

July 3, 2015

City of Ottawa  
Planning & Growth Management Department  
110 Laurier Avenue West, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 1J1

Attention : Erin O'Connell

Re: Former CFB Rockcliffe Plan of Subdivision Application D07-16-15-0003 335 St Laurent Boulevard, City of Ottawa

Dear Ms. O'Connell:

I am writing as a resident of Ottawa to provide comments and suggestions for making a better community design plan for the former CFB lands in Rockcliffe.

The information on “Urban Natural Features” shows an insufficiency in documentation retrieval. That is, the desktop assessments were done without the involvement of local residents and naturalists. A one-person analysis of “Environmental Impacts” is insufficient for a viable report.

Several people have noted that residents and local naturalists can provide consultants with better information for these planning documents. The reasons for this are explained below.

Eco-consultants for the “plan” and “design” of the Rockcliffe community, former CFB lands, mainly did desktop studies. This is insufficient for an inclusive and comprehensive land-community process of planning and designing. Studies must also be done in-the-field. These studies would be carried out and monitored by experienced naturalists, biologists, botanists, landscape ecologists, geologists and general ecologists.

Residents must also take part in the planning, designing and researching processes. For example, local residents can report significant tree locations and wildlife sightings. It makes sense to involve residents, especially in our current times, when local residents and naturalists can be called upon to provide reliable ID of *flora* and *fauna*. Their reports and sightings can be communicated in e-mail messages and images made with digital cameras and phones with photo options. A good example of this is the Ottawa Citizen column “World of Birds” by Bruce Di Labio. Here is a link to a recent column where his son sends him a photo of a Eurasian Little Egret. <http://ottawacitizen.com/life/world-of-birds/little-egret-record-an-ontario-first>

These suggestions can be written into a set of criteria for success in the Rockcliffe plan and design for the land-community. Here is one way of doing this:

~ Get to know each member of the land-community, including human residents, flora and fauna, and the bio-physical processes of life in the Rockcliffe lands.

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~ Create a network of local residents, and regional to local naturalists, to monitor and report on flora and fauna in and around the Rockcliffe community lands. When confirmations are needed for the flora and fauna ID, local naturalists and residents would have contact lists for experienced persons to consult in the fields of biology and ecology.

~ Involve residents in planning and designing a “Nature Interpretation Center”, staffed by City Naturalists and volunteers, where people can participate in various kinds of projects for learning the natural and cultural histories of the larger land-community. For example, residents can be encouraged to make native plant pollinator gardens in front and back yards, which would complement the preserved forested places, small parks and buffer corridors.

~ Start planning and implementing ways of reducing airplane traffic flying over the natural areas, parks, and the houses in the Rockcliffe lands. This would reduce noise and air pollution from airplanes.

These are my basic suggestions for creating a plan and design for a community within the natural ecology of the land in the Rockcliffe area and with the larger regional ecology of the lower Ottawa River valley.

Looking forward to your responses to these suggestions for making a better plan and design for the former CFB lands in Rockcliffe.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Lorne Peterson  
A resident of Kichisipi ~ Ottawa  
lower Ottawa ~ Outaouais River valley region

Cc: interested residents, naturalists, and conservation groups, and City Councillor Tobi Nussbaum