



Report on Activities



National Capital Commission Board of Directors

**Public Meeting
April 9, 2014**

The National Capital Commission will focus its activities on five priorities within the strategic directions set by its board of directors in fall 2013.

I. Make LeBreton Flats a world-class destination.

LeBreton Interim Open Space Improvements

A presentation will be provided.

II. Offer public access and new connections for Canadians to discover the shorelines.

Carbide Mill Rehabilitation

The Carbide Mill is a rare industrial-heritage structure, recognized by the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office. It is in an extraordinary location with direct views to the Supreme Court, Parliament Hill and beyond to the National Gallery of Canada.

While the project is essentially completed (only minor roof work remains) it comprised the following:

- Replacing a high voltage transformer;
- Masonry repairs and damp-proofing of the foundation wall;
- Provision of subsurface drainage and piping; and
- Replacement of the flat roof over the annex

Ottawa Riverfront Placemaking

The Ottawa Riverfront Placemaking Initiative was launched on February 5th and the submission period closed on March 14th. In addition to fielding questions about the initiative online, a public information session was held in February for interested parties.

In total, 43 proposals have been received and are now being evaluated by the project steering committee. In fact, I invited the cities of Gatineau and Ottawa to take part in these evaluations. Proponents will be notified by the end of April if the NCC wishes to retain their proposal for further

***Strategic
Directions***

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Optimize NCC assets so that the heart of Canada's Capital Region and its shorelines are vibrant and inspire Canadians.

Conserve heritage, cultural and natural assets and landscapes in Canada's Capital Region.

consideration.

The **Rideau Canal Shorelines Initiative** will continue into its third year of the three year pilot project, concluding on October 31, 2014. A public evaluation of the pilot project will be conducted during the summer season.

III. Complete the Capital Urban Lands Master Plan and the National Interest Land Mass Update

Capital Urban Lands Master Plan and Parkway Policy

Public consultations on the planning concept, general policies and land designations were held online from March 18 to April 6. Nearly 100 participants took part in the evening workshops that were held on the 25th and 26th of March. On-line consultations yielded a high rate of participation with 607 respondents replying to the survey.

The comments are generally positive. The contact with nature and public access to shorelines seem to have been identified as top priorities. While the land use designations seem to make consensus, urban and regional viability and employment areas have raised the most queries. And finally, the topic of community gardens was frequently mentioned as well.

The next step is to consolidate the information received into a public consultation report. We hope to provide it to the board in June.

IV. Support the establishment of national commemorations

War of 1812 and National Holocaust Monument

The National Capital Commission continues to play an important role in national commemorations. Once the winning design teams are chosen for these tributes, the responsibility for managing the construction phase will rest with the NCC.

Afghanistan Commemoration Parade

The National Capital Commission is working closely with the Department of National Defense (DND) to secure the Afghanistan commemoration parade route, along with its associated staging area, and the Soldier On Relay event, while facilitating the collaboration of its stakeholders to minimize conflicts with other events.

V. Be a value-added partner in Canada's Capital Region

Rideau Canal Skateway

This year marked the 44th season of skating on the Rideau Canal Skateway. The season was officially launched on December 31, 2013, and closed on March 11, 2014, for a total of 71 days (58 skating days).

It was estimated that 1,338,000 visits were made to the Skateway or approximately 23,000 visits per skating day: the most visits in one year since we began taking statistics in 1992-1993.

Winter Programs in Gatineau Park

The current ski season is the longest one in recent years with an early start on November 30, 2013, and it is still ongoing. The excellent conditions at the start of the season boosted the sale of season passes, which reached a record at 6,453. The snowshoeing interpretation programs were also very popular and reached new Canadians (600 participants), school groups (700 participants) and the public (600 participants).

Sunday Bike days

The 44th season of the Alcatel-Lucent Sunday Bike days will be commencing on Sunday May 18th and will run through Labour Day weekend. More than 200,000 people took part last year – the reason why volunteers are at the heart of its success, along with our valued sponsors and partners.

Alcatel-Lucent is returning for its 15th season as the proud title sponsor.

Sir John A. Macdonald Aesthetic Improvements

Over the past several years, the NCC has increased the amount of naturalized turf areas along the Sir John A. Macdonald Parkway corridor in order to meet environmental objectives by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in addition to cost containment objectives.

In response to feedback received by the public in 2013, and as a means of making it more aesthetically pleasing, the NCC will be reducing the amount of naturalized turf areas along this Parkway. This strategy will include increasing setbacks from the parkway, medians and pathways and establishing a more hands-on approach towards the introduction of more organic and curvilinear delineations between naturalized and regularly mowed turf areas.

106-116 Sparks Street

The NCC is pleased that Ashcroft and the City of Ottawa have resolved their issues and that the NCC's objective to retain the central heritage character of the original building on Sparks Street will be respected. City Council signed off on the project in March, giving Ashcroft the green light to move forward with the dismantling and reconstruction of the front façade.

7 Clarence

As reported to the board in January 2014, the NCC submitted an application to replace 7 Clarence with a new structure that is both pleasing and is in keeping with the heritage character of the Tin House Court. The application worked its way through the City of Ottawa's approval process and will be before Council later this morning.

I have twice met with community Stakeholders to discuss the status of the building, review the proposed design and gain their feedback. While I have committed to returning to the community with the revised scheme in the coming months, our priority is to demolish the existing building. We will be returning to the board in the fall prior to the start of construction.

Western Light Rail Transit

A verbal update will be provided.