



CCOC NewsNotes October 2008

CCOC mourns the passing of Marion Dewar

Citizens from all parts of our city are saddened by the passing of Marion Dewar, Ottawa's Mayor from 1978 to 1985.

Marion was a champion for her city and for all the people in it. She made a huge difference and was at the forefront of so many projects that changed our city for the better. Marion was a visionary, willing to embrace new ideas and involve people in making the difference.

Marion was also a huge supporter of social housing, and of CCOC. She was the mayor during our first decade and her concern about the housing needs of low and modest income people in our City made her a vital player in CCOC's early years. Although our funding came from the Federal government, we relied on the City to help us do our work.

It was thanks to Marion that CCOC was able to locate a daycare at 258 Lisgar Street. She also made it possible for us to redevelop the old Percy School site, which was vacant and owned by the City of Ottawa. CCOC was able to provide 42 family units in an award winning development. Looking at a surface parking lot off Bank Street at Gloucester and Nepean, Marion agreed with us that it would be much better used as an integrated facility that included a City Parking garage and two social housing buildings, providing affordable housing to 160 households.

And Marion continued to be an advocate for the housing needs of people in our community. She was at City Hall last year during Council's budget meetings, reminding the politicians that they needed to address the issue of housing in a meaningful way.

CCOC, its tenants and volunteers, are indebted to Marion and her unwavering commitment. We will continue to work, keeping her vision and unbridled optimism in our hearts.



Marion Dewar, 3rd from the right, along with members of the Centretown Planning Committee at the 30th anniversary celebration in 2005

Inside...

Federal election primer and reminders,
Carbon footprints and how to calculate yours,
Fall stuff and happy Hallowe'en.

Art, fabric & hidden treasures.

613-234-4065

Maintenance ext. 707

Rental ext. 224/245

Finance ext. 230

Communications ext. 240

"NewsNotes" is written & published by CCOC's Membership & Communications Department. Your comments, submissions & suggestions are welcome. Call Meg McCallum at ext. 240 (meg.mccallum@ccochousing.org) or Karen Batsch at ext. 241 (karen.batsch@ccochousing.org)

www.ccochousing.org

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2008 Federal Election - Vote Housing

Election Housing Primer *Excerpts from: Housing, homelessness, health & the 2008 federal election - Michael Shapcott, Director of Community Engagement, Wellesley Institute*

Federal investments lowest in 2 decades

- Federal housing investments of \$2 billion in 2008 are at their lowest level since 2002.
- The United Nations called housing and homelessness a “national emergency” during its most recent review of Canada’s compliance with international housing laws. Our social housing sector is smaller than most other developed countries.
- In 2006, the United Nations called housing and homelessness in Canada a "national emergency".

Housing insecurity at record levels

- 1-in-4 Canadian households pay 30% or more of their income on housing – that’s 3 million households;
- Housing is the biggest expense for low, moderate and middle-income households;
- High housing costs are a key reason that 720,231 Canadians lined up at food banks in March of 2007.
- Canada’s rental vacancy rate has been below 3% (the danger zone) since the year 2000.
- More than 300,000 Canadians experience homelessness annually.

Election Reminders... Election Signs

Tenants have a right to support candidates by putting up election signs, however, the signs must be located in such a way as to clearly indicate which tenant is supporting the candidate. You can put election signs in your window or on your balcony. If you live in a row house, you can put a lawn sign in front of your unit. If you share a yard with other tenants, you must all agree to put the sign up.

Canvassers

Candidates and their canvassers have a legal right to enter your building to talk to you and your neighbours about the election. Read the information they leave behind; does it mention housing? Ask them if they support social housing.

Go Green Survey Results

We’ve completed the first survey of CCOC tenants, asking about habits in the areas of mobility, utilities, shopping and waste. We also asked questions about how much tenants understand concepts like "climate change" and "carbon footprint" and whether they are interested in making changes to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas they produce. Here are some of our findings:

- 87% of survey respondents would like to do more to help the environment.
- 80% of survey respondents say that they have already replaced their older light bulbs with CFLs, and
- 68% say that they hang their clothes on a clothesline to dry whenever possible.
- 100% of the people who have answered our survey say that they have already done at least one thing to reduce their electricity use!



