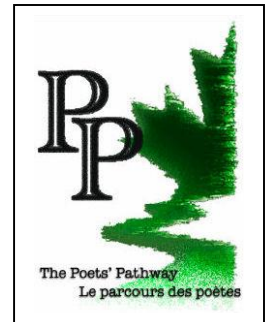


# Poets' Pathway Post May 2016



We are so busy right now!

## Unveiling in Sawmill Creek Constructed Wetlands, 2015



We held the unveiling of our twelfth plaque in the Sawmill Creek Constructed Wetlands on a warm November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Instead of the expected 2 degrees Celsius, we basked in 12 degrees. The land welcomed us, a symphony in beiges, creams, browns, and green, with rustling rushes and tall dry Asters. A lovely limestone artistic rock, bearing a bronze plaque, now sits in front of an Oak tree and a brown stream in the Wetlands.

Our group of 20+ listened to addresses by Jane and by Ben, speeches by a welcoming Councillor Riley Brockington and Donna Silver, and a biography of Harrison from Carolyn Malchy. We were honoured to have Blaine Marchand, our guest artist, read some of his wonderful poetry. After the unveiling we had an informal reception at a restaurant nearby.



The poem on the plaque, lines from *October*, read by Jodie McNamara, is by Susan Frances Harrison, a secondary Confederation Poet, and a well-known musician in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Ottawa. As a woman she often had difficulty in publishing her works,

and it is with a feeling of rightness that we recognize her many accomplishments, her lyricism and love of the land in this lasting memorial.

Many thanks to City officials Ron Rooke and Paul Landry, who helped move us through the official process quickly. Also thank you to Joanne Tait for her very patient work on many versions of the plaque.

### ***KILMORIE* and HERITAGE STATUS**

The emails flew and the alarms sounded suddenly this spring as the last home of Confederation poet William Wilfred Campbell was put on the market. *Kilmorie*, a farm built many years ago, then 3 miles outside Ottawa, was suddenly under the gun.

In 2011 we erected a monument on Colonnade Road, close to Merivale, to honour Campbell close to his home. The poem, *Down the Merivale Road* was written by Campbell after he moved there with his family in 1915.

We made a presentation at the Built Heritage Committee meeting in April, urging heritage status for *Kilmorie*, the home Campbell could finally afford to buy. There were many presentations for, and some against giving *Kilmorie* heritage status. Councillor Chiarelli spoke eloquently in favour of saving the home

Excellent research had been done by the heritage planners. In the long run, the committee decided to confer heritage status upon the house. The matter goes to council in early May.

Thank you to PHIL JENKINS, who wrote an article in the Ottawa Citizen, suggesting that *Kilmorie* be saved, and perhaps be made a Canadian poets' retreat.

Certainly the City View community is anxious for a bright future for *Kilmorie* and its land.

## **PLAQUES**

### **Plaque 13**

We are beginning work on our next plaque, number 13, in Walk 2 of the Pathway, in a spot above the Western Parkway among the trees and near the Ottawa River, in Byron Tramway Linear Park. The spot is actually right on the trolley line which was built in 1899. Ottawans excitedly travelled this line for their weekend outings at Britannia Beach and the Pavilion, for dances, picnics, sunshine, swimming and an amusement park.

### **Plaque 14**

We are also working on plans to unveil our last plaque in 2017 in front of the City Archives on Woodroffe and Tallwood. How appropriate is it that our heritage project should have a plaque outside the City's new Archives, which also houses fonds of Ottawa poets.

## **UPCOMING WALKS ON THE PATHWAY**

As you know, every year Jane's Walks sees dozens of fascinating neighbourhood walks in Ottawa, and other cities. We have been leading walks in different areas for years. We talk a bit about the history, geography, sites and sights of the neighbourhood, hear a few poems, chat, meet the neighbours, see a plaque! Breathe the outdoors, which is beginning to burgeon after a long winter. Fun!

This year we are leading one walk, and helping lead a second. Both are on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

## **1. The Poets' Pathway in the Sawmill Creek Constructed Wetlands.**

**Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. 3:30 pm.**

This is our seventh Jane's Walk. Donna Silver will host the walk. Donna knows the area and the ponds very well, and will explain what the Constructed Wetlands are, and when, how, why they were constructed.

