

**Presentation to the Ottawa Built Heritage Advisory Committee (OBHAC)
Clemow Estates East Heritage Conservation District**

June 16, 2011

I am Joan Bard Miller and I am the chair of the Glebe Community Association's heritage committee.

As you can see from the staff recommendation, it was the Glebe Community Association that first requested a Heritage Conservation Study for Central Park East in the Glebe. The request for this study stemmed from a desire to protect the unique heritage character and attributes of an area which is representative of the history of the development of the Glebe.

Since the City hosted its public meeting at the Glebe Community Centre in March 2010, in which Lesley Collins and Sally Coutts presented the draft study and plan, I have received feedback from several residents. Their views have come to me through email and through a feedback meeting that was hosted by the community association and attended by Lesley Collins. It was held in May 2010 as a response to the concerns raised by affected homeowners after the City's public meeting. It is clear that there are a wide variety of opinions about this potential designation - some are in favour of the plan, some are against, and some feel they do not have enough information - but the one sentiment that is consistent is a desire to protect the area's heritage. Every individual who has expressed their concerns to me has prefaced their remarks with a genuine concern for heritage.

As a community association, we strive to represent all members of the community and to find a consensus solution. To date, we do not have consensus for this plan. Some residents are concerned with the proposed boundaries and some are concerned about being included in a heritage district in general.

Some residents have expressed concerns that the proposed district is too small and does not adequately reflect the area's historical development or the number of architecturally impressive homes in the Glebe. They would like to see the district enlarged.

Others have suggested that the district boundaries are too broad and should be narrowed to focus specifically on Central Park and the Noffke-designed homes. Some feel their homes are not prominent features in the area.

Some feel that their rights as property owners are being infringed upon and have expressed concerns about potential negative impacts on their homes' values or ability to make changes to their properties.

Others have stated that they do not feel the process has included enough input from the residents.

But as I mentioned above, not all of the feedback has been negative and several emails have cited support for the plan as it was presented last March.

There have also been several issues over the past year where residents, both in support of and against designation, have been vocal against proposals for the area that they have felt would negatively impact the passive use of the park for which it was originally designed. These include the installation of a play structure and an electrical kiosk. These proposals illustrate that there is some urgency to protect the area.

Although this process has been rocky, the desire to protect our collective heritage remains. We hope that consensus for some form of heritage protection can be achieved with the input of affected homeowners. Our desire is to ensure that the heritage character and attributes in this unique and historic area are protected for future generations.

I would like to thank the City's heritage planning staff for their continued dedication to conserving Ottawa's built heritage and their work on this. Once again, I remain optimistic that a solution can be found.

I would also like to thank you for your dedication to heritage and your time this evening. We look forward to hearing your recommendations on the plan. Thank you.