

Chair's report May 9, 2017

Main Street

- newsletters have started up: the most recent update was #37 on April 13; see our web-site: <https://ottawaeast.ca/mainstreet>
- Main Street is getting ever nearer to its official opening; current planning is for Saturday, June 17 in conjunction with the Main Event.
- Before then, new retaining walls and the sidewalk will be completed at the corner of Main and Lees and the glass panels at the Public Art site will be installed.

Traffic issues

- I was cc'ed on a message to our Councillor from an Archville resident on the lengthy time delays when trying to turn right (north) on to Main St at Lees.
- There were 2 issues raised in this message:
 1. the need for better synchronization of lights at this intersection with the lights at Main and Hawthorne and
 2. a proposal to allow car traffic to use the Queensway E on ramp on Lees (which would eliminate some of the traffic at the Main and Lees intersection).
- With respect to the first issue, the Councillor's office suggested that poor driving behaviour may be a large part of the problem. With motorists pulling up into the northern leg of the intersection (and at time blocking the pedestrian crosswalk and beyond) the ability for northbound turning cars on Lees completely disappears.
- An option for residents is to report such infractions via the Ottawa Police Services non-emergency online reporting tool (<https://www.ottawapolice.ca/en/contact-us/Online-Reporting.asp>). Note that if enough people report this infraction (and it is an infraction) then the Councillor's office can follow-up with our local Community Police Officer and flag the issue to her as one on which the community would like to see action.
- on the second issue, we received the following response:

"...It is not so much an issue of bus volumes, but lane configuration and safety on the mainline of the 417 that results in the need to maintain this bus-only designation. This is to ensure the safety of both the motorists in the area and the buses using the ramp as it would have created an unsafe weave of bus traffic and on-ramp general traffic. ...The Rail Implementation Office and the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario are not in favour of opening the 417 eastbound on-ramp at Lees Avenue during certain times of day, during any stage of this detour. It is much more difficult to maintain compliance with a "bus-only" designation when the facility is not designated as such 24 hours a day. Because compliance with this bus-only designation is critical in obtaining the safety benefit and the transit operational benefit, we cannot support this suggestion. Further, this maintains consistency with other freeway bus-only facilities in Ottawa, which are all designated bus-only 24 hours a day. This ramp will re-open once Light Rail Transit revenue generating services commences in 2018. We appreciate that this is an inconvenience and would like to reiterate that these decisions are done for the safety of those travelling in our City. We appreciate your continued patience while the City constructs the largest infrastructure project in Ottawa's history."

Springhurst Park

- Springhurst Park Action (SPA) is readying plans for the summer.
- Soccer mini nets will be back with plans for a soccer rebound wall, adult regulation size (and children's mini size) table tennis tables, regulation size badminton court and a family fun badminton play area.
- But the seeding done by the city after last fall's remediation has not been successful in the areas where all of these fun activities are to be located. While the city has now decided to sod these areas, we will need to hope for a wet June for the sod to be useable by late June when school ends for the summer.
- it would have been so much easier if the sod had been laid in the fall!

PM Book club

- our second event on Sir John A Macdonald was on April 24 was wonderfully led by Phillipe Azzie; we have had great feedback

- our next event will be held on Monday, May 29; we will be discussing Dir Robert Borden, with the discussion being led by Greg Donaghy
- we will be returning to Room L120 at Saint Paul University, 233 Main St

New Community Centre

- a letter of support by OOECA, CAG and SHCHC was sent to the City in advance of the May 2 City meeting re whether the to engage in discussions with CCOC/cahdco on plans for a new centre in the Deschatelets building
- note that Jasmine Tranter of CCOC/cahdco will be making a presentation to us at our next Board meeting on June 13 on their work to date on this project

Main Event

- Andrew Power has volunteered to lead our barbeque efforts this year. Board and community members will hopefully be able to help out as in previous years. Thank you Andrew.
- We have received a cash sponsorship request from CAG to support this event. I have forwarded the e-mail go Board members and would suggest that we discuss at our May 9 meeting.
- Another topic for discussion is the request from the Councillor's office to supply some volunteers at the barriers at Main/ Hazel & Main/ Clegg for the duration of the closure (10am – 2:30pm). The request is for one person per barrier (so 2 at any given time) with the side streets not requiring any volunteers. (The volunteers would be there in the (highly unlikely) chance that an emergency vehicle might need to transit through the closure and to allow access to the area to the site for the booked food trucks, fire trucks and OPS vehicles.)

Domicile

- Domicile recently celebrated the "topping off" of Phase 1 of the development; the roof is now on the building, with occupancy still on track for the end of 2017
- I have been speaking with Domicile about parking concerns of some of the residents in the area close to the construction site; much of the on-street parking is currently taking up by contractors starting often before 6:00am. Domicile is looking into whether there are some additional spots that can be found on private property and have been requesting that contractor staff respect quiet times as they park (and when they return to their vehicles)

Greystone Village

- Regional's Phase 1 development near Clegg Street is continuing to move forward; the construction of many of the single family homes and town houses is now well advanced. Work is also proceeding on the remediation for Phases 2 and 3. Following the completion of this remediation, the construction of the sewers and future roads in Phase 2 will begin, including the expansion of Des Oblats Ave.
- the site plan control application for the first two 9 storey condos is reactivated. Regional hopes to have approval in place before the end of the year with construction of the first building starting this winter.

