



POETS' PATHWAY NEWSLETTER November 2015

UNVEILING IN ROCKCLIFFE PARK, October 17

We unveiled our eleventh plaque in Rockcliffe Park on a shining Saturday in October. Wilfred Campbell's iconic *Indian Summer* now sits beside crimson sumac, opposite the grey waters of McKay Lake. Four o'clock on October 17 was cold - snowflakes were drifting when we arrived. But the sun shone brightly, the apricot, orange and yellow trees stood around us. The group of 20 something listened to addresses by Jane and by Ben, speeches by Councillor Tobi Nussbaum, in his poet's beret, Brian Dickson, President of the RPRA, cheery in red, a biography of Campbell from Dain Moore and the modern-day poetry of Mary Lee Bragg. Brian, Tobi, Kathy and Ben unveiled the plaque and Jodie McNamara read the poem well-known to so many Canadians.



Thanks to everyone involved and especially Kathy Day, historian of RPRA, and Paul Landry of the City of Ottawa. They patiently shepherded us through a long process for this plaque. Thank you also to Iola Price for the article in the Manor Park Chronicle.



INDIAN SUMMER

Wilfred Campbell

*Along the line of smoky hills
The crimson forest stands,
And all the day the blue-jay calls
Throughout the autumn lands.*

*Now by the brook the maple leans
With all his glory spread,
And all the sumachs on the hills
Have turned their green to red.*

*Now by great marshes wrapt in mist,
Or past some river's mouth,
Throughout the long, still autumn day
Wild birds are flying south.*

UNVEILING IN SAWMILL CREEK CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS

Our next unveiling is November 18! Our plaque actually did arrive before the snow! This unveiling is in the Sawmill Creek Constructed Wetlands, and takes place at 3 pm. Our guests for the unveiling ceremony will be Councillor Brockington, Donna Silver, past City Policy Advisor and assistant to Clive Doucet, and poet Blaine Marchand. The weather will be chilly, but worth the half hour's cold, as we unveil the poem on a bronze plaque and a lovely boulder in this beautiful and meaningful spot. (The photo beneath, taken in September, is of the pond just south of our site.) We invite you for a drink and a snack at a nearby restaurant after the unveiling.

There is room for only 4 or 5 cars at the on the road near our plaque site, off the north-bound Airport Parkway. Our plan is that **either you walk from the Walkley Transit Station, or you carpool from the parking lot at South Keys Shopping Centre.**

N.B. Dress warmly. Directions and links to maps are at the end of the newsletter.



CONCERT, NOVEMBER 30

We are proud to present this show, as yet untitled, directed by Barry Karp, and full of wonderful poets and musicians. Mark your calendars. We have musicians singing poetry, and poets performing with music; the mood will be dramatic in MacKay United Church in New Edinburgh for an hour or so Monday night, Nov. 30.

We are so lucky to have these artists. The poets are Susan McMaster, Colin Morton, Michel Therien, Ronnie Brown and Mary Lee Bragg. The musicians are Ben Glossop and Vincent Parizeau. Showtime is 8 pm. There is no intermission. Tickets are \$10. Enter from MacKay St.

JANE'S WALK

Our Jane's Walk this year took place in Riverview Park, and was led by Bruce Henderson of the Rideau Trail Association and his friend Audrey Stewart. Jane told the history of the area from its beginning, in streets of mud and lakes, outdoor rinks and no buses or even phones; then we looked in the woods for the same wildflowers that our poets described, and found some; and we walked to the Butterfly Park at CHEO. And in the woods and on the hill above the hospital, people read out loud their own poems. Bruce had written one for the occasion and read it on the hill. So many thanks to big-hearted Bruce, the Poet Laureate of the RTA, who led walks of the whole Poets' Pathway.

BIKE HIKE

Ben Glossop led our fifth annual walk of the whole Poets' Pathway Oct 17 and 18. The walk consisted of both biking and hiking, through the glorious fall colours and tall grasses and wildflowers of Ottawa's green spaces, by brown rivers, grey lakes and ponds, past the ducks and heron and jays and hawks. This walk was held in honour of Bruce Henderson, who passed away shortly after leading Jane's Walk. Ben read the 11 poems along the route and Bruce's poem too. We send condolences to all who love Bruce.



MARCIE'S POETRY GROUP

Marcie Connell found us when she searched for an opportunity to share poetry in the woods, and then she joined us for Jane's Walk in May. She has now begun a poetry writing group. Ottawa Classic Poets will be held the third Wednesday of every month, from 2-4pm, at the Main Library, Metcalfe and O'Connor. The first session is being held on Nov 18. Come whenever you like, for discussion, and to share your work.

FUNDRAISING THIS YEAR

PLANT SALE

Chris organized another plant sale in early spring, and worked for many hours with volunteers to dig, pot, watch over and sell hundreds of young perennials. The sale was a successful fundraiser for us, and we thank in particular Janice Seline for all her work and help.

THEATRE TICKETS

We sold tickets to the Phoenix Players production of *REXY*. The play garnered a nomination for best actor from the Capital Critics Circle. We are now selling tickets (vouchers) to *A CHRISTMAS SHOW* - two short Christmas comedies- also by Phoenix, and at the Gladstone Theatre, Nov 27 to Dec 5. Tickets are \$18., but \$15. for youth and seniors. www.phoenixplayers.ca

Once you buy a voucher you can trade it in for any performance, evening or matinee. To buy a ticket, please call Chris 613 792 4288. She will deliver it to you.

CITY WEBSITE: OTTAWA XYZ

Thanks to Jean Yves Pelletier, who has put us on Ottawa's online map of culture:

<http://ottawaxyz.ottawa.ca/the-poets-pathway/>

DIRECTIONS TO THE SAWMILL CREEK CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS

1. If you plan to drive, CONTACT US TO ARRANGE CARPOOLING – email, or call 613 723 6196; then drive from South Keys north along the Airport Parkway.

<https://www.google.ca/maps/dir/45.3639205,-75.6641687/Cineplex+Odeon+South+Keys+Cinemas/@45.3627001,-75.6718842,15z/data=!4m9!4m8!1m0!1m5!1m1!1s0x0:0xa4246d91fee0db51!2m2!1d-75.6537878!2d45.352471!3e2>

2. If you plan to walk, you can park at the Value Village parking lot, at Bank and Walkley. Then walk west to the stairs at the transit station:

<https://www.google.ca/maps/dir/45.3688192,-75.667392/Value+Village+Thrift+Store/@45.3627001,-75.6718842,15z/data=!4m9!4m8!1m0!1m5!1m1!1s0x0:0x3a8a785754f11ddf!2m2!1d-75.665133!2d45.3710049!3e2>

Next, walk to the site of the unveiling from the bottom of the stairs.

<https://www.google.ca/maps/dir/45.3684191,-75.6670861/45.364195,-75.6639102/@45.3627001,-75.6718842,15z/data=!4m2!4m1!3e2>

If you have questions about walking there, call Ben at 613 521 2250.

