

Centretown Citizens Community Association

October Report

by CCCA Board Member Devon Woods

The Centretown Community Association wants to involve Centretowners—the community of people who live, work and play in Centretown—in issues related to our present and future. Our mandate is to help make the voices of the community heard by City planners and policy-makers. You can join the CCCA via our website:www.centretowncitizens.ca. Feel free to contact us about anything mentioned in this column using the information provided at the end.

2013 Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, October 22, 7 pm, at McNabb Community Centre. Centretowners: mark this evening in your calendar and come on out! Centretown needs your involvement in its future. There are many issues related to making Centretown a great downtown community that we as an association can influence. The stronger and more representative the association is, the greater the influence.

The CCCA Board will need to elect several new members this year and, most importantly, a new president to replace Jordan Charbonneau, who is stepping down after doing a superb job. Several of the association's committees (planning, transportation, trees and greenspaces, seniors) also need new members to represent the community's interests to City planners.

We will also need people to help with logistics at the AGM itself. This is a good chance to find out what the association does and to meet others who wish to play a role in the future of Centretown.

Please contact us at ccca@centretowncitizens.ca, or contact Norm Fee at

normfee@rogers.com if you have an interest in participating at any level. CCCA reviewing draft amendments in the City's Official Plan

After the CCCA's Planning Committee began reviewing the City's draft amendments to the Official Plan, the Board decided at its September meeting to request the City to reschedule its consideration of the amendments from October 22 until at least January 2014 to allow more time for public review.

The Planning Committee noted that the proposed changes to the Plan are very extensive and the implications are not explained. The committee's initial set of comments, also forwarded to the City, demonstrate that there are many issues to be clarified and discussed. For example, the parts of the review dealing with permitted building heights are indicated in some sections in storeys and in others in metres, and are often very confusing if not contradictory.

In his letter to the City, CCCA president Jordan Charbonneau noted that to make a document of this magnitude available with only two months for public review, particularly with those two months being the summer months, does not meet any reasonable standards for appropriate public consultation.

CCCA adopts Minto Park and leads park cleanup, Saturday, October 19

As part of the City of Ottawa's Adopt a Park campaign, the CCCA is the adoptive custodian for this local park. The CCCA board voted to take on the role, and its attendant twice-annual park cleanups, last spring. The first clean up was held right after our BBQ and e-waste collection at the June Minto Park Sale. The CCCA Trees and Greenspace Committee, with friends from Ecology Ottawa, invite Centertowners to meet at 10:30 am on October 19, at the circular gathering space at the centre of the Minto Park.

Join us to clean up this great local park, and meet your neighbours and community association members! As the park cleanup is being held as part of the City of Ottawa's Cleaning the Capital

campaign, bags and gloves will be provided, so no need to bring your own. General litter such as takeout food containers, rogue plastic bags, and other miscellaneous items will be picked up to put Minto Park on show in “mint” condition. Any and all helping hands do make a difference. Please consider taking an hour to give back, and pitch in.

Trees and Greenspace Committee has new co-chairs

Tomas Whillans and Stephen Hawley have volunteered to become co-chairs of the Trees and Greenspace Committee, as Bonnie Mabee is stepping down after five years.

Small things that make a big difference

The Trees and Greenspace committee is grateful for the rain this summer because of 21 new trees at Centennial School and the new plants at the St. Luke’s Park entrance on Elgin St. at Gladstone.

In May and June, the students of Centennial School watered the newly-planted trees but in the summer it was up to parents, neighbouring volunteers and the care staff. Our thanks especially to the care staff who between rainfalls managed to keep the trees happy with a good soaking.

The “guerrilla” garden at the corner of Elgin and Gladstone Streets had been neglected for the last year because the Second Cup, its source of water, closed. A planned condo development which would redo the whole entrance to St Luke’s was cancelled and the garden was looking very forlorn.

CCCA members Mavaia and Lauren Rock came to the rescue, arranging for soil from Diane Holmes’ office. An unused rain barrel found by Linda Pajot at Jack Purcell was then filled daily by the St. Luke’s pool staff to water plants left over from the T&G Plant Sale plus some Black-eyed Susans from the Jack Purcell Garden. T&G has signed an agreement with the City through Linda Pajot at Jack Purcell to enable us to access the Field House to get water during the

months that the pool is closed. Thus, sometimes it takes a village to help raise a garden, with many thanks to all of them.

Contact us

You can keep up to date on events in Centretown by subscribing to our email newsletter (contact us at cca@centretowncitizens.ca), following us on Twitter (twitter.com/CentretownCCA) or visiting our website (www.centretowncitizens.ca). We would be happy to hear from you!