

OOECA Goals 2015 - Draft

(Revised January 24, 2015)

NB revisions to 2014 Goals doc are in ***bold, italics***

A. Lees/Springhurst Park

A.1 Convert Portions of AVTC Lands to Parkland:

- joint project with Community Activities Group and Sandy Hill Community Health Association

- work with city to have lands identified by Transit Oriented Development – Lees Station as open space / parkland added to Springhurst Park and Rideau River Trail Park (aka 166 Lees) (***NB: a significant portion of this was done in 2014, i.e., the transfer of 2.5 hectares to Springhurst Park – but we also would like the lands to the east of the “necessarily preserved” Alta Vista Transportation Corridor to be added to the Rideau River Trail park, aka “166 Lees”***)

- use cash in lieu of parkland funding to add features / trees etc. that will physically join the new parkland to existing parkland

- explore the possibility of having a proper soccer pitch / playing field on the parkland

- key CA members: Ron Rose, Nick Masciantonio

A.2 Greater Lees Avenue apartment residents’ participation/engagement in community + better integration of the east end of Lees Avenue into the community of Old Ottawa East

- joint project with CAG and SHCHC

- ***Syed Zaffar, operator of CosmoMart at 170 Lees, was elected to the OOECA board at the November 2014 AGM***

- the various OOE community organizations (activities group, community association, community paper, etc.) have few members from the five large apartment towers on Lees Avenue despite the fact that about half the population of OOE lives in the towers.

- the proposed Transit Oriented Development at the Lees LRT station will result in many more people living in the area and enhancing the community environment for new and existing residents will improve their quality of living as well as strengthening the overall OOE community.

- As the TOD gets underway and uOttawa expands more on that location, there will be a tendency to view it as part of Sandy Hill so that OOE risks losing a key constituency that contributes to justifying better facilities and services.

-Lees Garden, that there are more people from the apartments participating in the Lees community garden so it has the potential to be part of the outreach to apartment residents.

- The issue of “inadequate community facilities” (below) and conversion of AVTC lands tie into this goal

- key CA members: Syed Zaffar, Ron Rose

B. Transportation

B.1 Main Street Renewal Planning

- The working group for Main Street renewal and Lees Avenue reconstruction meets periodically and community members (including Paul Goodkey, and Board members Don Fugler, Ron Rose, Stephen Pope and John Dance) are well-represented.

- In 2015, the challenge will be to ensure planning details get due consideration; traffic impacts during the construction are mitigated; schools and businesses' operations and residents' quality of life and do not suffer; and there is sound communication between the city/councillor's office and the community/residents

- (Delete in 2015) However, there remain a number of issues that require continued pursuit including undergrounding (Paul Goodkey), east-west cycling lanes, north of the Queensway cycling lanes, public art (Nick Masciantonio). **(This was essentially completed in 2014, even tho. we weren't successful in convincing the city to underground the wires or to extend the bike lanes all the way to Echo-CBD.)**

- a further area of community pursuit is the ongoing care of certain aspects of the new Main Street, including nurturing the proposed parkette at Riverdale-Main, and the restoration and care of trees along Main Street.

- key community association (CA) members: Ron Rose, Stephen Pope, Paul Goodkey, Nick Masciantonio, Don Fugler, John Dance, Catherine Pacella)

B.2 Accelerate Canal Footbridge Construction

- The recently approved Transportation Master Plan calls for the construction of the proposed Clegg-Fifth canal footbridge sometime during the 2020-2025 period, i.e., at least five years from now. The community along with sister communities and many others throughout the city have been advocating the bridge for more than six years – we don't want to wait another six or more for that this critical means of accessibility to be completed.

- During the 2014 election both Mayor Watson and Councillor Chernushenko spoke of the desirability of accelerating the construction. OOECA will work with the city to explore / support means of doing this including seeking additional funding sources. Councillor Chernushenko has spoken of the footbridge as being a possible sesquicentennial project.

-(Delete in 2015) Also, the proposed plans for the bridge call for safe crossing of Col By and Queen Elizabeth Drive but to wait another six years or more for this improvement would be pathetic, especially in light of the NCC recently and readily installing safe crossings of CBD at Dow's lake and at Hartwell Locks/Carleton. **(So it very much looks as tho. a safe crossing at CBD-Clegg will be completed in 2015, thanks to the cooperation of the City and the NCC.)**

- key CA members: Ron Rose, John Dance

B.3 Responding to Other Transportation Issues

- this ongoing work addresses continuing and emerging transportation issues that are key to wellbeing of the community. Specific issues include seeking improved bus service and the implementation of improved cycling facilities (including east-west connectivity between Pretoria Bridge and the Rideau River (old railway) footbridge.

C. Development

C.1 Community Participation with Oblates/Sisters Developments

- Participating in the planning for and ongoing monitoring of the Sisters / Oblate developments has the potential of making the developments more sustainable and complementary to the existing Old Ottawa East community. ***(SLOE's "Deep Green" expert's forum at Carleton University in March reviewed SLOE's sustainability research pertaining to the institutional lands. This was followed up by a well-attended June session open to the entire community. In addition, the Regional Group had a full presentation of its proposals to the community at a session held at Saint Paul University in September. A good working relationship of Regional Group, the city and the community was established in 2014 and Regional is living within the constraints and opportunities of the approved CDP / Secondary Plan and positively responding to the four thrusts of the SLOE "Deep Green" project. Regional has invited members of the community association to relevant meetings with city staff. Also, numerous meetings were held with Domicile as it prepared plans for the development of the western half of the Sisters property.)***

- Key CA members: Stephen Pope, Rebecca Aird, Paul Goodkey, Phyllis Odenbach Sutton, Ron Rose, John Dance, Ian McRae

C.2 Responding to Other Development and City Planning Proposals

- this ongoing, technical and difficult work is managed by Planning Chair Stephen Pope with the Planning Committee composed of members representing the distinct neighbourhoods of OOE

- key CA members: Stephen Pope, Paul Goodkey, Phyllis Odenbach Sutton

- planned milestones: ongoing.

