

Chair's report October 8, 2019

Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Old Ottawa East Community Association & the Community Activities Group (CAG) of Ottawa East

- Please join your community association when canvassers come to your door (\$3 per household annual fee - a true bargain) & join us for the AGM on Tuesday, November 12 at the Church of the Ascension, 253 Echo Drive
- Registration at 7:00pm; meeting commencing at 7:15pm with a social hour to follow in the church hall
- It's your community!

LRT in the neighbourhood

- At long last, the LRT has opened, and I was one of the many riders opening weekend checking it out
- From my perspective, it has opened up a number of new exploration possibilities throughout the city, and I have also really enjoyed checking out the artwork at the various stations; note the birds and nature scenes at the Lees station
- But concern has been raised by Safe Wings Ottawa that the glass design of LRT stations is not bird friendly: <https://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/glass-at-lrt-stations-could-be-hazard-for-birds>

Panda Game

I received the following message from Cst Stephanie Lemieux, our Community Police Officer on October 2:

- "I wanted to reach out to you regarding the Panda Game this weekend to remind you to please have your community members call police in the event your community is affected with open alcohol, parties that are out of control, and just general disturbances in your communities that you feel police should address.
- The Ottawa Police will be increasing their presence in several neighbourhoods to ensure safe and law-abiding celebrations, but we will also be relying on the community to let us know where the problems are.
- For crimes in progress, life threatening emergencies, please call 911.
- For non-emergencies requiring patrol assistance, please call 613-236-1222 ext. 7502.

- If you have information or suggestions that may assist police in better protecting the community during this annual Panda Game, please let me know and I will make sure the appropriate officers are made aware in our events section."

Springhurst park- children's playground replacement project

- We received two design options (a nautical theme and a nature theme) via the councillor's office on September 12
- A public meeting has now been scheduled for Thursday, October 17 from 6:30-8:30pm at the Old Town Hall; plans will be posted and city parks and recreation staff will be available to answer questions
- Please help us publicize this event with your neighbours and the many users of this park

Proposal for school at Deschatelets

- Discussions between Regional and the Conseil des Écoles Catholiques du Centre Est have been continuing regarding the Conseil's plans for the Deschatelets Building
- We are hoping that a representative from the Conseil will be available for a public meeting soon to update us on their plans and respond to any questions; watch for information in CAG's weekly e-update

Cut-through traffic / safety concerns

- this is an issue that a number of neighbourhoods are concerned with in our community
- Most recently I have heard from a resident in Rideau Gardens who indicated that over the past year or so, they have faced increasing challenges with drivers cutting through their neighbourhood to avoid traffic on Main Street heading downtown, particularly in the morning rush hour. "These drivers come over the Smyth bridge and turn right onto Toronto Ave, then right onto Bullock, zooming through and speeding down Marlow or Onslow. At this time of day, these streets are full of pedestrians, especially kids heading to and waiting at bus stops."

Follow-up from Councillor's office to Qs posed at September board meeting

- With respect to concerns re the beg button at the pedestrian crosswalk at Clegg and Colonel By, city staff have promised to look at some possible solutions. Note the issue is in part also due to the fact that this intersection was designed before the Flora Bridge opened, and there is often some confusion when bike lights change while pedestrian lights do not.
- The city staff response with respect to the Immaculata field and MPAC payments was that staff would not be revisiting the tax status of the property. The Councillor's office intends to ask more questions at the city level to challenge this.
- The new #55 bus route will, have a number of local stops along Main Street and Lees Avenue. Information is available through the "ready for rail" tab on <http://plan.octranspo.com/plan/> or through the OC Transpo app, bus buddy.
- The Lees on-ramp is to be opened the week after Thanksgiving!!!!

Cash in lieu of parkland (CiLP) requests from OOE

- Alexandra, in consultation with Rick Burrowes, CAG, and the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre, prepared a very comprehensive document, including context & rationale, for OOE's funding requests for CiLP projects which was submitted to the Councillor's office on September 23

Federal candidates debate (September 25)

- The Glebe Community Centre was packed; 400 chairs were occupied, 150 people were estimated to have been standing and about 300 people were turned away
- A big thank you to the organizing committee from the 10 community associations, our representative on this committee, Ron Rose, and the volunteers on the night itself who made this happen
- For those who were unable to attend that night, and have not yet streamed the debate but want to, Rogers TV has refreshed their video and it now includes the last few minutes of the debate. The updated link follows: <https://youtu.be/38TBuEkwEPo>

Building 2A at Greystone Village

- Regional hosted a construction information session on October 2 to review their current plans and construction schedule
- The first stage of construction (shoring = pile driving) is expected to commence in November; it will likely take 4-5 weeks, with work lasting 9-10 hours/ day

- First occupancy is currently targeted for July 2021
- Regional has prepared a deck of information that was shared at the meeting; I can send a copy to anyone wishing more information

Ministry of Transport (MOT) bridge replacement

- I suspect many people in the community have been hearing the construction noise / seeing the changes as the Nicholas & Lees Queensway ramps are redesigned and Nicholas bridge replacement work continues
- Tom Scott will be presenting a motion at our meeting on the community's continued push for improved sound barriers for our community along the Queensway; the motion itself will be part of the agenda
- Also of note, the MOT briefed the city's transportation committee on the planned replacements on October 2; the Ottawa Citizen (Jonathon Willing) wrote an article about the loss of local shops in the path of the bridge work on October 3 <https://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/restaurants-cycling-shop-to-be-acquired-for-highway-417-bridge-project> + this afternoon I spoke with Ottawa Citizen journalist Tom Spear who is looking at the loss of local shops in our community and more generally in other parts of Ottawa as well due to infrastructure projects (so perhaps there will be another article tomorrow)

Bird friendly OEE

- our small group of interested residents will be meeting on Wednesday, October 9 to consider how we can give "flight" to some of the ideas raised in the recent Mainstreeter article: <http://www.mainstreeter.ca/index.php/2019/08/21/plans-to-make-ooe-a-birdfriendly-community-take-flight/>
- We would be happy to welcome others to join in our efforts as well as to provide additional ideas
- Please email me or info@ottawaeast.ca if you would like the meeting details or would like to participate in this initiative

Lansdowne

- We understand that Ottawa Sports & Entertainment (OSEG) will be providing an update to the city's Finance & Economic Development Committee (FEDCO) on November 5
- The community associations of the Glebe, Old Ottawa East & Old Ottawa South, have proposed that a consultation with OSEG and the city be scheduled in advance of this presentation
- We are all concerned that so little consultation with the residents that surround the park seems to get done before decisions are announced:

see <https://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/renamed-lansdowne-area-to-be-car-free-feature-new-infrastructure>

Greystone Village Retirement

- the Residence is currently on track for the entire building to open on February 1, 2020, with first residents arriving on February 2