

## Chair's report September 12, 2017

### Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, November 14

- we will be electing a new Board for a 2 year term
- while there are a number of Board members interested in participating for another term, there are also a number of openings: Vice-president, secretary, representatives to the Federation of Citizens' Association, Centretown Community Coalition, members-at-large
- we will be forming a Nomination Committee shortly to help in our recruitment efforts; I encourage anyone interested in joining the Board to contact me at your earliest convenience
- it is a great opportunity to meet a wonderful group of committed volunteers, learn more about your neighbourhood, the City and your local level of government (which so often has the most impact on your day-to-day living)

### Membership drive

- once again our membership team (Suzanne Johnston, Jan D'Arcy and Wendy McRae) are pulling together kits for this year's drive; we always have a wonderful team of canvassers representing our community

### Sesquicentennial circumnavigation of Rideau Island

- we are up to approximately 15 canoes expected to head out on Saturday, September 9 for this wonderful event; hopefully the weather will cooperate and we can share some wonderful stories when we are finished rowing

### PM Speaker Series

- we had a wonderful presentation on Lester B Pearson by Stephen Azzi on June 25
- we will restart our series on Monday, September 25 with a presentation on Louis St Laurent by Xavier Gélinas (7:00pm in Room L120, Saint Paul University, 233 Main St)

### Main Street

- watch for an upcoming Main Street newsletter from the City which will provide information on the timing and nature of some of the finishing work on our great new Complete Street, e.g., new island north of Springhurst Avenue, reconstruction of the first bulb-out south of des Oblats Avenue
  - note that throughout the duration of the work, a travel lane will be maintained in each direction during peak periods, with the flagging of traffic during off-peak periods as necessary

### Rideau River Western Pathway

- construction has been proceeding on both the Springhurst and Brantwood Park portions of this route
- hopefully we will soon be able to access the full route, including through the former Oblate property

### Additional soil testing in Archville

- a number of residents on Chestnut, Simcoe and Concord recently received a letter from the City requesting access to their property to conduct soil sampling in September 2017
- the City is trying to better determine the exact limits of the old landfill site that was operational in this area from the early 1900s to the mid 1930s (which was used for the disposal of garbage, cinders and ash)
- to date no investigations have been undertaken at any of the private residential properties near Springhurst Park
- the letter was sent to property owners both inside and outside the assumed landfill footprint to confirm the extent, depth and nature of the contaminants within the residential community to the west of Springhurst Park
- it is my understanding that a public meeting may be considered after the testing is complete

### AECOM / Enbridge upgrade to natural gas lines

- as part of the work to increase the natural gas capacity in our community (particularly in light of the large Greystone development), AECOM is installing new gas lines along Lees Avenue to Chestnut and then along Simcoe

### **Queensway Downtown Bridges preliminary design study**

- thanks to Tom Scott (a resident of the Archville Triangle) who continues to try to ensure that the noise and run-off issues from the current Queensway do not get ignored as studies are undertaken for planned modifications
- he recently shared the following information that he received from one of the contractors with us:
- "Although the focus of the preliminary design study is to define future bridge management plans for the Metcalfe, Elgin, Rideau Canal and Main street structures we will also be completing a review of the residential area of your neighbourhood for noise abatement. The results of the review will be presented later in the Study."

### **Greystone Village**

- tree cutting: I received the following information about tree cutting on this site from Erin O'Connor of Regional at the end of July:

"I'm emailing to advise you that we've acquired another tree removal permit from the City of Ottawa to remove additional trees within Greystone site. The tree removal operation is scheduled to start on Tuesday, August 8. ... The area in which the trees will be removed are in front of the Deschâtelets building where the future back to back townhomes will be constructed fronting onto Deschâtelets Avenue. We have also been given permission to remove a few trees along the Grand Allée that have fallen down as a result of age and their very poor condition. These trees will be replaced with large similar trees as part of the heritage landscape.

In addition to this work, a handful of trees along the property of [130 Springhurst Ave.](#), the Father's residence, have also been slated to be removed. This is because of their unlikely survival through required underground and above ground operations occurring on our property. We are coordinating with the managers of this property and have agreed to replant trees of their choosing and location within their property as compensation.

