

Chair's Report - May 2013

1. Main Street Renewal Open House

A public open house for the presentation of alternative designs for the rebuilding of Main Street and the McIlraith (Smyth) Bridge will be held 5 - 7 p.m., Monday, June 17 at SPU. The next evening the same information will be presented at an open house for Diane Deans' ward. Members of OOECA and other community representatives have been participating in related working group meetings for the past six months.

2. Undergrounding of Hydro Wires for Central Portion of Main Street

Councillor Chernushenko has met with the Mayor's staff and others to discuss the undergrounding of hydro wires on the west side of Main Street between Immaculata and Clegg Street but at this writing (May 7) it is not clear what the next steps are. On behalf of the association, Paul Goodkey drafted a thorough justification why the undergrounding should be approved. (I'm hoping that the Councillor will provide an update at the Board meeting.)

3. Support for Ecology Ottawa's Complete Streets Initiative

As per the Board's direction at the April meeting, I met with Trevor Haché of Ecology Ottawa and subsequently provided him with the attached letter to give the association's support for the complete streets initiative, clearly something that has direct relevance to the renewal of Main Street.

4. Mainstreeter - OOECA Column

I drafted a column on the Main Street Renewal project for the upcoming Mainstreeter. I'd propose that the OOECA column due June 28 (August 14 print date) be about either what's proposed in the Transportation Master Plan or be an "appreciation" column thanking the many people who have made major contributions to the community over the last while.

5. City Consultation on Community Design Plan

The City is consulting on how to improve the content and process for community design plans. Upon advice from Stephen Pope, I've suggested at the two workshops that the CDPs should be viewed as a means of determining what the community wants rather than just being a means of planning for how the city and developers want to accommodate growth. I've also suggested that community improvements / amenities should be planned and funded in conjunction with growth.

6. Farmers' Market Location NOT Switching to Immaculata

Contrary to what I reported at the last OOECA meeting, the Farmers' Market will not be moving to the Immaculata parking lot this year.

7. Lansdowne

Despite initial concerns, I haven't heard complaints about night-time construction noise resulting from City Council's approval of construction activity at night at Lansdowne. At a community representative tour of the Lansdowne site May 4th I saw a huge amount of activity and massive changes to the site including the mound (which is very visible from Echo), the new south side stands and the excavations and foundations for the many new buildings. The contract for the "urban park" part of the development is to be awarded soon.

8. Pathway Around uOttawa Stadium / Field - Consultation on RRNT-WP

The new pathway around the University of Ottawa's new playing field / stadium is getting considerable use and the "chamfered" corner of the field to accommodate the pathway is most conspicuous. I've written to the city's Robin Bennett to find out when consultation will begin on the planning for the completion of the Rideau River Nature Trail / Western Pathway but have not received a response. The university has notified the association that the first game at the new stadium is scheduled for September 6th - we'll have to see what traffic / parking / pedestrian impact this has on OOE.

9. Loblaw's Expansion

I've heard that the Isabella Loblaw's is expanding to cover the area now used as the garden centre and there is a rumour that the Isabella beer store is closing as the liquor store expands. Improved cycling and pedestrian facilities are part of the Loblaw's plans.

10. Digital Signs at Ottawa Convention Centre

Along with many others, at the recent NCC public meeting I spoke against a large digital sign facing the canal.

11. OOE at Heron Park's Quiz Night

Although we didn't distinguish ourselves with our collective performance, OOECA board members (and friends and relatives) did contribute about \$150 to Heron Park's fund raiser for rebuilding its field house. An interesting way to raise money ...

Ottawa East
Community
Association



Old Town Hall

May 1, 2013

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OOECA Support for Ecology Ottawa's Complete Streets Initiative

The Old Ottawa East Community Association strongly endorses Ecology Ottawa's campaign for building "complete streets." Complete streets will transform Ottawa's communities, allowing for streets to serve the full community rather than being constructed with the primary emphasis on allowing ease and speed for motorists.

Old Ottawa East, the Capital Ward community with Main Street bisecting it, has a very keen interest in the creation of complete streets because of the redesign of Main Street now underway. One of the five options on the table is reconstructing Main Street as a complete street and we would very much appreciate Ecology Ottawa's support of this option and ensuring that the complete street option for Main Street applies to its entire length, rather than just a portion of it as has been proposed by the city.

Main Street is Ottawa's only central and major north-south route that has the potential of being a complete street. Bank Street already has been reconstructed but not as a complete street and Bronson's reconstruction continues but, unfortunately, will not result in a complete street.

Main Street also merits complete street treatment because of its linkage to other primary cycling routes, including the river and canal pathways, the Hawthorne-Lees-Rideau River pedestrian bridge "Tier 1" cycling route and the proposed canal footbridge at Clegg and Fifth.

Furthermore, as per the City Council approved community design and secondary plans, Main Street is a "traditional main street," where there is to be considerable intensification and creation of commercial establishments at street level, something that will be well-supported by a complete street treatment. Also, the secondary plan calls for development of the institutional lands to the east of Main Street. This development, in the view of community members, should be supported by active transportation and transit, including Main Street as a complete street.

We were encouraged by the City of Ottawa's inclusion of the complete street concept as one of the priorities for making the city a more "liveable" city, as to be reflected in the new Official Plan and Transportation Master Plan. That said, the Old Ottawa East Community Association regards the reconstruction of Main Street as being an immediate opportunity to implement this new vision of a livable city, rather than as a distance 2031 goal.

If City Council is not willing to support a complete streets approach for Main Street it will call into question the whole thrust of the new OP/TMP and will seriously undermine Ecology Ottawa's goal to have complete streets throughout the city.

Thank you again for your initiatives.

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