

Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital

2023 Annual Report

(May 2022 – April 2023)

The Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital (GA) continues to be very active in its work to protect and preserve greenspace and shape and influence federal, provincial and municipal policy and plans that have an effect on greenspace in Canada's Capital region, while continuing to maintain itself and develop as an effective advocacy organization.

This annual report covers the Greenspace Alliance actions over the period of May 2022 to April 2023. What did GA do in terms of protecting and preserving greenspace and how successful was it? It will be presented under the headings of threats to greenspace that were faced during the year, policy and plans that we shaped or influenced, and our own governance as an organization.

1. GOVERNANCE

The members of the GA Board of Directors for 2022-23 were Paul Johanis, chair, Nicole DesRoches, vice-chair, and directors J.P. Unger, Jason Kania and Daniel Buckles. Eleven monthly general meetings were held, all online and all establishing quorum. Minutes were kept and published.

The GA set out a number of priorities in January 2022. On the program and policy side, working on the City's promised Greenspace and Urban Forest Master Plan was identified as a priority, which includes giving effect to Council direction to staff to set canopy cover targets for a geography lower than the city-wide 40% target set in the Official Plan. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan was also identified as a priority as parks are recognized as greenspace under the Official Plan.

Completing the Pinesi Portage project and fulfilling the requirements of the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative grant GA received, in partnership with Kich Sibi Trails, was also a priority, as was providing input to the new legislation to protect National Historic Sites, including the Central Experimental Farm.

GA We agreed to work in alliance with partners to promote the election of a more ecologically minded mayor and municipal council in the 2022 municipal elections.

GA also identified a number of administrative priorities, including providing better communication of GA activities on the GA list (for example reinstating the practice of circulating meeting highlights in a timely fashion), getting a better rendering done of the GA logo for online materials, making more consistent use of Twitter and increasing membership,

both individual and institutional. You will see in the following pages the extent to which we managed to address these priorities.

The profile of the Greenspace Alliance remains high, with several media mentions and appearances by the Chair over this period, while GA Director Daniel Buckles keeps getting op-eds published. We also continue to receive many requests to speak or take part in panels and other public engagement opportunities. We gained a number of new members this year in line with one of our priorities for 2022-23.

The Greenspace Alliance continues to execute its advocacy mission for the preservation and protection of greenspace and provide leadership through its broad alliances across the community. Our cross membership with the Federation of Citizens' Associations continues to be robust, with the GA Chair sitting on its Board and active on several of its committees. Likewise, the GA's interaction within the Peoples Official Plan Coalition has grown, with several GA members active on its working groups and advocacy campaigns. This puts the GA in direct, regular contact with twenty or so environmental and social justice organizations and greatly expands the reach and impact of its efforts.

The GA has also engaged with a newly formed network, the Réseau des organisations environnementales de la Capitale Nationale, a francophone network affiliated with Sustainable Eastern Ontario. It is expected that this will help develop untapped grassroots contacts in the urban and rural parts of eastern Ottawa.

Another new engagement vehicle in which the GA participated is Common Ground, established by the Ottawa Climate Action Fund and facilitated by the Vivre en Ville group. It is aimed at advancing low carbon land use in Ottawa and is comprised of 20 or so invited delegates, representing a cross section of government, business and civil society in Ottawa. It has not yet led to any direct outcomes but has opened good channels for ongoing exchange.

Finally, the GA participated in another new networking initiative, called Grassroots Groundswell, initiated by Ecology Ottawa, involving indigenous voices and representatives of environmental organizations across Ontario. We are hopeful that this could develop into an effective vehicle for province-wide organizing and advocacy.

2. THREATS TO GREENSPACE

a. Rural greenspace

Tewin deforestation

In February 2023, the GA was alerted by a member of some tree cutting happening in or near the Tewin urban expansion area, on the southeastern edge of Ottawa's urban area. We

reported it immediately to City staff, who were already aware and investigating it. It became apparent that a massive clear cut was ongoing, which made for front page news on March 1. We wrote to Mayor and Council on March 2 and set about to enlist the support of other organizations to fight this deforestation. Ecology Ottawa was already on board and many other POP members joined in. The GA Chair did an interview with the CBC on March 7 and also live on Ottawa Morning on March 8. By now, local residents had organized and joined forces with us, forming a very representative working group. Together we decided to organize a rally to protest the deforestation, to be held in the community, near Carlsbad Springs, on Sunday March 12. It was organized in the space of a few days. It was well attended, with about 80 local residents and activists present, good speakers and music coming together outdoor in a local park partially plowed by a local. There was a lot of media present and the event was well covered by several outlets. We engaged with a number of City Councillors and the issue was put on the agenda of the meeting of the Environment and Climate Change Committee to be held on March 21. The working group collaborated to develop coherent and comprehensive positions that would be presented by delegations to the Committee.