The walk in this lovely area will be easy. It will start and end at Walkley Station, the Southbound Platform. Read the write up on the Jane's Walk site for more details. <http://www.janeswalkottawa.ca/walks/376>

## **2. Woodroffe Woods    Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. 10:30 am.**

Ben is collaborating with the Crestview Meadowlands Community Association on another walk on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, in the Woodroffe Woods. This is a precious part of the Poets' Pathway: here you can be alone with the fields, the woods, the wildlife, and your own dreams or thoughts - this an area like those the poets sang of. This area as greenspace is under threat. The City and the NCC are planning to use this broad untouched space to house a massive train shed. There may not be many more opportunities to see it as a jewel of the Poets' Pathway.

Please read the write-up on the Jane's Walk Ottawa 2016 site for details of the walk, and instructions on where to meet on Norice.

<http://www.janeswalkottawa.ca/walks/375>

## **RTA WALK**

The Rideau Trail Association is again walking the Poets' Pathway, to our delight. The walk which was led by walker and RTA poet Bruce Henderson for the past two years, is being led by Audrey Stewart. Here is the announcement from Audrey:

The Rideau Trail Association is organizing a series of walks on Ottawa's Poets' Pathway. The pathway will be walked over three days. You will see some of Ottawa's hidden gems: forests and green spaces, remnant creeks, neighbourhoods and poetry too.

Saturday May 28 level 1 - flat, mostly hardened surfaces 15 km

Saturday June 11 level 1.5 - wet spots, a stream crossing (if it is wet) over loose logs, some fallen trees 17 km

Saturday June 25 level 1 - flat, mostly hardened surfaces 17 km

There is a maximum of 20 participants, so registration is required. Do let me know if you would like to participate, and I will pass on the meeting place and time.

[audrey.j.stewart@gmail.com](mailto:audrey.j.stewart@gmail.com)

## **Annual Fundraiser PERENNIAL PLANT SALE**

**Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 9 to noon, rain or shine.**

**649 Brierwood Ave., Ottawa.**

**613-792-4288**



**Most plants: \$4.00 or less.**

The plants are from Chris's garden, and are beautiful, healthy and sturdy. They are all potted with care and fresh top soil.

The wide selection of perennials includes: Siberian and Bearded Iris, yellow Lamia, pink and purple fall Asters, Hosta, spreading Sedum, Forget-me-nots, Bee Balm, Phlox, Cone flowers, Lupine, Geranium, Shasta Daisies, Foam Flower, Black-eyed



Susan, ferns, Fever Few, Coreopsis, Lambs' Ear, Lady's Mantle, Evening Primrose, Yarrow, Day and Hybrid Lilies, ground covers, etc., plus small shrubs and chives.

This sale has become our most successful fundraiser (and is much needed this year!) Do come out, buy something lovely and help make our next plaque appear.

### **OUR SHOW: Mosaic Mosaïque**

We produced a show last Nov 30, and what a memorable show it was! Hosted by the vivacious TERI LORETTTO of CBC and Ottawa theatre fame, and directed by Barry Karp, it featured FIVE of Ottawa's best loved poets and four outstanding musicians in a show of beauty, wit, sensuality and passion. The setting was MacKay United Church. SUSAN McMASTER, RONNIE R. BROWN, MICHEL A. THERIEN, COLIN MORTON, and MARY LEE BRAGG performed their works. Sue was accompanied by the seductive double bass of the peripatetic ALRICK HUEBENER.

Three other stellar musicians, guitarists this night, were BEN GLOSSOP, DAVE BYRON and VINCENT PARIZEAU; they rocked out on six moving, soft and soaring songs composed by Ben, who had put poetry to music, both his own poems inspired by the Pathway, and other famous poems.

They often say that Ottawa is the cradle of the country's poetry: this night was a shining example.

### **HERITAGE GRANT**

We extend our most sincere appreciation to the City of Ottawa for this year's grant, and for the assistance of the Parks and the Environment and the Heritage and Culture departments, the Planning department, the City Archives, James Bartleman, and the many City councillors and their staffs who support us. Thank you.

