

Chair's Report - January 8, 2013

1. Proposed Parking Lot / Staging Area on 160 Lees Avenue Greenspace:

The very strong community opposition to the City/University original plan has thus far resulted in elimination of the proposed Light Rail Transit construction staging area which would have consumed about half the greenspace and the postponement of Planning Committee's consideration of the proposal until February. But the proposal for a 362 spot parking lot remains. Christine Loth-Bown will provide full update.

2. Meeting with Immaculate Principal and VP

On December 12, Carol Workun and I met with Christopher Mes and Donald Nault, principal and vice principal at Immaculata ... we reviewed the attached document with them and were impressed with their interest. It was agreed that the school and community organizations working together is a "win-win" proposition.

In terms of the student "deportment" issues, they acknowledged that "everything you've said we've already seen." Indeed they regularly walk in the neighbourhood to keep an eye on students although, as is reasonable, their priority is what happens within the school and on school grounds. The administration stresses to students the need for "respect" of co-students, staff and the community. As for incidents of students committing vandalism / trespassing on private property, Principal Mes advised us to call the office when there is a problem.

In speaking about the Alpha Food attack (something neither Mr. Mes nor Mr. Nault was aware of (they're new this year)), Mr. Mes asked whether charges had been pressed and I said no. He explained that unless there are charges it is much harder for the Police to pursue and for the school administration to take action for something that happened off school property.

The many volunteer opportunities available for students in the community were of interest and we are to email them with specifics ... also, Immaculata will use the community e-Update managed by Carol so that school events (e.g., plays, clean-ups) can get publicity. Carol and I specifically raised the availability of Mainstreeter opportunities, particularly lay-out.

3. Brantwood Rink Open

Thanks to the efforts of many volunteers and particularly rink coordinator Cindy Courtemanche and Marco Devries, the Brantwood Rink opened December 25th and provided wonderful play throughout the Christmas holidays.

4. Capital Ward Cup

The OOE Hosers will be defending their championship at the Councillor-hosted tournament scheduled for Saturday, January 26th at Windsor Park.

5. Resignation of Leslie Kirk / CCC Representative

Leslie has resigned from the OOECA Board in order to pursue teaching opportunities at uOttawa. Her efforts have been much appreciated, particularly as the OOECA representative on the City Centre Coalition. The CCC consists of 13 different downtown citizen groups and focuses on supporting community-oriented transportation planning that emphasizes walking, cycling, and transit. The next CCC meeting will be Wed, Jan 30th at 7pm. (Location TBA, but usually meets at the Dalhousie Community Centre on Somerset St in Chinatown.) Jan D'Arcy has been a "search committee" to find those interested in replacing Leslie and Jamie Brougham.

OOECA-CAG Meeting with Principal of Immaculata High School

December 12, 2012

Context: OOE, OOECA, CAG, SLOE, etc.

Importance of School - Immaculata is a very important part of the Old Ottawa East community. It both allows community teenagers to continue their education in OOE and brings lots of teenagers from elsewhere to our community. There is great energy with the school which rubs off to the surrounding community. Also, the "economic" impact on local merchants is high (lunches etc) .

Community Projects with Impact on Immaculata

Main Street Rebuild (2014 - 2015) - This project has the potential of transforming the community: wider and safer sidewalks, safe cycling, greener and, we hope, some burying of the hydro wires ... but it will cause considerable disruption. We're seeking a "complete street" rebuild, meaning pedestrians and cyclists will be comfortable. As part of the project, Lees may get cycling lanes, making it safer and easier for students to bike from east of the Rideau River to Immaculata.

Community Design Plan (approved 2011) - This will greatly increase density along Main and Hawthorne and will see the large-scale development of the institutional lands (Oblates / Sisters). Impact on Mac: increased enrollment.

Proposed Skateboard Park on Hawthorne (Ballantyne Park) - Will help to address longstanding requirement for additional recreational facilities for youth. We'd like to engage Mac students in the design / planning process - how can we do this?

Proposed Canal Footbridge at Clegg-Fifth - Will provide safer, faster route for Glebe students and other from the west. Immaculata School Council has endorsed but City Council is in no hurry to fund the approved plan.

Rideau River Nature Trail ("Western Pathway") - The route (part of a path running from the Russian embassy in Sandy Hill to Carleton University) provides a lovely refuge area (lots of Mac students hang out at various spots, especially at Springhurst Park). Phys Ed classes also use this as one of their running routes.

Department of Students

We realize that once students are off the grounds of the high school, a principal has limited ability to control students' behaviour but the conduct of a minority of students does reflect poorly on the school. Examples:

Litter on Main/Echo - some students throw food garbage / packaging on the road and neighbouring properties. (The occasionally overflowing garbage cans don't help.)

Sidewalk conduct - groups of students have, on occasion, made it hard for residents to proceed along unsafe Main Street. "Seems to me that this is simply a matter of 'attitude' and lack of old-fashioned respect and manners," says one resident.

Treatment of neighbouring and public properties - students hang out underneath the carports of the first couple of townhouses at the intersection of Evelyn and Main. Says one resident: "This is private property ... the hanging out on Evelyn is problematic, especially since often the kids are smoking pot while hanging out there ... it is also disrespectful to the homeowners and too close to Lady Evelyn School. Students also hang out at Springhurst Park, which I have no issue with, but not respecting the no smoking bylaw in the park where small children are playing is not acceptable. I'm happy to have them enjoy the picnic tables and park, but they can't make it uncomfortable for the rest of the community."

Alpha Food Assault - Early last summer an Immaculata student assaulted the owner of Alpha Food who suffered a serious concussion. The student was temporarily suspended but the owner continues to be seriously affected by the assault. He chose not to lay charges because he didn't want to prolong the ordeal.

Vandalism - It's impossible to know what community vandalism / graffiti is the responsibility of Mac students vs. others but we have had lots of examples.

Volunteer Opportunities

A number of community organizations offer lots of opportunities for students to contribute to the community, help others, develop their skills and abilities and earn volunteer hours. "There are not only opportunities for kids to check off their volunteer hours but also to build a resume with volunteer hours."

CAG has numerous opportunities and also offers paid positions for some of its many courses. [More details needed ... Q of Main Event as opportunity for Mac]

Sustainable Living Ottawa East allows students to help protect the environment and make Ottawa more sustainable. Examples: Children's Garden, Main farmers Market, Rideau River Nature Trail.

- 3 -

Mainstreeter Community Newspaper provides great opportunity for developing writing and photography skills. The paper allows actual publication of articles and pictures. Pictures are need for the Immaculata column (Stephanie Byrne - guidance counselor?) and elsewhere in the paper. "A student with a talent for graphic design whose family would support them taking on the task for learning the software InDesign and committing to doing the work would be excellent," says editor Joseph Zebrowski. "The principal might know which of his students are so talented. Ensuring a robust column about the charitable works of students and their accomplishments (Stephanie is doing a good job, but is clearly pressed for time) every issue would help showcase the value of the high school in the area and the community focus of its students. Finally, our delivery team needs more people and students can earn volunteer hours from this six-time a year task."

Ongoing Relations

- Immaculata may have events (e.g., plays) that it wishes to publicize in the OOE e-Update ... It's a means of communication with the community re events and school happenings
- If there is some issue you'd like to raise with the community association our agenda is always open.
- What can OOECA and CAG do for Immaculata?