

**Glebe Community Association
Report on 2005-06 Activities
June 13, 2006**

This annual report is presented to the members of the Glebe Community Association (GCA) at the June 13, 2006, Annual General Meeting. It presents highlights of the activities undertaken by the association in 2005-06.

All-Candidates Meeting

The GCA, in cooperation with five other community associations (Old Ottawa South Community Association, Ottawa East Community Association, Dows Lakes Residents Association, Centretown Citizens Community Association, Dalhousie Community Association) hosted an all-candidates meeting for the federal election on January 11, 2006. The event was held at the Glebe Community Centre in Scotton Hall.

The meeting was so popular that the room reached capacity quickly and an estimated 200 people had to be turned away. In the future, we will consider ways to better accommodate public demand for all-candidates meetings including looking at alternate venues, encouraging other organizations to hold such meetings, and considering whether cooperative meetings are the best route to take when we cannot accommodate our local residents. Also consideration will be given to limiting the number of handlers that candidates are allowed to bring to the event.

Bank Street Reconstruction—Functional Design

The largest GCA committee, the Bank Street Reconstruction Committee, held meetings throughout the summer and fall of 2005 to discuss the functional design study for the Bank Street reconstruction. Excellent communications and collaboration with the city and its consultants resulted in consensus on the final design approach. Key elements of the functional design include 3 metre wide sidewalks, new lighting and street furniture, a median in front of Lansdowne Park and enhanced public access to Central Park.

During the functional design phase, three public consultations were held and in all three it became clear that it was a community priority to have the hydro poles removed and the wires buried to create more walk-able sidewalks and a more pleasant pedestrian environment. This move would also make Bank Street in the Glebe consistent with the rest of Bank Street north of Gladstone and south of the canal. In response to requests from the GCA, the city has undertaken to develop a policy on utility burial. It is expected that this policy will be developed (and recommend wire burial on Bank Street) prior to the commencement of any work in the Glebe.

Design development and construction has not yet been scheduled.

Bank Street Visioning

As a follow up to ideas generated during the Bank Street reconstruction project consultations and in response to several new developments on Bank Street, the GCA launched a visioning process to discuss appropriate uses and guidelines for buildings on Bank Street. This visioning project is also intended to help the GCA respond to upcoming city consultations on a new zoning by-law and design guidelines for traditional main streets.

The first consultation session resulted in a high degree of consensus among participants that the current character of Bank between First and Fifth should be maintained and that there should be efforts to have a more continuous façade of small, independent businesses (with residences above) the entire length of the Glebe. More work on this project will continue in 2006.

Brown's Inlet

There was a great deal of controversy and concern about a bio-cover installed by the City at Brown's Inlet, without any community consultation. The intervention was requested and paid for by a group of 20 families neighbouring the pond who were concerned about invasive weeds. However, many other Glebe residents thought that there had been insufficient environmental study and public consultation. It was also felt that public use of the area for tobogganing had not been considered and that the rocks holding down the bio-cover were a safety threat.

A public meeting, chaired by the GCA, attracted a turn-out of over 70 people. At this meeting, the City agreed to address the tobogganing safety concerns but did not have many answers to the environmental questions. A second meeting was held several months later to provide the requested environmental information.

In the end, a compromise was achieved with the city installing the bio-cover near the houses but leaving other parts of the pond open. The City agreed to hire a biologist to monitor environmental impact and report back to the community in the fall.

A second development relating to Brown's Inlet was that the GCA finally received a response to a 2004 request to the Ontario Minister of the Environment asking for a "bump up" and more enhanced environmental assessment of the proposed flood control measures contained in the Preston-Browns' Inlet Drainage Study. The request was denied.

Business

The GCA and the Glebe Business Group worked closely together on many shared issues from Bank Street reconstruction (see above), request for a beat cop, the Great Glebe Garage Sale, Pumpkin Fest, Underground Sound, Walk till you shop and graffiti. Indeed, the level of cooperation and communication between the two organizations has significantly increased. Another positive initiative, was that the GCA was approached by

a local business, Travel CUTS, offering to support the GCA, with a percentage of sales from customers identifying themselves as GCA members. The board approved this affiliation on a non-exclusive basis for a one year trial period, beginning June 2006.

Environment

The Environment Committee coordinated the work of some 20 volunteer 'garden angels' who maintained planters in the Glebe, resulting in considerable beautification of our streetscapes.

The GCA also was involved in the public advisory committee and a public consultation on the O'Connor Flood Drainage Study. Generally, there was little concern with recommendations from this study.

Federation of Citizens' Associations

The GCA took a leading role in the Federation of Citizens' Associations as our vice-president was elected president of the FCA. Through the FCA, the GCA participated in many city-wide initiatives including appeals to the OMB over the Official Plan and ward boundary changes.

Glebe Community Centre

The GCA made extensive use of the Glebe Community Centre for public meetings and events this year and the Association enjoys excellent relations with city staff. The GCA opposed proposed budget cuts to staffing at the Centre and we were successful in getting the cuts overturned.

The GCA also continued to work with neighbours and the St. James Tennis Club to solve the noise problems from the air conditioning units. A temporary solution definitely improved the noise problems and a permanent solution is being installed in June 2006.

GNAG Liaison

The GCA collaborated with GNAG on a number of joint projects including the Glebe Renovation Fund and the proposed renovation of the St. James Tennis Club into a year-round facility to be used for youth programs during the off-season. We were very grateful for GNAG support with events like Underground Sound.

