

Mr. Kilstrom:

I don't know if you are aware of the details of the proposed stadium / playing field at the University of Ottawa's 200 Lees campus but the plans they have on the table (they intend to begin work within a month) will make it difficult for the creation of a multi-use pathway (MUP) along the Rideau River as is called for by the City Council approved community design plan for Old Ottawa East.

We would appreciate your becoming involved in this issue to ensure that the City will fulfill its commitment to build a multi-use pathway along the entire stretch of the Old Ottawa East's Rideau river shoreline, including that portion owned by the University of Ottawa at 200 Lees.

In the plans we have seen, the southeast corner of the fence around the new stadium / playing field would be about seven meters from the river's edge and at the "geotechnical top of the river bank," making it difficult and costly for the City to get the multi-use pathway past this point.

At an open house hosted by the University last night, consultants said that the pathway was being rerouted around the university buildings (i.e., away from the shoreline) to Lees and along the existing pathway parallel to the Queensway). In the view of the consultants, this satisfies the need for a MUP. The Ottawa East Community Association and Sustainable Living Ottawa East emphatically do not agree.

If you check the approved CDP it speaks of:

- Rideau River Multi-use Pathway and Riverbank Naturalization – Preserve and naturalize an area setback 30 metres from high water mark of Rideau River, and provide an abutting 10 metre strip of land to construct a Multi-use Pathway.
- Designate the vacant land *along the shore of the Rideau River* adequate to provide for a Multi-use Pathway as Major Open Space.
- Develop a Multi-use Pathway *along the west bank of the Rideau River*, reinstate the natural shoreline and provide access at specific locations.
- The development of a Multi-use Pathway *along the west bank of the Rideau River* will connect a number of existing sections of pathway to provide for a continuous route to the University of Ottawa and St. Paul University as well as Strathcona Park to the north and Carleton University to the south.

The University's plans represent the first challenge to the approved CDP. Let's get this favorably resolved so that the multi-use pathway is built where the CDP says it should be. One other observation is that it seems peculiar that the University is basically ignoring the river in its development proposals at 200 Lees, particularly given the pride that the University takes in its sustainability and "green" program.

John Dance,

President, Ottawa East Community Association