Rat Issues in the Archville area

- I was informed by the Councillor's office of some additional concerns raised about rats in the Harvey & Havelock area; some additional information was also provided based on discussions between the Councillor's office and Public Health Program Manager.
- In particular, it was suggested a community-level approach is probably going to be needed as the likelihood of these rats having recently emerged from the sewers is slim. From Public Health's perspective, as the rats are not being seen actively emerging from the sewers, they have very limited recourse to provide any substantive assistance. As with other urban wildlife (raccoons, squirrels, groundhogs, etc...) it becomes the responsibility of the property owners to manage. The Councillor's office provided some specific ideas for a broader approach, which I am sure they would be willing to share if asked.

Proposed changes to the City noise by-law

- The City of Ottawa is currently undergoing a review of the city's noise by-law. Included in the document is a proposed option that suggests a change to the noise by-law for special events held at Lansdowne and the Canadian Tire Centre. It is proposed that the by-law be extended from the current 11:00 pm regulation to 1:00 am. You can view the City of Ottawa's noise by-law discussion paper on our web-site: <https://ottawaeast.ca/>
- It is anticipated that a recommendations report will be made available on May 11, 2017, and that it will go before the Community and Protective Services Committee, currently scheduled on May 18, and Ottawa City Council on May 24.

Planning issues

Coach houses

- We are concerned that the language proposed for 2 of the Coach House bylaw amendments does not align with the Official Plan and recently approved Coach House Bylaw or with the intentions outlined by City planning staff.
- We suggest:
 1. That the current policy be maintained to require a garage on the main level of a potential 2-storey coach house and that all habitable space be above the garage (vs the staff recommendation to allow habitable space on the main floor as well).
 2. Maintain the maximum 3.2m wall height for all roof construction types of coach houses built up to 1m from the property line (vs the staff recommendation which would allow for a 4-5m wall height depending on the style of roof).

R4 Zoning Review

- Please note that the comment period on the proposals for R4 zoning has been extended to May 31.
- To date one of the proposals that has resulted in a lot of discussion has been the City proposal to allow apartment buildings to be built on narrower lots than is currently allowed. A number of other community associations have been keeping us in the loop on their views of the proposed modifications coming out of the City's R4 Zoning Review.
- The City proposals can be accessed via our web-site: <https://ottawaeast.ca/planning>

Watershed Conditions Statement – Flood Watch, Rideau River

- the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority has been issuing statements on almost a daily basis over the last few days as rain forecasts have been changing
- the statements include some very good advice: do not drive or walk in flowing water more than 30 centimetres deep; Parents need to inform children about the dangers of going near flooded areas and fast moving water in streams and ditches.
- For water level and flow information in the Rideau system as well as the Ottawa River, visit the RVCA Streamflows and Water Levels webpage at <http://his.rvca.ca/rvcaw/>
- For more information about conditions on the Ottawa River, also check the webpage of the Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board at <http://ottawariver.ca/river-levels-flows.php#river-levels-flows-7-days>

Ottawa Neighbourhood Study

- At our April meeting, the Board tasked Ron Rose with investigating the Ottawa Neighbourhood Study, particularly with a view of having the Study's boundaries more accurately reflect the actual boundaries of OOE. He checked with the Ottawa U staff behind the Study, and reported on three items:
 - "1. The Study staff have already undertaken a review of its existing boundaries, and has come up with a tentative revision. The new boundaries, once finalized, will be implemented probably in the summer/fall of 2018, and the information will be based on the results of the 2016 censuses.
 2. The staff revising the boundaries claim that they have received previous feedback from members of our community, and based on that feedback, have redrawn the OOE boundary to include all residences south of Clegg Street between the Rideau River to the east and the houses north of Riverdale as far west as Avenue Road. Thus, they have not included the houses south of Riverdale, between Avenue Road and Main St. See attached map.

My initial communication with the Project indicated that the boundary to the south west is Avenue Road. They acknowledge that their current revision does not reflect that, and are seeking my response. It would seem, based on the comments from the Study's authors, that there are some in our community who have indicated a desire to exclude the Avenue road-Main St - Riverdale triangle

I would rather have a response and a recommendation come from the Community Association, following a full discussion of th issue at the next meeting. FYI, there are approximately 150 residences in that triangle, many of which are multiple units.

I know that we've had this discussion before, and that it is also an issue for the Mainstreeter. I'm not sure how CAG and SLOE deal with it.

3. The project is offering to come and discuss the Study with Community Associations, and have asked me to see if the OOECA would like to hear a presentation."