Great Glebe Garage Sale

The Great Glebe Garage Sale was held on May 27, 2006. There was good pre-sale media coverage and the event was larger and more diverse than ever. A very positive new aspect was the formal participation of the Glebe Business Group who agreed to make donations to the Ottawa Food Bank. Also help was received from the City in the form of additional garbage cans and garbage collection. The GCA litter committee also

did a clean-up on Bank Street after the event. So the community was much cleaner than usual after the Great Glebe Garage Sale.

We are noting that a great many other charitable organizations are setting up at the Great Glebe Garage Sale and this may be affecting donations to the Ottawa Food Bank. In 2004, we raised \$12,000 for the Ottawa Food Bank, in 2005, we raised \$8000, this year at the time of writing the Ottawa Food Bank has received \$3000 in donations.

One problem that occurred was that the City targeted sidewalk sale merchants for by-law infractions, but thanks to the intervention of the Councillor, quickly reversed the decision. In the future, the GCA will remind the GBG that proper permits are required.

Heritage

The GCA received a Heritage Grant in early 2005 from the City of Ottawa and over the summer hired a researcher to arrange and describe over 20 boxes of GCA records dating back to 1967. The GCA has now donated its records to the City of Ottawa Archives and a complete finding aid is available. According to the City Archivist, the GCA is one of the first community associations to donate its records.

Lansdowne Park

Although the GCA was not active in terms of Lansdowne Park this year, two major developments took place: the demise of the Renegades Football team and a pilot summer Farmers' Market project. The Farmers' Market project was well received by the community.

Litter Committee

The walkabouts and study of Bank Street for the reconstruction project heightened many peoples' concern about garbage. A new "Anti-Litter" committee was launched with representation from residents and the Glebe Business Group.

The Committee organized three Bank Street clean-ups (Christmas, Spring, Great Glebe Garage Sale) and encouraged GBG members to sweep regularly in front of their stores.

The GCA has applied jointly with the Glebe Business Group for "Adopt Bank Street" under the Adopt a Road Scheme. It has also initiated negotiations for "Enhanced Maintenance" status for Bank Street in the Glebe, placement of a large litter recycling container, reduction of newspaper vending boxes, and increase in number of garbage receptacles, particularly in the winter.

Membership

The 2005 membership campaign was extremely successful. Membership increased by more than 25% from less than 3000 to over 4000. This increase was due to a renewed

effort to recruit new area and block reps and to re-write and update all printed materials. As well, more effort was put into encouraging on-line registrations through the Glebe On Line. Other new initiatives were a 'wine and cheese' to launch the campaign and the reduction of printing costs. The strong membership gave the GCA more clout in presentations to the City and also ensured our financial health.

Planning

The neighbourhood planning committee monitored over a dozen requests for variances, severances, cash-in-lieu of parking and zoning changes this year. In every case the GCA hosted meetings which brought together the applicants, neighbours, and the GCA planning committee to share information and to determine positions on issues.

Some projects provoked discussion in the community, including:

- a mixed-use development at 615 Bank Street on the old Mountain Master site, now expected to proceed to construction
- a horizontal duplex under construction at 14 Morris St; while the project is being built, community action on this project led the City of Ottawa to change its by-law to clarify the definition of duplex
- conversion of the former Olympic Sports store at 680 Bank Street to an Irish-themed restaurant
- a town-house development at Fifth and Rupert to replace the apartments destroyed by fire at that site
- a proposed call for expression of interests to develop the parking lot behind Loeb into a joint parking-housing development; this was halted following a community consultation
- applications for front-yard parking; the GCA supported residents' attempts to legalize long-established arrangements but opposed new applications

Property taxes

In response to on-going community concern about property taxes, GCA organized an information session about assessment and appeal procedures. The GCA also wrote to the Premier to request property tax reform.

Traffic

The Traffic Committee was actively involved in the following files:

- Proposed changes to the Queensway off-ramp at Bronson and the proposed alignment of Chamberlain.
- Improvements to the safety of the Imperial and Bronson intersection and Chamberlain corridor.
- Measures to improve safety of Glashan students crossing Chamberlain and Catherine. Short term measures were put into place and follow up on long term on going.

- Sound barriers on Queensway from Glendale to Metcalfe
- Reconstruction of Bronson-Carling intersection and the re-alignment with Glebe Avenue.
- Sidewalks design and reconstruction on Fifth, Strathcona, Patterson, Allen Place and Cobalt. In all areas, walkabouts and open houses were held.
- Preparations for the reconstruction of the second part of Fifth Avenue and Craig.
- Planning for bulb out construction on O'Connor at Monkland, Second and Third
- Consultations and negotiations with the City, Old Ottawa South Community Association, other communities, and Glebe residents on a phased-in approach to the proposed prohibition of right-hand turns off Bronson during the morning peak.

Underground Sound

In order to raise awareness and build support for the project to bury the wires on Bank Street, the GCA joined with the Glebe Business Group to launch a concert series dubbed "Underground Sound". A separate corporation – with 50% of its board of directors coming from the board of the GCA – was created to manage this project and keep the funds raised separate from the normal GCA business.

A series of eight concerts was planned, although one was cancelled due to poor sales. Performers included Lynn Miles, Valdy, Stephen Fearing, Tom Wilson, Colin Linden, David Gogo, and David Francey. Close to \$25,000 was raised and will be used towards the costs of burying the wires. If the wires are not buried, the funds will be used to beautify Bank Street.

Walk till You Shop

At the invitation of the Sierra Club, the GCA organized an event in conjunction with car free day. Spearheaded by Chris Bradshaw, the event blocked off part of the outer lane on Bank Street for displays and walking tours of the Glebe. Although there was a positive response, it is unclear whether the GCA will continue with this event, due to the amount of work required and the departure of the board member who spearheaded the event.

Respectfully submitted,

June Creelman
President