

Community Notes



Everyone Counts in the 2006 Census!

On Tuesday, May 16, Canadians will be asked to "count themselves in" by completing and returning their 2006 Census questionnaire either online at www.census2006.ca or by mail. Why take a census? Because governments of all levels use census data to make policy decisions about Canada's economic and social programs.

Incomplete census forms will be followed up with personal visits by census enumerators. All census staff carry an identification card with their picture on it which has been authorized by the Chief Statistician of Canada.

Census staff (with an identification card) must be given access to CCOC buildings.

In keeping with the privacy principle that everyone has the right to decide how their personal information will be used, for the first time, Canadians have the choice to decide whether they want their personal census information publicly released for historical and genealogical research after 92 years.

Census Help Line - 1-877-594-2006, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
TTY/TDD users call 1-888-243-0730 free of charge.

Free Gardening Advice

Beginner Organic Gardening Workshops - Sponsored by Just Food, Community Garden Network & Canadian Organic Growers(Ottawa chapter). All sessions \$5 per person or pay what you can. Everyone will receive a copy of the CGN updated Garden Guide. For more information, contact Just Food at 236-9300 x301.

Tuesday May 2, 6:30 - 8:30pm

Michelle Heights Community House - 2950 Penny Dr. Unit 102

Thursday May 4th, 6:30 - 8:30pm

Sandy Hill Community Health Centre satellite - 88 Main St. and

Vanier Community Service Centre (in French) - 290 Dupuis St.,

and

Tuesday, May 2, 6:30 - 8:30pm - Specific Container & Balcony Gardening Workshop

Overbrook-Forbes Community Resource Centre - 120-225 Donald Street

Wednesday, May 3, 6:30 - 8:30pm

Centretown Community Health Centre - 420 Cooper St.,

Saturday May 6, 1-3pm

Donald Community Room - 102 - 1240 Donald St., and

Hintonburg Community Centre - 1064 Wellington St.

Master Gardeners Free Advice Line - 236-0034 - Wednesdays and Thursdays, 1 -3 pm.

Sacred Relationships in the Great Law of Peace - Family - Community - Nature - Self

A free reading and discussion sponsored by Skyrock Forest Arts Inc. For more information call 231-2922

Date: Sunday, May 7, (rain or shine)

Time: 2 p.m.

Place: 455 Lisgar Street

NewsNotes



Goodbye Ray,

Meet the New Membership & Communications Coordinator

Meg McCallum joined CCOC's staff in early April as the new M&C Coordinator. Her previous work experience includes four years as a City councillor's assistant during which she became familiar with issues in Centretown and Lowertown. For the past few years, Meg has worked as the Executive Director for the ByWard Market Business Improvement Area. She also has volunteer experience with community organizations. She is currently the President of the Ottawa School of Art. She has volunteered with the Centretown Citizens Community Association, the Dalhousie Community Association and the Sexual Assault Support Centre and is a member of the Community Advisory Council for the Salvation Army Ottawa Booth Centre.



Welcome Meg!

Meg is replacing Ray Sullivan, CCOC's M&C Coordinator for the past 7 years. Ray has started a new job at the Centre for Sustainable Community Development with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. CCOC staff, tenants and volunteers miss Ray very much and wish him the best of luck in his new job. We look forward to his continued involvement with CCOC as a volunteer.

Because We Care About Child Care

At the March 29 Board meeting, the CCOC Board of Directors passed a motion to support the Child Care Campaign being organized by The Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada (CCAAC). CCAAC is a non-profit and membership based organization that is dedicated to promoting quality, publicly funded child care accessible to all.

Please visit www.buildchildcare.ca and add your name to the list of people who are calling on the Prime Minister and the Premiers to honour the child care agreements the federal and provincial governments reached last year. Write a comment of your own. See what other Canadians are saying about child care. The new minority Conservative government needs to hear you say that Canadians want a quality affordable child care system in this country!



Inside...

annual tenant & member meeting, office closing, Board candidates, count yourself in the 2006 Census, free gardening workshops & committee meeting dates.



CCOC Committee Meeting Schedule

Who should attend the meetings? YOU - all members and tenants are always welcome!

Why: To have your say in matters affecting all tenants; to be actively involved in the management of CCOC

Where: Board Room at 415 Gilmour Street (ring 808). Call 234-4065, ext. 0 to confirm.

Note: CCOC will help pay taxi fare and family care for committee members attending meetings.

STANDING COMMITTEES

	MAY	JUNE	TIME (PM)
Membership and Communications	May 3	June 7	7:00
Development Committee	May 9	June 13	
Rental Committee	May 16	June 20	7:00
Finance Committee	May 17	June 14	7:00
Property Management Committee	May 18	June 15	7:00
Board of Directors	May 25	June 29	7:30



"NewsNotes" is written & published by CCOC's Membership & Communications Department. Send us your ideas! Call Meg McCallum at 234-4065 extension 240 (meg.mccallum@ccochoosing.org) or Karen Batsch (karen.batsch@ccochoosing.org) at 234-4065 extension 241.

CCOC AGM

Thursday, May 25

in the rotunda at Ottawa City Hall

Memberships (\$3) available at 7 p.m. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

Electing New Board Members

CCOC's Board of Directors is made up of 14 members who are elected for a 2 year term by the membership. To ensure continuity, each year 7 of the 14 positions come up for election. Below is the list of candidates who have submitted bios to date for the 7 positions available this year. Other candidates may come forward before the AGM. The names of the 7 remaining board members are also listed. To vote for the Board you must purchase a \$3 membership.



