

Chair's report October 10, 2017

Main St

- the last Main Street Reconstruction Newsletter #40 was released on September 28
- work including the island near des Oblats, the bulb out reconstruction just south of the Subway, the milling and paving on Greenfield Avenue, and the replacement of damaged furniture and tree guards should be finished by the end of October
- and check out the before and after pictures of Main St - it's hard to imagine we used those narrow sidewalks for so long!

Annual General Meeting (AGM) update

- Mark your calendars for the Tuesday, November 14 meeting at the Church of the Ascension on Echo Drive
- we have a number of new OOE residents interested in joining our Board as well as many returning Board members
- we are in the midst of finalizing our proposed slate of officers for the next two-year term, but we would still be happy to hear from anyone interested in joining the Board

Fifth Clegg pedestrian bridge

- the official groundbreaking ceremony is planned for 2:00pm (note this is a revised time) on Friday, October 6

Shooting incident on Concord St N

- on September 30 there was another shooting incident in our community
- the Councillor quickly provided an update (on the weekend) to neighbours, which was greatly appreciated; his message was as follows:

"I have just had a debrief with the investigators following last night's shots on Concord. Naturally there is still plenty that they do not know and/or cannot publicly share regarding a criminal investigation, but I can tell you this:

- in this case, as in all previous ones in the ward where individuals have been identified, the shots appear to be part of an altercation between people "known to each other" and "known to police"
 - this indicates that we are talking about people with a criminal history or known involvement with a gang
 - the risk to the public is slim, although having shots fired on a residential street is and will always be troubling to citizens, and the psychological impact must not be dismissed
 - the people involved are not speaking to police
 - the unit that was the centre of activity on Concord was an Air B&B listing
 - that unit was emptied of the partygoers and will remain empty until the police declare the investigation over
- Each incident has its own unique set of circumstances, but to date seem to be part of a patterns of "guns, gangs, drugs". Though it is extremely troubling to have shots fired, the police do not believe there to be a heightened risk at any of these locations or in the ward as a whole."

- hopefully the Councillor and/or our Community Health and Safety representative will be able to provide some additional information at our Board meeting

Springhurst park

- a proposed Springhurst Park tree replacement plan has been prepared and the planting is proposed for this fall; in part, the planting will replace trees lost during the soil remediation undertaken last fall
- one of our most vocal advocates for promoting activity in the park has proposed to the City that a special effort be made to plant shade trees around the picnic tables (which are currently mainly in open sunny areas

Main St Perennial garden

- I encourage residents of our community to take a walk to Main St and Riverdale and check out the perennial garden planted and cared for by Margaret Vant Erve and her group of volunteers; it has done very well and it is lovely to still see so many plants in bloom

- we have received a request from Margaret for funds to "top dress" the soil as it is not optimum and put up inexpensive plastic edging to keep the grass from encroaching; this would be a one time cost of approximately \$200
- a motion with this request will be discussed at our October Board meeting

PM sesquicentennial speaker series

- we had another wonderful evening on Monday, September 25 celebrating the life and times of Louis St. Laurent; Dr. Xavier Gélinas prepared an excellent presentation followed by an animated discussion
- Dr. Norman Hillmer will be leading our next discussion on the life and times of William Lyon Mackenzie King on Monday, October 30

Greystone Village

- great news: the Greystone River pathway (the informal one closer to the river than the Multi-use pathway) is scheduled to reopen on Saturday, October 21 [note that the opening of this pathway has been delayed due to a later than expected delivery of the storm structure that will be built through the 30m corridor and outlet into the River]
- Phase 2 (NE area of the property) roads will receive their first lift of asphalt during the week of October 2-6
- another phase of this project (The River Terraces condominium tower - located to the east of Saint Paul University) will soon be commencing; ground breaking was on October 3; I attended the event on behalf of the Community Association and was able to promote our Annual General Meeting + our PM speaker series; I also met a number of the future residents, many who are keen to join our great community
- the first residents have now moved into Phase 1 of Greystone Village (the area to the north of Clegg St); their reasons for buying:
"always wanted to be downtown but we also wanted to be near nature; it's a hidden gem ... had no idea at all this was here; best of all worlds; when bridge is built we'll be 15 minutes from Lansdowne; ... as opposed to noisy downtown"
- and finally we received a request from Brendan Shykora, a Carleton Journalism student, to provide our views on the Greystone development for a blog project he is working on; John prepared a very thoughtful and complete description of the community association's engagement and views on this development which was provided to Brendan; we have not yet seen a copy of the article that was prepared (but we were promised it will be sent when complete)

Cyclist safety

- Following on from our September Board meeting discussion, John has been communicating with Robin Bennett, Project Manager, Cycling Programs of the City of Ottawa on how to improve cyclist safety on Smyth at the eastern end of the McIlraith Bridge. While the new Main cycle tracks and the bike lanes on the bridge are superb, at Smyth where the Riverside ramps join, we have a situation much like that at Bronson where the Colonel By Drive ramps join, just north of Carleton.
- While the City is hoping to tie the bike lanes on McIlraith Bridge to the Rideau River Eastern Pathway via the Riverside ramps, the time horizon is always owing to budgetary limitations.
- as an interim measure, John has suggested that a painted green cycling lane be marked across the Riverdale ramps where they meet Smyth/McIlraith and biking into Alta Vista be essentially diverted onto Billings (through the hospital roads) so as cyclists can avoid the horrible railway underpass of Smyth
- his suggestion was forwarded to staff who work in pedestrian/cycling safety in Traffic Services for their consideration and Robin he now indicated that he received confirmation from Traffic Services that this issue has been added to a list of candidate locations under the city's Cycling Safety Improvement Program for 2018

Welcome packages

- Pastor Dan Bryne of the Ottawa Chinese Bible Church approached the OOECA & CAG last week to see if we would have an interest in contributing something to a welcome package for new residents that he is considering putting together with some of the businesses and institutions in our community
- one of the items that he will be including is the brochure that was put together by the OOECA and CAG several years ago, which outlines how people can engage in the community and what is available to them here in OOE
- any other ideas?

Ottawa Chinese Bible Church

- I am sure many of you are as curious as I am to see the inside of this new neighbourhood church
- please note that there will be an open house on October 28 with a dedication service on October 29

Stair clearing in winter

- the Glebe Community Association requested our support in pushing the City for more winter stairway clearing
- while this is an issue we have identified as important for the Fifth Clegg pedestrian bridge, I am not aware of other stairways in our community at this time for which we would request clearing

Christmas tree lighting

- pastor Dan Bryne has also approached the OOECA and CAG about a Christmas Tree lighting ceremony in the holiday season
- it is my understanding that such an event was attempted in the past; apparently the large pine tree just beside the Old Town Hall was planted for this very purpose
- hopefully another event to look forward to