C.3 New Community Centre / Hub for Old Ottawa East (CAG lead)

- Given the growing and cross-cutting importance of community recreation and meeting space, CAG has taken the lead for exploring options for planning a new community centre / hub. The inadequacy and poor accessibility of Old Town Hall (61 Main Street) coupled with the considerable development on the horizon mean that facilities supporting a community population of more than 10,000 are required.

-Various options, including collaborating with Saint Paul University, will be explored. CAG's Don Stephenson has the lead for the project and two OOECA board members are part of the working group.

- Community members have long felt that OOE has inadequate community facilities – particularly interior recreation and meeting space and the sense is that with the building on the institutional lands and the Lees TOD development the inadequacy will become much worse. Indeed, one suggestion is that the northeast quadrant of the AVTC lands could be an excellent location for a community centre. Other suggestions have been creating a community centre on the Oblate lands (e.g., within the Deschatelets building), in one of the underused schools on or near Main Street or expanding Old Town Hall. There is also the possibility of a partnership with Saint Paul University and others (Oblate developer, City, SHCHC) to bring athletic/community centre facilities to OOE in tandem with the Oblate land development.

- ***In 2014, CAG established a working group to begin planning of a community centre / hub ... Catherine Pacella and John Dance are the current Board reps on this but it might be good to have somebody in addition. OOECA and CAG have requested Councillor Chernushenko to recommend an OOE community centre / hub be included within the upcoming city budgets.***

C.4 Plan for the three new public parks on the Oblates lands (suggested new goal for 2015)

- ***Tentatively three new public parks will be created on the Oblates-regional lands: the 30m linear park + multi-use pathway along the river; the Grande Allée; the Deschatelets forecourt.***

- ***These are very important for the new development, the OOE community and the city as a whole.***

- ***We'll need lots of creative thinking to come up with ideas and to work with the city and regional to make these parks a reality.***

D. Other

D.1 Incorporation of Board (delete in 2015)

- Incorporation gives the organization greater legitimacy and allows OOECA to participate in broader fora.

- Key CA members: Jaime Girard, Don Fugler

Completed

D.2 Buy Directors' Insurance (delete in 2015)

- Protection of volunteers who are all operating in good faith is important.

- Key CA members: Jaime Girard

Completed

D.3 More parties and celebrations

- There's much to celebrate but we spend little time doing so ...
- One board member suggested an early summer party on her new patio ...
- ***In 2014 we didn't do much in this regard, aside from the modest pre-Christmas gathering***

D.4 (Suggested new goal) Branding, community name and logo

- It may be time to improve our branding, including the community logo and name. If we come up with reasonable options they'd have to be presented to the AGM or to a separate "general meeting." OOECA would work with CAG on this goal, given that CAG is undertaking a similar exercise.

D.5 Influencing RRWP/Nature Trail Design/Construction

- SLOE has worked very hard on the Rideau River Nature Trail over the last seven years and wants to ensure that the work and its intentions are not jeopardized by the city's plan to build a multi-use pathway (the Rideau River Western Pathway) parallel to the OOE shoreline of the Rideau River. Also, nearby residents want to ensure the pathway and its construction have minimal impact on them.

- Key CA member: Ian McRae.
- ***We had several meetings with the city and RVCA on this and some progress was made but the nature and location of the pathway through Brantwood Park remains an unresolved question and care needs to be exercised on just how the path runs behind Rideau Gardens Drive.***
- ***Also, OOECA needs to lobby to get this pathway into the 2015 budget.***
- ***On a positive note, because of Regional's purchase of the Oblate lands it appears as though the pathway through the Oblate lands – as well as the critical access from Brantwood Park will be completed sooner than earlier thought.***

D.6 Mitigate Adverse Impacts of Lansdowne Park / Maximize Benefits

- ***Ron Rose's ongoing role with the city's Lansdowne Transportation Management and Operations Committee is key but the association also should be involved in such activities as setting restrictions on sound levels and hours for concerts / festivals at Lansdowne.***

D.7 Sesquicentennial Projects/Events

- ***Working with sister organizations like CAG, OOECA would select and plan projects and events to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary. One specific activity that has been suggested is a "reading club" meeting monthly leading up to July 1st to discuss Canada's 22 prime ministers (who knows, by then there could even be a new one). Councillor Chernushenko has suggested that the Clegg-Fifth footbridge could be a good***

centennial project if provincial and federal funding were to supplement the city's investment.

D.8 Rideau River Flooding – Emergency Preparedness

- **This work, already started by several devoted Brantwood Park area residents, would set the framework to assist residents in their working with the city, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and others to mitigate impacts of flooding of the Rideau River, something that is a growing danger given climate change and the extent of the river's flood plain in Old Ottawa East.**

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