

Old Ottawa East: Transformation

Presentation to the School of Architecture and Urbanism
SLOE/OOECA Deep Green Project – Institutional Lands
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Overview

- Background
- Drivers of change
- Issues for OOE
- Initiatives
- Community Design and Secondary Plans
- What we're looking for

Background

- Ottawa East: 125th anniversary
- Little known community
- The poor sister of the “three sisters”
- Diversity: Jean Chrétien and the rest of us
- Seven distinct neighbourhoods
- Population: 8,000 vs. projected 30,000
- Superb location:
 - Central
 - Between river and canal
 - Considerable green space
 - Relatively quiet

Transformation Drivers

- Intensification
- Sustainability
- Climate change
- Value evolution
- Affordability (individual and municipality)
- Concept of community
- Institutional decline and growth
- Individuals / organizations

Ongoing OOE Issues

- Alta Vista Transportation Corridor (AVTC)*
- Queensway widening
- Excessive traffic
- Active transportation connectivity
- New landowners
- Excessive / inappropriate intensification
- Main Street renewal*
- Lansdowne Park renewal
- Lees Transit Oriented Development (TOD)*
- Inadequate services, facilities and amenities
- Greater participation / more representation

Community Initiatives - Improvements

- Community Design Plan*
- Rideau River Nature Trail – Western Pathway (RRNT/WP)*
- Canal footbridge (Clegg-Fifth)*
- Children's garden
- Farmers' market
- Park improvements
- Main Street renewal*

Community Initiatives – Corrections

- CDP/Secondary Plan amendments
- uOttawa's stadium encroachments
- Saving AVTC greenspace from parking lot
- Ongoing AVTC opposition

Achievements 2013

- Massive parking lot proposal stopped
- Footbridge EA approved
- Main Street “complete street” approved
- Functional design of RRNT/WP begun
- Pathway opened behind uOttawa stadium

Why is Development of Institutional Lands Important for Community?

- Greater intensification means more people
 - more commercial services
 - demand for additional public services/facilities
- Cities must be more sustainable/walkable
- Cost of public services less
- Risks:
 - Loss of existing community & attributes
 - Loss of natural environment / green space
 - More vehicular traffic
 - “Gated” additions

Community's Hopes from Carleton's Arch/Urbanism Students

- Realistic, innovative, inspiring design ideas appealing to current and new residents and to the city and potential developers
- Increased appreciation of potential of institutional lands
- Support for the positions that the community will pursue with the city and developers

Community's Hopes - Specifically

- Sustainable proposals: energy, environment and community
- Practical and innovative ideas for Deschatelets residence
- Recommendations for active and other transportation in and through the institutional lands (connectivity)
- Ideas for community facilities and spaces serving the full OOE community
- Affordable housing options
- A built environment that respects the river
- Proposals that relate well to adjacent neighbourhoods / communities
- Development of components that give OOE a heart and an integrated whole

Community's Hopes – More Specifically

- Lots of room to play with layout but if **do not increase height or intensity** (There's relatively high buy-in from the community to the *general* density and form shown in the demonstration plan.)
- Be much **more creative with connectivity** to maximize both active transportation options/appeal and enhance social dynamics, e.g., better link the northwest through to Brantwood Park
- Make the case for and design to **accommodate the facilities and amenities** that will be needed with the increased population for the Oblates and Main and TOD development.
- A **concentration of services, facilities and amenities at the geographical heart** of the community and in proximity to what will be a much more appealing Main Street makes sense.
- Make the case for **whole-property stormwater management** that will eliminate need for stormwater pond - liberates the northeast quadrant for other uses.
- The **shoreline is a magnificent feature** that physically and socially links the new development to the rest of the community, but must have very strong ecological design at the same time.
- Make **Main Street frontage** vibrant, useful, liveable