The deforestation prompted a detailed discussion at the March 21 meeting of the Environment and Climate Change Committee. Many in Ottawa were shocked that the Tree Protection Bylaw did not prevent the clear cutting of 25,000 trees just outside the urban boundary in an area covered by the Tree Protection bylaw. The following directions were given to staff by the Committee and supported by full Council on April 12.

Direct staff to investigate and report back on potential changes to Exemption 82 (7) of the City's Tree Protection By-law to require landowners obtain a formal exemption with evidence provided and communicate with neighbours, the local city councillor and City staff prior to tree removals including where a permit is not required by By-law (e.g. where the activity is exempt from the provisions of By-law).

That the tree cutting incident near Tewin lands be referred to the Normal Farm Practices Protection Board.

GA asked that staff look closely at how and why the Tree Protection By-law failed to prevent this deforestation. The reference to the Normal Farm Practices Board, established under the Farming and Food Production Protection Act, would explicitly address whether the City's interpretation of the exemption for agriculture in its tree bylaw was consistent with that Act. We also called for action on how the community will be compensated for this massive loss of greenspace. Policy 4.8.1.5 in the new Official Plan specifies that the City shall take a no net loss approach with respect to evaluated wetlands deemed not provincially significant and forest cover outside the urban area and designated villages.

As regards avoiding any such deforestations in the future, GA urged the City to accelerate the work on tree protection in the periurban area (lands adjacent to the new urban boundary), which is already in staff's approved work plan.

Cedarhill Golf and Country Club

We were contacted by the Cedarhill Community Association for assistance in preserving the greenspace provided by the golf course around which the community was built. Cedarhill is a rural enclave situated within the urban area, with large homes on large lots on private services. It was considered for urban expansion in the last OP but rejected because of difficult servicing and access to transit. A court case has been launched by the operator of the golf club against the City to redevelop the golf course for new housing. The legal situation differs from the Kanata G&C Club case but the same dynamic is at play, loss of greenspace associated with the golf course to residential development. The GA connected the community association with other members and partners who could be of assistance.

Boisés Est

A group called Boisés Est, an umbrella organization for woodlot owners in Eastern Ontario, contacted the GA to explore opportunities for exchange and collaboration. The derecho caused significant damage to many woodlands just east of Ottawa and government assistance for recovery has been very slow in coming. This group is part of the Réseau des Organisations Environnementales de la Capitale Nationale, associated with Sustainable Eastern Ontario. This francophone network offers good potential for extending the GA's reach into eastern rural Ottawa and beyond.

The GA considered what measures could be taken to incentivize stewardship of greenspace by rural landowners, an example being a conservation tax credit. Topics included how much private land was under some kind of stewardship arrangement currently (land trusts, conservation agency ownership, etc.), what other encouragements could be offered such as outright payment for ecological services, and also what stakeholders could be involved. It was resolved that links among Boisés Est, the Ottawa Stewardship Council, Rural Woodlands Ottawa and the GA should be cultivated and relationships with rural councillors improved.

b. Major urban greenspace

Pinesi portage project

The trail inauguration event was held on July 1 at New Edinburgh Park. It was well attended and garnered very good media coverage, with the Chief and Council members from Pikewakanagan, and elected officials from the three levels of government taking part in the proceedings. Not all elements of the project had been finalized however, in particular the commemorative mural had yet to be completed and installed on the New Edinburgh Park field house.

Regarding the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative grant, the GA agreed to take the off ramp offered by the grant administrator (Community Foundations of Canada) to curtail the project to only the City of Ottawa trail loop, leaving out an extended loop over NCC lands. The uncertainty

around the timing and intentions of the NCC on the matter represented too great a financial risk to the GA and it deemed it preferable to bring the project to a close pending the completion of all activities related to the loop under City jurisdiction, ensuring it is fully financed by the grant.