Along with tree removal, the tree contractors have also been contracted to prune the existing retained trees along the northern property's edge to create a 6m high vertical clearance on our side of the property. This is necessary to provide the needed room to construct the new road and houses along this edge. This work will be overseen by a professional arborist and care will be taken to ensure as minimal impact as possible while supporting the tree's health and structure."

- site access:

As of the end of June, access for construction has been changed to Hazel St., which has traffic lights and a controlled intersection, as Regional constructs the road and underground services for Phase 2 of its development. There had been some issues with the safe commute of pedestrians and cyclists with trucks using the Grande Allée in June; the CA therefore welcomes this change.

### **The Corners on Main**

- Domicile has indicated that their Phase 1 building should be completed in November/December with new residents expected to move in shortly after Christmas
- they have also indicated that they are getting ready to start Phase 2
- they are not yet ready to make any announcements with respect to the retail/ commercial occupants

### **Lady Evelyn playground**

- over the summer the school playground was dramatically altered by removing the previous drop in grade (approximately 6') and the removal of large trees at the base of the property
- from a Neighbourhood perspective, one of the most puzzling aspects of this construction was that there is no requirement for a school board to provide any notice to its neighbours of such a change
- as a result of quick intervention by owners of adjacent property, eventually a plan was developed to save a large maple tree bordering on the school property, but a considerable amount of stress could have been avoided by better and earlier communication of the plan
- I have wandered by the school on a number of occasions since the school ground reopened this week, and it looks like the artificial turf field in particular has been a big success with the kids

### **Springhurst Park**

- the new grass & sod enjoyed the rains of the summer and thanks to Springhurst Park Action, there were new activities to try as well

- the basketball court has been resurfaced, although we are hoping that some remediation will still be undertaken to ensure that water does not continue to pool on the southern part of the court

### **Healthy Transportation Coalition (HTC)**

- we received a request from this organization for membership dues of \$50
- as we have not previously been a member of this group, I will be seeking the views of Board members at our upcoming meeting

### **Infill 1&2 monitoring**

- on July 7 I represented our community at a meeting (organized by Elizabeth Demarais, City Planner) with other representatives of the Federation of Citizens' Associations (FCA) regarding the Mature Neighbourhood Overlay and the Alternative Provisions in the Urban Area (Infill II). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the monitoring review process as well as to hear from FCA representatives about any issues, concerns and successes that have been experienced in the urban residential neighbourhoods since these by-laws were adopted two years ago
- this meeting was viewed as the beginning of the discussion with more information and discussion to take place in the Fall of 2017
- please note that the city is interested in photos that show the changing neighbourhoods before and after, ie. effects of Infill 1 and 2. We have been asked to send photos directly to Beth Demarais - please let us know at [planning@ottawaeast.ca](mailto:planning@ottawaeast.ca) if you send photos. The FCA plans to form an archive of material.

### **Planning**

- our planning committee also took a summer break from meeting over the summer, but there were still some issues that had e-mails flying!
- North of the Queensway, in the Archville Triangle, a proposed development at [41 Concord Street North](#) highlighted the limits of possible interventions for such as-of-right options as roof-top patios
- There are also a number of residents on Glenora concerned about a planned triplex at 173 Glenora which is to be built on a lot that, according to City zoning rules, should not be allowing more than a duplex. (This has been a big issue on Chestnut Street for a number of years.)
- One positive recent development on the planning front is the recently enacted interim control bylaw which does not permit more than 4 bedrooms in any one unit
- something to watch for in the next few years is the planned parking study to be completed for the North of Queensway area at time of Greenfield rebuild; the lack of street parking has been an issue for a number of residents in this area

### **Heritage Inventory project**

- I attended an information session for the Heritage Inventory Project was held on June 22, 2017 at Southminster United Church to cover the details of the project and more specifically, the properties evaluated in Old Ottawa East and Old Ottawa South.
- prior to this session, a letter was mailed out to all affected property owners
- please note that Ron Rose is writing an article on this project for the next edition of the Mainstreeter; he plans to speak to some of the property owners whose homes have been identified for this list
- if you are interested in speaking to Ron, please send me an e-mail and I will forward to Ron