Living sustainably doesn’t have to be complicated. Here are 3 things you can do today to lower your carbon footprint:

1. Replace a burnt out light bulb with a Compact Fluorescent bulb – they last longer AND use less energy!
2. Remember to turn off the lights when you leave the room, and turn off any appliances you are not using.
3. Take a shower instead of a bath. A five-minute shower uses about half the water a bath does!

**To find out how big your carbon footprint is
visit www.ottawa.zerofootprint.net**

Fall Stuff

Lease Renewals

Many CCOC tenants whose rent is subsidized have their lease renewed on February 1. By now, those tenants should have received a letter from rental staff asking for proof of income and household composition.

Tenants must submit this information to us before October 31 to have their lease and rent subsidy renewed. If your lease ends on January 31 and you have not received our letter, please contact your Rental Officer.



Rental Officers - 613-234-4065 • Nicole - extension 245 • April - extension 224

NSF Fee Increase



As of October 1, 2008 tenants will be charged **\$15 for cheques returned due to insufficient funds** (NSF cheques). This increase in fees is to offset costs incurred by CCOC when a cheque is returned as NSF.

Roofdecks

With temperatures dropping, CCOC will be locking the roofdecks and tenants will no longer have access to them. This is done because of the hazards created by ice and snow on the decks and the resulting safety issues. The roofdecks will be unlocked again in the spring once all of the snow and ice have melted.

Outdoor Taps



- afin de protéger les tuyaux contre le gel, veuillez fermer tous les robinets extérieurs de l'intérieur. Laissez le robinet extérieur ouvert.
 - to prevent freezing, shut all hose bibs off from the inside. Drain the line by turning on the outside tap.
-

Hallowe'en isn't Just for Kids

CCOC has decorations to lend to tenants interested in decorating the common areas in the building. We also have some funding for tenant gatherings to celebrate seasonal events.

Each year, volunteers in various CCOC buildings do a great job of getting everyone into the spirit of Hallowe'en by decorating the lobby of their building, organizing tenant gatherings in the building or just getting together with other tenants to hand out treats.

If you're interested in decorating your lobby or organizing a tenant gathering or treat giving, contact Karen at 613-234-4065, ext. 241.



The CCOC Office will be closed on Monday, October 13 for Thanksgiving.

Notre bureau sera fermé le lundi 13 octobre pour le jour de l'action de grâce.



Cambridge Street School Fabric Flea Market



Fabric, knitting & weaving yarn, needlework supplies. 60+ vendors. Voluntary admission \$2. Proceeds support Cambridge Street Public School. Donations of materials welcome at the school before the event.

Date: Saturday, October 18
Location: Glebe Community Centre,
175 Third Avenue at Lyon

Time: 10 am to 2 pm
Telephone: 613-722-6874

Hop on the Artbus

Date: Saturday, October 18
Location: Ottawa School of Art,
35 George St.

Time: 10 am to 5 pm
Telephone: 613-241-7471



Explore 27 non-profit galleries & artist-run centres on both sides of the river. Choose 1 of the following options:

1. take free prearranged tours on OC Transpo or STO starting at OSA. Hop on and off throughout the day - buses come by every 15 to 30 minutes. Volunteers will be on the buses and at the OSA to help.
2. pick up a free ArtBus day pass (good on OC Transpo or STO) and create your own self-guided tour. Day passes available at the school (35 George St.) as of Thursday October 16th.

Hidden Treasures Give Away Weekend

Date: Saturday & Sunday, October 25 & 26
Location: throughout the city
Time: all day



Treasures include: books, CDs and DVDs, old furniture, small appliances, construction materials (drywall, nails, bolts & screws), kitchen gadgets, dishes, cutlery, pots and pans, unwanted gifts & more.

Rules for setting out the treasures:

- Place items at the curb.
- Place stickers or signs on items with the word "FREE".
- Things you want to keep shouldn't be near the FREE items
- Bring in unclaimed items at the end of the day,

Treasure hunting etiquette:

- Respect people's property, don't walk on lawns/gardens.
- Don't put treasures you've picked-up on another person's lawn.
- Take only the treasures marked free at the curb.

CCOC Committee Meeting Schedule

STANDING COMMITTEES	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	TIME (PM)
Membership & Communications	no meeting	November 5	7:00
Development Committee	October 14	November 11	7:00
Finance Committee	October 15	November 12	7:00
Property Management Committee	October 9	November 13	7:00
Rental Committee	October 21	November 18	7:00
Board of Directors	October 29	November 26	7:30



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

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