The installation of the ceramic mural commissioned for the project to commemorate the trail's namesake, Chief Constant Pinesi (d.1834) was scheduled for September 1. This marked a major milestone for the project. This is a large-scale work, five panels measuring 20 feet by 4 feet in all, covering the western wall of the New Edinburgh Park field house.

The mural installation went well and the unveiling ceremony was held at New Edinburgh Park on September 28. It was well attended, with very good speakers and also garnered good media coverage. A bronze plaque was installed at the trailhead of the portage trail. This was the final activity of the project, which the GA undertook in partnership with Kichi Sibi Trails over an 18-month period. The Chief Pinesi Portage trail project formally ended on September 30, which is when the grant funding expired. The GA has submitted all outstanding financial and technical reports.

Brian Coburn Boulevard extension:

The GA held a meeting with local residents of the Greater Avalon community regarding their views and perspectives on the Brian Coburn Boulevard extension project. The residents support an option that would require a new transportation corridor through the Greenbelt, while we favour the option that makes use of the existing Blackburn Hamlet bypass corridor. What came from the meeting is the recognition that residents of this fast growing area face three critical transportation problems: 1) transit service is ineffective and underused; 2) cut through traffic causes major bottlenecks and safety issues in residential areas and 3) there is no safe and efficient way to get from the area to a major employment hub in the Hunt Club/Hawthorne industrial parks. Their view is that the option they support is the only one that addresses all three issues. It therefore creates a realization for the GA that it is imperative that solutions are found to these problems as part of an option that uses the existing Blackburn Hamlet bypass corridor. There was an openness on both sides to consider other alternatives. As of the end of the reporting period however, there has been no progress made or reported on this file and there is no indication as to when a resolution can be expected.

Designation of the Greenbelt as an Urban National Park

The GA was contacted by the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and the Ottawa Carleton Wildlife Centre regarding a campaign to promote the designation of the Greenbelt as an Urban National Park. The federal government has recently made available significant funding towards the establishment of such national parks. The example of the Rouge urban national park in Toronto was given. Other groups such as the 880 Group Ottawa and Parkways for People might be good allies in such a campaign. The role of the NCC in such a scenario was raised. What would be in it for them and how would they react to such a proposal? What would be the

advantages in terms of protection of the Greenbelt under Parks Canada administration over NCC administration? With these questions and issues in mind, it was agreed to continue exploring this idea with the interested parties.

The GA stayed in contact with CPAWS, the OCWC and others on the potential for having the Greenbelt recognized as an Urban National Park. According to senior contacts, both NCC and Parks Canada could be open to the idea. The core group promoting the plan expected to expand its membership of stakeholders, identify champions and develop a concrete proposal by the new year. Nothing has yet materialized. Perhaps the recent appointment of a new Chairperson of the NCC Board of Directors could trigger some renewed interest in conservation and environmental leadership.

Designation of the NCR as an UNESCO Biosphere

GA member John Almstedt brought to the attention of members work he and a group of retired educators have been doing in regard to the recognition of the National Capital Region as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. All agree in principle that this would be a desirable outcome but little is known about the process and practicalities of it. The Frontenac Arch UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Quebec plans for a biodiversity reserve along the Noir and Coulonge rivers, and the Charlevoix UNESCO Biosphere Reserve were cited as examples to follow, and also work undertaken by John Birtch and the Ottawa Biosphere Eco-City Initiative. Ideally, a citizen-led, youth oriented grassroots movement, with buy-in from municipal authorities in Ottawa and Gatineau was seen as the way to go.

New Campus of the Ottawa Hospital

An information session was held on February 2023 concerning the site plan application for Phases 3 and 4 of the new campus of the Ottawa Hospital. The GA submitted comments related to tree conservation onsite. Very few trees were identified for relocation in the Tree Conservation report. We proposed that more trees be brought in scope for potential relocation, taking into account distinctive trees (>30 cm dbh) and NCC remarkable trees, and the current age and life expectancy of candidate trees. Those that are relocated should be transplanted in places of pride and showcased as survivors of the tree destruction brought about by the construction of the new campus.

As regards the historic hedge collection, we asked that it be recreated elsewhere on the Farm as a feature, using transplanted specimens and new plantings. It was a favourite destination for many children and families visiting the CEF and has its own green heritage value. In keeping with the role hedges on managed lands, the hedge collection could serve as a wind break. Like the relocated trees, the hedge should also be established in a place of pride and highlighted as a survivor.

