

Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital Alliance pour les espaces verts de la capitale du Canada

The Greenspace Alliance works with community organizations and individuals to preserve and enhance natural areas in the National Capital area, including public and private green spaces, wetlands and waterways.

Concerned residents formed the Alliance in October 1997.

An important part of our work involves engaging with all levels of government and other stakeholders.

We believe that urban greenness is essential for a community's quality of life, contributing to our personal, social, economic, cultural and spiritual well-being. It also connects us with the natural and cultural history of our region.

Annual Report May 2014 – April 2015 available at
<http://www.greenspace-alliance.ca/AR2015>

Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital
Alliance pour les espaces verts de la capitale du Canada

An ecology of environmental groups in Ottawa

<http://www.greenspace-alliance.ca/links>

“Useful Links in Efforts to Protect Greenspace”

54 local voluntary groups, mostly in Ottawa

15 provincial, mostly in Ontario

20 national/international

15 voluntary groups that operate with government support

104

Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital Alliance pour les espaces verts de la capitale du Canada

To name a few....

Local (Ottawa) - Ecology Ottawa --- 5 campaigns

- Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre – education & outreach
- Ottawa Community Gardening Network
- Ottawa Field-Naturalists Club – founded in 1879
- Ottawa Riverkeeper
- Peace & Environment Resource Centre – incl. PEN
- Sustainable Eastern Ontario – incl. NCENN

Provincial (Ontario) - Gravel Watch Ontario

- Ontario Road Ecology Group
- Ontario Rivers Alliance

National - Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society – incl. Ottawa Valley Chapter

- Nature Conservancy Canada

Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital Alliance pour les espaces verts de la capitale du Canada

What's happening...

OMB: appeals of the Official Plan that was approved by Council in December 2013

- after the April 7-8, 2015 pre-hearing conference:

- + City motion denied that would have brought certain parts into force
- + appeal about expanding the Village of Greely split off

- hearing on August 6 re "threshold issues" – awaiting decision

Complete LEAR review | complete Employment Lands study | 2036 horizon (i.e. expand Urban Boundary) | do it by 2017

- IF the main hearing gets underway (some time in 2016) the key issues will be:
 - building heights...
 - the country lot estate prohibition?
 - the natural linkage analysis? (Schedules L)
 - complete streets? (Ecology Ottawa)

Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital
Alliance pour les espaces verts de la capitale du Canada

The Future...

A New Official Plan for 2019? ... IF the Taggart/Walton motion fails

A Regional Plan for Eastern Ontario? ...Ontario Budget p71:

"The government has also heard from other areas of the province on the importance of developing plans to support growth and protect Ontario's natural resources, including valuable agricultural lands. That is why the Province will consider growth planning for eastern Ontario, supported by public consultation and stakeholder input."

Overarching Issue

Public Engagement

Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital Alliance pour les espaces verts de la capitale du Canada

Public Engagement

+ long-standing concern

- enthusiastic participation by 100s of citizens leading to old Ottawa's 1991 OP
- Regional Official Plan of 1998 the last meaningful outreach exercise
- failure to respect Community Design Plans
- abuse of the Committee of Adjustment process
- Official Plan reviews increasingly driven by the OMB (2003, 2009 || 2013)
- Synopsis Minutes of Standing Committees abolished in April 2011
- Most volunteer Advisory Committees abolished in September 2012
- balkanized consultation for 2013 Official Plan review
- NO community consultation on Development Charges review (May 2014)

Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital Alliance pour les espaces verts de la capitale du Canada

Public Engagement

- + top priority in FCA's 3-dot exercise on Term of Council Priorities
- + no meaningful engagement by the City on Budget 2015
 - Citizens Academy Budget Speak sessions did not affect the outcome
 - Mayor's electronic Town Hall for Budget 2016 failed (June 25)
 - early indications for Councillor-led consultations are more positive
- + Bill 73 would require higher profile for public opinion (Council, OMB)
- + under Bill 73, a "new" Official Plan would be good for 10 years
- + need for dialogue, engagement of all stakeholders

"Promote development of a "new" Official Plan for Ottawa in 2019 that springs from a renewed Vision and genuine and ongoing public engagement; that will be shorter, less ambiguous, and avoid duplication"

Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital Alliance pour les espaces verts de la capitale du Canada

Back to the present: What's happening...

Other City of Ottawa matters:

Protocol for Wildlife Protection during Construction – Sep/Oct 2015
CFB Rockcliffe redevelopment – Sep/Oct 2015
Site Alteration By-law (Watson campaign promise) – early 2016?

KNL at South March Highlands
Kanata North CDP ("Area 1")
"Area 2"
Remer-Idone lands @ Leitrim Wetland

Road widenings: - Old Richmond Road through Stony Swamp
 - Airport Parkway & Lester Road
 - Road Ecology (with CPAWS, OF-NC)

Water Rate Review (stormwater charge?)

Urban Forest Management strategy (launched Sep 23)

Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital Alliance pour les espaces verts de la capitale du Canada

What's happening, continued...

With the NCC:

Urban Lands ~~Master~~ Plan – approved April 2015
Greenbelt Master Plan implementation – still no news

With Ontario/Feds:

Central Experimental Farm (60 acres) – consultation this Fall?

With the Province of Ontario:

Bill 73 (changing *Development Charges and Planning Acts*)
– still in Second Reading

Wetlands review)
Conservation Authorities Act review) October deadlines
Municipal legislation review)

On “private” land: Zibi (Windmill)

Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital Alliance pour les espaces verts de la capitale du Canada

Invitation:

- group/individual membership
 \$15/year -- \$5 unwaged/student
 \$ 30 associate
- subscribe to GA List (free)
- monthly meetings @ Hintonburg CC

Web site: www.greenspace-alliance.ca

E-mail: contact@greenspace-alliance.ca

Tel.: 613.739.0727 (Erwin)