African Development. He arrived in Canada in 1992 and works as a consultant on social and development issues. He is the National Chairman of the People's National Convention, a political party in Ghana. Mike speaks English, French German and Twi (Ashanti).

Bill Rooney

Bill has been a Board member for 4 years and served on the Executive Committee for 3 years. He has retired after 25 years with the Region of Ottawa-Carleton Social Services Department and the City of Ottawa Housing Branch. Much of Bill's social work experience has been community focused, working out of community centres and often dealing with housing and tenancy issues. In his last assignment with the City, he co-managed the City's Homelessness Initiatives Team as it mobilized and supported community agencies to prevent and end homelessness. As a volunteer, Bill served nearly 10 years and was Vice-President of Project Upstream, an organization that supports and houses people struggling with mental illness.

Margot Young

Margot has been on the Board for 2 years. She was a ten-year tenant of CCOC until 1991. During that time she also served on the Board and filled the positions of Secretary and Vice-President. Margot has been a longtime downtown resident and has recently returned to centre town. She works as a researcher for the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE). Her areas of work include social services and social justice issues as well as child care. She has also had a long-term involvement with human rights and equality issues both in her volunteer work, the Court Challenges Program and at CUPE.

Doris Zastre

Doris has been a CCOC tenant for 25 years, first on Primrose and now at 258 Lisgar. She has been a Membership and Communications Committee member since 1991. Doris has recently retired after 25 years as a counsellor at Interval House. While working there, she served on the Board of the Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses (OAITH), as a Director, Treasurer and Lobby Committee member. OAITH lobbies the government for funding and policy changes to help women leaving abusive situations. She also worked as interim Executive Director at Maison d'Amitié. Doris' background includes a degree in Early Childhood Education and work in day care, head start programs for children, Junior Kindergarten and special needs classes. She serves as a community member on the Elgin Street Public School Parent Council and has been involved for 7 years.

CCOC Board Members entering their Second Year

Glenn Allen

Lina Asfour

Kerry Beckett

Pamela Christie

Luke Pelot

Aron Spector

Jeannie Wynne-Edwards



Biographies for these directors will be available with the candidate information at the AGM.

Candidates for CCOC's 2006-07 Board of Directors



Richie Allen

Richie is finishing her 11th year on the Board and her 3rd year as a CCOC tenant. She has served on the Executive Committee, as Board Secretary and is a member of the Development Committee and the Nominations and Appointments Subcommittee. Richie is a longtime downtown resident who has been involved in both municipal and international community development projects. She is a historical researcher at Library and Archives Canada and a goldsmith. She volunteers with Minwaashin Lodge and Community gardening. Favourite pastimes include gardening, reading and making big paper maché things.

Eliane Gaudet

Eliane is a tenant at 110 Nelson Street and a member of the Membership and Communications Committee. In the past, she has sat on a City of Gloucester facilities management board and built and renovated six family homes, therefore becoming cognizant of municipal construction and housing issues. Since the eldest of her two children was born on the day of history's worst nuclear accident, she became a founding member of the Children of Chernobyl, which provides health and medical training programs to that disaster area. She has also welcomed two Chernobyl children into her home and has a foster child in Nicaragua. Eliane is a retired civil servant who has managed government communications groups over 25 years. She is currently enrolled in a Masters program and intends to devote considerable time to her new CCOC volunteer activities.

Sue Lott

Sue was a CCOC tenant for 15 years. She has been on CCOC's Board for 4 years, the past 2 years in the position of President and has been on CCOC's Executive for 3 years. Sue has a record of community involvement in Centretown and in affordable housing issues. She worked at Housing Help, a community-based housing information and advocacy service and was active with the former Federation of Ottawa Carleton Tenants Associations. Sue also worked as a constituency assistant to the former Ontario Housing Minister from 1990 to 1995. She is a lawyer working for the Public Interest Advocacy Centre, a non-profit organization that provides legal and research services on behalf of vulnerable consumer interests. Sue believes strongly that affordable housing is vital to the health of downtown communities and that CCOC is a model for how it should be delivered.

Dr. Mike Mensah-Bonsu

Mike is a tenant at 415 Gilmour. He was born in Offinso, a small town in the Ashanti Region of Ghana. Mike studied at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana and pursued further education in England, France and Germany. He was awarded a PhD in 1982. From 1982 to 1986, he lectured on African political, economic and social systems at the Departments of Social Anthropology at Marburg and Trier Universities, and offered cross-cultural and foreign service adaptation programs in Germany. He worked as a consultant on African Affairs for the German Judiciary during criminal and civil court hearings, and for religious institutions and the media discussing issues affecting

Keeping Pigeons off your Balcony

Pigeons like areas where there is food, water and shelter. Favourite nesting places are dark sheltered areas such as overhangs, ledges and apartment balconies.



To keep the pigeons away:

- do not feed them
- keep your balcony free of crumbs; and
- cover garbage cans tightly.

Plastic owls, snakes or other predators may scare pigeons away. If you install these, you must:

- change their location often so the pigeons don't get used to them; and
- place them so that they are partially hidden and catch the pigeon by surprise.



Please note: the CCOC office will be closed on

**Victoria Day
Monday, May 22**

The office will re-open at 9 a.m.
on Tuesday, May 23.