Sir George Etienne Cartier Parkway

The latest phase of online consultation on the plan for the SGEC Park closed in February 2023, ending Phase 2 of the five phases of the review. The next opportunity for public input will be in fall 2023. Many of our members submitted comments online and some members attended the open house held on February 15. A further opportunity for input was opened on PlaceSpeak at the end of January.

There is general unease about some of the elements being considered at this time and concern that the NCC team does not fully appreciate the extensive use, engagement and deep knowledge of the local community in relation to this valued greenspace. Preserving the natural setting and features of this Park has been our main position, along with highlighting the cultural heritage of the area.

Access to Gatineau Park

Accessibility to Gatineau Park trails for pedestrians and walkers emerged as an issue this year. With plans being made regarding parkway access restrictions for the 2023 summer season, the GA intervened to try to redress the balance between cyclists and pedestrians. While fully supportive of efforts to promote active transportation in the park over vehicular traffic, our view is that measures need to be taken to make the Park more accessible and welcoming for walkers. As a result, vice-chair Nicole DesRoches and a group of local residents put out a press release on the issue of pedestrian access to sites along the Gatineau Parkway. It generated some local coverage and perhaps will open the door to some dialogue with the NCC. (Note: The new schedule published in May allowed for a bit more access outside of the exclusive active transportation periods.)

Protect the Farm

As of the end of the reporting period, we were still waiting for the signal from Heritage Ottawa to make representations to a Parliamentary Committee concerning Bill C-27, a bill to better protect National Historic Sites, like the Central Experimental Farm.

Embassy Row

A negotiated settlement between the NCC, the City of Ottawa and the local community has been reached, dedicating in perpetuity as greenspace a portion of the site and ensuring direct access to the Ottawa River shoreline from Mechanicsville, the affected community. This was the result of effective advocacy by the local community, assisted by GA Board members.

c. Other greenspace

Development application, 2504 White Street, Orleans

A Zoning By-law Amendment application to rezone this site from Development Reserve (DR) to residential was brought forward. The planned development consists of four buildings, two 2-

storey townhouse dwellings (eight units) and two 2 ½ storey stacked townhouse dwellings (16 units). Vehicular access would be via Renaud Road to the north, there would be surface parking and a common amenity space on the southeast portion of the lands. This plan would cause the removal of a large section of remnant forest on this 2-acre property.

GA followed this particular case as it represents a situation that might be a recurring theme over this term of Council, the densification of large lots that were part of former country lot subdivisions. Several former rural subdivisions have been brought into the urban area with the additional expansion lands brought in by the provincial government in the new Official Plan. This is a test case for whether we can densify while still preserving tree cover in these kinds of “near greenfield” development projects. Our view is that in these conversions of previous country lot subdivisions, rather than cutting down entire forested areas and planting a few street trees, every effort should be made to preserve parts of existing mature woodlands, even if only tiny forest sized.

Development application, 1015 Tweddle Rd. (Petrie Island)

This development application for four apartment towers adjacent to the Ottawa River near Petrie Island was considered by the Planning Committee in November 2022. Opposition spearheaded by the GA focused on the known extensive flooding of the site in 2017 and 2019, the proximity to the Petrie Island Provincially Significant Wetland and the opportunity of a land swap between the City and the proponent so that the project be located instead on adjacent City land currently used as a public works yard, while the City would gain possession of the shoreline land, all of which could be preserved as greenspace. Submissions were made by other organizations and residents along the same lines. In the end, the Committee approved the application but deferred a number of important issues, including the number of towers to be built and better assurance of slope stability, to Site Plan Control.

3. POLICY ADVOCACY

a. City Hall

Official Plan

The GA continued its work as part of Peoples Official Plan (POP) coalition. Phase 2 of POP is focused on keeping civil society pressure on the development of the master plans and other policy instruments that will give effect to and implement the new Official Plan, with the aim of keeping climate and greenspace front and centre. The Ottawa Community Foundation approved a second multi-year grant in support of the project, running through to 2025. A three year work plan outlines broad sub-projects and tasks over time.

After a year's delay, the Province finally approved the City's new Official Plan, adding almost 50% more urban expansion lands than what had been approved by Council. This will provide more incentive for urban sprawl and likely hinder intensification efforts, so the opposite of what the GA had been advocating. The OP is not appealable so this is the new reality with which we will have to contend. It also highlights the necessity of organizing at the provincial level going forward.

