

Convent Glen / Orleans Wood
Community Association

Newsletter

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's not "A Bridge Too Far"...

Few recent issues have been as contentious as the NCC's efforts to decide on a route for a new inter-provincial bridge. By now, you will know that the consultant has recommended the same route, "Corridor Five" across Kettle Island, that was recommended before the most recent round of expensive studies. While this has the least negative impact on our community, it is the position of your Community Association that there are more important priorities than a bridge in these times of significant fiscal constraint.

The expansion of the LRT from Blair to Trim would be high on our list, as would improved sewage treatment to clean up the Ottawa River. Repairs and upgrades to essential infrastructure is another priority. We would like to hear from you about your views on the "bridge issue" and what you believe should be the spending priorities of government. Contact us at info@ConventGlenOrleansWood.com. We will continue to work with our government representatives to voice the concerns of our community.

This is a time for optimism in Convent Glen/Orleans Wood. Bordered as we are by the Greenbelt and River, we experience the full glory of Spring renewal. In this issue you will read about our Community Clean-up efforts and some other plans we have for the coming months. Our AGM will be held on September 23rd, so please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Ian Gadbois

President

Convent Glen/Orléans Wood Community Association



CLEANING UP THE CAPITAL



By Claude Gagné

On April 27th, some 13 volunteers from the Convent Glen and Orléans Wood community showed up at 1 pm at the Convent Glen Shopping Centre at the corner of Jeanne d'Arc and Orléans Blvd. for the cleanup of Mystery Park. Six of them are members of the Board of Directors and the majority had a family member with them. The people participating were friendly and of a common good spirit and willing to care for their community.

The "target area" for the cleanup was the easement between Orléans Blvd. and the frost fence bordering Mystery Park, the area in the ravine east of the fence and extending as far east as the ravine bordering the east edge of the Shopping Centre parking lot and south to the culvert at Jeanne d'Arc Drive.

The City of Ottawa generously provided a number of push brooms, leaf rakes, pick-up implements, orange safety vests, gloves, garbage bags, a graffiti removal kit and several dozen plastic and paper waste disposal bags. Thus volunteers needed only provide their time and energy to the two hours allocated for the clean up. There were also free t-shirts for everyone.

Teens, adults and seniors came prepared with sensible footwear. Everyone was provided work gloves, bags, instruction on safety issues and the obligatory liability waiver for signature.

By 1:15 everyone was sent off toward the target area. It was noted that people tended to wander rather randomly, and often passed over the area previously scoured by another volunteer. By 3 p.m., the pre-announced end-time, the volunteers had accumulated some 20 green bags and 4 paper waste bags of garbage.

Shortly before that point City Councillor Bob Monette arrived to thank the people for their efforts and graciously offered to pay for a pizza to refresh the brave volunteers. This gesture was most considerate although the crew declined in order to get on with their day's other duties. Nevertheless, the offer was thoughtful.

By 3 p.m. all collected waste was compressed into the minimum bags and stacked carefully adjacent to Orleans Blvd.

The City pick-up office was called and committed to have the waste picked up on Monday.

Regrettably we were too few souls to have made a serious impact on the target area. Much litter remains in the ravine east of the Convent Glen Mall parking lot behind the Chip Wagon. Similarly, there remains about 2 acres of park at the north and east borders of the parking lot which could not be cleaned with the limited volunteer numbers. Another 12 people could have made a big difference there.

EMERALD ASH BORER IS KILLING TREES IN CG-OW

By Ronalee Carey

Have you noticed a tree in your neighbourhood that has bark peeling off of it in long strips? Look where the bark once was -- do you see little squiggly lines in the trunk of the tree?

That tree has been infected by the Emerald Ash Borer.

What is the Emerald Ash Borer?

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a non-native wood-boring beetle that feeds under the bark of common ash trees. First noticed in Ottawa in 2008, the EAB has spread steadily across the city including the East-end. It is estimated that up to 30% of the city's green canopy may disappear as a result.

