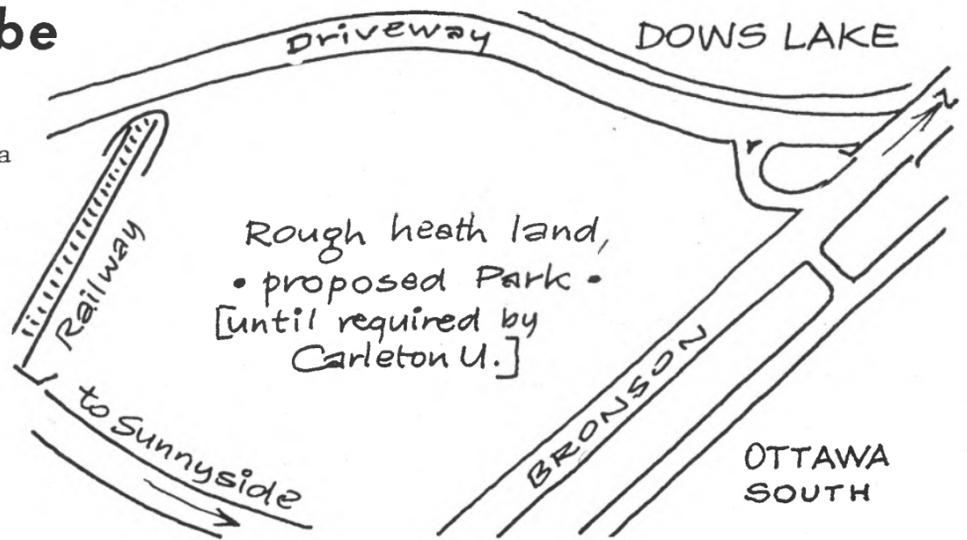
According to Carleton's statistics there are almost five-hundred students living in Ottawa South already.

"I would like to see this continue to expand", he says but as resident of Ottawa South himself, he adds, "I live there so I don't want to see the community run down."

He says he feels, however, that many are now living in violation of by-laws and this should be controlled. "Certain regulations are necessary to get away from undesirable and absentee landlords."

Although Mr. Whenham could not give any specific situations or evidence of this happening in Ottawa South, he says people there "act as if there are no rooming houses there now."

"In order that it does not have an adverse affect on property values or the quality of the community, regulations have to be applied.". This is his main reason for agreement with most of the proposals in the Committee's Report.



The reason Carleton is not building the much-needed residences on campus are straight economics. By law, residences have to be self-supporting and cannot be subsidized by the University. At present interest rates and construction costs, it is impossible to build them at a price students could afford to pay.

Perhaps the problems raised by the present rooming-house issue are basically a good thing, says Mr. Whenham. "For the first time, residents of Ottawa South have had an opportunity to ask Carleton what it is all about", he explains.

Louise Behan

A New Year Message from Alderman Joe Cassey



As the New Year rolls in, I wish to thank the members of the community and the community groups for their support which has helped me in presenting the views of the residents of Capital Ward to City Hall and to Regional Government.

This past year has been an exciting one, working towards the implementation of the Capital Ward Study, and I look forward to an exciting New Year working with you on this, as well as the many other important upcoming issues.

My sincere thanks for your guidance and support and June joins me in a wish to you and yours for a New Year which is one of happiness, health, prosperity and love.

Joe Cassey
Alderman for Capital Ward



Pottery Classes
at Hopewell Ave. School
Weds. 4 to 5:30 children 9 and up
10 weeks \$30 includes supplies
Thurs. 7:15 to 9:15 Teens & Adults \$40.
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