2022 Municipal Election

With the mayoral office open and many councillors announcing they will not be running again, the GA believed there was an opportunity to shift the composition of the next Council towards one more friendly to climate, greenspace and environmental concerns. The GA had in the past gone beyond developing and promoting a greenspace friendly platform and had endorsed specific candidates. This is the direction that the GA adopted for the 2022 election, using its relative institutional and funding independence to seek out, endorse and support specific candidates and to do so in collaboration with other institutional actors in the political sphere.

A list of all candidates for councillor, by ward, was compiled with some commentary and preliminary choices for candidates most likely to advance the greenspace and climate agenda, organized in three categories: Open wards; Wards where we do not support the incumbent (with or without an alternative pick); Wards where we support the incumbents for re-election.

This preliminary version of our choices was circulated to the full membership for feedback. Once the feedback was integrated, the list was circulated to all GA list subscribers, inviting additional feedback.

The GA's final candidate endorsements was released to the media, and communicated to the GA list, POP partners, and to the candidates themselves. Many acknowledged and thanked us for the endorsement. The endorsements were also shared on social media with our 688 Twitter and 527 Facebook followers.

For the mayoral race, the POP coalition put on a series of mayoral candidate debates on the environment. The first three attracted most of the candidates for each: August 16 in Barrhaven, August 30 in Kanata and September 7 in Orleans. All were well attended, attracted media attention and provided a good forum for candidate views on environmental and climate issues. A statement by candidate Bob Chiarelli at the Kanata debate, that the provincial government was planning to disallow the Tewin urban expansion approved by City Council, drew particular attention. This gave rise to a discussion as to whether the GA should take a public position on this statement. Both member Erwin Dreessen and Director Daniel Buckles had letters to the Editor published and Chair Paul Johanis also had an OpEd published in the Ottawa Citizen, all restating our opposition to further urban expansion. The final POP debate, this time featuring only the top candidates by invitation, took place on September 28.

In the end, our choice for mayor was not elected but we fared better on Council. On full Council, 12 of the 24 members were endorsed by the GA and 2 more were our second choice as they also held favorable views on the issues we prioritize. On the City Committees of particular interest to the GA, the Planning and Housing Committee, and the Environment and Climate Change Committee, 7 of the 12 members on both committees were endorsed by the GA, including their respective Chairs. It was agreed that as a result of the election results, the membership on these committees seems much more favorable to environmental and greenspace issues than in the previous term of Council.

After the election, the GA participated in a briefing of new Councillors on current environmental issues organized by the POP group. The new Councillors were at City Hall for orientation and training during the week and were invited to partake with a catered lunch while hearing presentations from the GA, Waste Watch Ottawa, Ecology Ottawa, CAFES and Ottawa Riverkeeper, with Q&A. Councillors Jessica Bradley, Sean Devine, Marty Carr, Wilson Lo, Laine Johnson and Clark Kelly attended, with Shawn Menard sitting in and also Mayor Sutcliffe making a brief appearance. We are working to establish good relations with as many councillors as possible through these kinds of activities.

Governance Review Report and new Term of Council Priorities

Among the first items considered by the new City Council are the Governance Review Report and the Term of Council Priorities. The Governance Review Report prepared by staff covers the structures and processes that will guide the operation of Council and includes recommendations for changes to improve governance. The Term of Council Priorities are high level objectives embedded in the City's Strategic Plan. Members discussed what suggestions we might make along these lines. On the governance side, the issue of reforming Planning Committee to make it more representative of the city as a whole was advanced. Also, the resumption of more substantial minutes of Committee meetings rather than the brief summary of motions and decisions now produced was proposed. Regarding priorities, the introduction of more comprehensive and transparent metrics across a range of issues was seen as highly desirable. More complete and accessible information on infrastructure and other assets was also identified as another information gap that could be addressed in priority.

These ideas were shared with POP partners and the GA participated in the drafting and was a co-signer to the open letter on the City's proposed public advisory committees sent by the POP Coalition to Mayor and Council on February 1.