The EAB generally has a one-year life cycle but can live up to two years. The larvae feed on the tender wood just beneath the bark and, in so doing, damage the tree's transport system used to carry water and nutrients up to the branches. As a consequence the tree becomes stressed and eventually dies within one to three years. The top branches are normally affected first, with damage spreading to the entire tree. Healthy trees are more resistant to the EAB therefore it is important to water your trees during drought periods and to feed them regularly.



Ravine by Terry Fox Elementary School is Primarily Ash Trees

The trees in this ravine will succumb eventually to the EAB. The City has already had to clear-cut and replant two other wooded areas in parks west of us. The City is monitoring our ravine forest, but it is likely this area will have to be reforested in the future. Other parks in the CG-OW area may be similarly affected.

What to Do about the Ash Tree on Your Property

The only treatment approved in Ontario is TreeAzin, a biological insecticide made from a natural product which renders the females sterile and kills 95% of existing larvae. TreeAzin must be delivered by licensed professionals every two years until the outbreak has passed. For more information on the product and for local service providers, call BioForest at 1-888-236-7378 (or visit their website at www.bioforest.ca).

The City's EAB strategy <http://ottawa.ca/en/residents/water-and-environment/emerald-ash-borer> includes inoculating, removing and replanting trees, proactive plantings, as well as public education to raise awareness regarding EAB and proper wood handling and disposal. Trees are assessed on an individual basis and considered for injection based on a number of factors including tree health, tree form and tree location. The City may treat affected trees that are on City lands, such as parks and easements, however resources are limited. You should notify the City (3-1-1) immediately upon discovery of a possible infestation.

If the affected tree is on private property, seek treatment through www.bioforest.ca or by obtaining quotes from certified arborists trained in the use of

TreeAzin. Private owners can also call the City (3-1-1) to see what assistance and information they might be able to provide.

Removal of an infected or dead tree



must be arranged through a qualified tree removal service to ensure proper wood disposal. Property owners may also need to obtain a Distinctive Tree Permit from the City <http://ottawa.ca/en/residents/water-and-environment/trees-and-community-forests/how-get-distinctive-tree-permit> to remove the tree.

Wood is under a strict quarantine, a Ministerial Order has been issued by the Federal Government restricting the movement of wood out of Ottawa and Gatineau. Rural residents are asked to take special care with the movement of wood for personal or commercial purposes. Call the City (3-1-1) if you are unsure whether your activities are safe and in compliance.

Ash trees, common throughout Ottawa and Ontario, can be identified through distinctive markers such as bilateral leaf and hanging oar-shaped seed clusters and either smooth, light-grey bark in young trees or diamond-shaped furrowed bark on mature trees: <http://ottawa.ca/en/residents/water-and-environment/trees-and-community-forests/ash-trees>. Residents can also refer to this map identifying concentrations of ash trees by street and park: <http://ottawa.ca/sites/ottawa.ca/files/migrated/files/cap106603.pdf>.

CGOWCA RECEIVES A CERTIFICATE



On May 1st, the Convent Glen-Orléans Wood Community Association received a certificate during a Volunteer Recognition night held by Councillor Bob Monette. More than 100 volunteers from Orléans were present and Mr. Monette handed the certificate to community association president Ian Gadbois to thank him, the board and the founding committee for establishing the CGOWCA.



Bob Monette

Councillor,
Orléans Ward

Conseiller,
quartier Orléans



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UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE CGOWCA

June 1st

Ecology Ottawa, in collaboration with Friends of Petrie Island and Ottawa Riverkeeper, is hosting a spring clean up of Petrie Island, from 10am-3pm at the Nature Centre on Petrie Island.

Ecology Ottawa is a local

environmental organization working to make Ottawa the green capital of Canada. They work with communities across the city to protect local waterways and conservation areas. This will be a fun day, great for families and adults alike.

June 20nd

The Board of Directors will hold its fourth monthly meeting.

September 23rd

Annual General Meeting, location to be announced.

***If you own a local business and would like to advertise in the
monthly newsletter, contact us at the address below***