

Lady Evelyn Alternative School Council

Newsletter

May 2001

Web Page: <http://www.deadman.ca/le>

Mailing List: ladyevelyn@deadman.ca

Council Meeting

The next council meeting will take place on **Wednesday May 9th at 7:30 P.M.** in room 225. Kathy Lausman, Manager of physical facilities/design for the school board has agreed to attend to discuss the planned closures of three rooms in the school next year.

This will be the second last council meeting of the year and a time to start planning for next year's activities. The attached survey should have some initial results available which will help the council decide on how to prioritize its efforts.

Agenda

- **Room Closures** – question Kathy Lausman about the reasons for the closures, as well as their safety and other impacts on the schools
- **Spring Yard Improvements** - update on board and school council plans for the school yard. Do we get yet more concrete?
- **Council Survey** -- review the preliminary results on homework, start times and fundraising
- **Lady Evelyn Vision** - Discussion of the development of a short brochure for the fall outlining how we are different, what our values are and what we expect from our kids and parents
- **Cell Phones and Pagers** - What rules should be placed on our kids use of these?
- **Concrete plans for Council support for Alternative Education next year.**
- **Spring Social Activities**
- **Fundraising plans**

Refreshments will be served!

It's suddenly hot and it feels more like the middle of June than early May. Grade 3 and 6 testing is upon us, the Clifford Bowey pool party is past (what a blast) and we are looking forward to soccer leagues, swimming, MacSkimming trips and the lazy days of summer. Now is the time, as well, to start planning for next fall. Due to the normal graduation of some of our families, the school will be losing some valuable talent, particularly in regards to social activities and choir. Lady Evelyn is a family of great kids, great teachers and parent volunteers who add to the educational and social environment for our kids. If you have a bit of time, why not consider getting involved. Aunt Evelyn needs you (smile).

Richard

Room Closures

The school board's Plant department, responsible for custodial services, is ordering the closure of classrooms in downtown schools. This means the water will be turned off, the heating will be dropped as low as possible and the doors will be locked. The rationale seems to be that with the decision not to close Mutchmor,

Elgin and other central schools, the board has to find a way to fit their custodial budget across all the schools.

Furthermore, the classroom closures are supposed to free up custodial staff to do preventative maintenance, which has been neglected recently, including such things as painting. While Valerie has successfully retained some space, Lady Evelyn will still

be losing three rooms, which means that we will lose the current core french classrooms and will have to re-organize the rest of the classes.

Currently, the board has not ruled out the possibility of renting these closed classrooms out, which has raised some security concerns. Kathy Lausman, Manager of physical facilities/design for the school board, has agreed to attend the next council meeting to answer our questions.

School Council Survey

After some updates at the last council meeting, the short survey of parent/guardian issues is ready (please see attached). This survey will also be made available on the council web site for those addicted to computers (<http://www.deadman.ca/le>). If parents can get the surveys back promptly, they will be discussed at the next council meeting on May 9th.

New School Web Site

Thanks to Mike Hopper and his merry band of student web masters, the school now has its own web site (<http://www.ocdsb.edu.on.ca/leveweb>). The site is colourful, full of great pictures and quotes and a real tribute to the kid's hard work.

Upcoming Events

The Clifford Bowey Pool Party was a great success, with near-capacity tum out. The kids had a great time and most of the food disappeared. Thanks Nadia and Heather. Plans for a school Activity day and/or School Picnic are being discussed.

Fundraising

The council has not raised as much money this year as we have spent. Fortunately we have been able to fall back on our reserves. Anne Crawford and Sue Hollingsworth are working on some plans for the end of the year fundraiser, such as possibly a "Lap for Lady Evelyn" walk-a-thon.

The Loblaws gift certificate programme is still in full swing and if anyone wants extra certificates for the summer, they should contact Anne Crawford (567-0318). Many people may still be unsure about how the plan works, so here's a summary:

- Give a cheque to the school council for \$XXX
- Get Loblaws gift certificates for \$XXX
- Take them to Loblaws and buy groceries. If you spend less than the amount of a certificate, Loblaws gives you the balance in cash.

- You've just painlessly supported the school council.

Alta Vista Parkway

The city's transportation planning committee recently approved an environmental assessment of the Alta Vista Parkway, without terms of reference that direct the assessment towards light rail. The Ottawa East Community Association has been fighting the Alta Vista parkway for years. The impact on Lady Evelyn will be:

- Most of green space by Springhurst park replaced with a four-lane parkway heading over the Rideau River.
- The Lees apartment buildings will be encircled by the Queensway, the Transitway, the Rideau River and the Alta Vista Parkway.
- The planning committee has indicated that excess traffic from the Parkway will spill onto Lees Ave.

Local groups have been pushing for light-rail or other mass transit alternatives to bringing more cars downtown, most of which would more logically hook into either the train station or Hurdman transitway station, and so not require a bridge over the Rideau and across the greenspace by Springhurst Park.

If you would like to get involved, or would like more information, contact The Ottawa East Community Association through the Old Town Hall.

School Board Budget

The school board is in the middle of it's budget process. Since the province is cutting their funding again this year, some difficult choices have to be made. Some proposed options that have been tabled with the board include:

- Start core French at Grade 4. This would eliminate french for half our kids.
- Solicit school council funds to assist with computers
- Drastically alter busing (i.e. Reduce or eliminate transportation, impose user fees, provide transportation to only one core programme (i.e. English schools), no noon-hour transportation, etc.)
- Year Round Schooling
- Charge students for texts, notebooks and supplies

There are many other suggestions as well. If you want to get involved, contact your trustee or your M.P.P or go to the school board budget meetings. For more on the "staff" recommended budget, you may attend a special OCASC meeting Tuesday May 8th at 7:30 P.M. at Fisher Park.