Parkland Dedication By-law review

The City's Parkland Dedication bylaw was updated prior to a provincial deadline of September 18 2022, which enabled the City to use the "alternative method" of computing the amount of parkland required to be provided for new residential developments. The alternative method is based on the number of units rather than the total site area, which is desirable and supported by the GA and its partners. In addition, other improvements to the by-law were approved: 1)

raising the 10% cap for all apartments to 15% for mid-rise and 25% for high rise buildings, meaning it now allows builders to cap the dedication of parkland to these limits rather than providing 100% of what the base calculation would require; and 2) extending the application of the by-law to all new residential projects, not only those under site plan control. These are significant improvements and will be hotly contested by the development industry. Even with these improvements, the By-law will not provide sufficient parkland to meet the targets set in the new Parks and Recreational Facilities Master Plan. For this reason, a review of the bylaw was mandated in 2023.

City Resiliency Policy, Natural Environment and Parklands

The GA participated in a workshop held in February by the City concerning key actions that could be taken to bolster the resiliency of trees, greenspace and parklands in the context of expected climate shocks. It was a very good session and well attended, which built on previous engagement activities.

Comprehensive Zoning By-law review

The GA participated, as part of a broad stakeholders group, in pre-consultation work being done by the City on the Comprehensive Zoning By-law review. Several meetings were held, each dealing with potential trade-offs in the context of given high level zoning scenarios applicable to the areas designated as Neighbourhood in the new Official Plan. There was an embargo on the details of these discussions and both the GA and the FCA pushed for greater transparency, at a minimum the publication of an interim report on the work of the group. The discussion papers resulting from this pre-consultation were published on the Engage Ottawa website on March 6.

The GA was invited to continue to participate in this external stakeholders group to provide feedback on new Low Rise Design Guidelines.

Transportation Master Plan

The GA agreed to help organize and participate in a workshop on the Transportation Master Plan sponsored by POP and led by the FCA. The workshop was held on April 15, immediately prior to the Transportation Committee and City Council meetings at which key mid-course decisions were made.

City budget 2023

The GA participated in the drafting and was a co-signer to the open letter on the City's 2023 budget sent by the POP Coalition to the Mayor and Council on January 31. It also participated in a press conference on the City's 2023 budget set up by the POP Coalition on February 27. Four

media representatives attended and it led to quite good coverage the next day and ahead of the release of the final budget on March 1.

Finally, the GA endorsed a letter by the Ottawa Carleton Wildlife Centre, a GA member, to the new Mayor and Council regarding a renewed wildlife management strategy.

b. Provincial

Ontario Bill 23, Building More Homes Faster

Almost hand in hand with the new OP, the provincial government unveiled Bill 23, an omnibus bill modifying many Acts, regulations and policies to turbocharge residential construction. The only good part of the bill from an environmental perspective is that it contained measures to promote gentle intensification, and in particular the elimination of exclusionary zoning for single detached dwellings. This however was accompanied by an all-out attack on protection for wetlands and greenspaces, and reductions in parkland dedication. Many other provisions have negative impacts on green building standards, inclusionary zoning, protections for renters and City finances. The bill was massive and comment periods and forums were very restricted and convoluted. The GA produced and shared a table summarizing the schedule for submissions and comments for the various parts of the bill. It addressed those parts of the bill that most impact on greenspace but worked collaboratively with all members of POP to provide representations on the full scope of the proposed changes.

On November 15, the GA participated in a rally organized by the POP group outside City Hall. It was held immediately after the inauguration event of the new City Council and a number of returning and new councillors attended. Overall a good crowd showed up on short notice, with effective speakers and good media coverage. The opposition to this Bill was seen to be widespread and deeply felt.

The GA submitted its comments on elements of Bill 23 in accordance with the consultation schedule and participated in a rally organized by Acorn Ottawa along with many of its POP partners. Two remaining parts of the Bill that are of concern to us remained open for comment and we submitted comments on these prior to the December 30 deadline. In the end, the Bill passed with few modifications. Greenspace assets are now more vulnerable to development pressure, in particular wetlands which were specifically targeted. If anything, the Bill managed to awaken and rally advocates from across the province in opposition to these policies.

This new province-wide collaboration may come in handy in response to the Province's latest attack on greenspace and municipal governance, Bill 97, the Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants Act, tabled in April 2023.

c. Federal

Bill C-23, Protection for National Historic Sites, including the Central Experimental Farm, is now in second reading. The GA, following Heritage Ottawa's lead, signed on to the National Trust letter supporting improvements to legislation to protect National Historic Sites, including the Central Experimental Farm. The letter garnered four pages of endorsements from organizations across Canada. Its nine detailed recommendations include one for more transparency and another for increased scope, as well as the inclusion of landscape in heritage value.