

Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee
Presentation to
Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee
17 October 2006

Agenda Item 7: Nepean Woodlots – Land Exchange

Agenda Item 7 proposes a land exchange and cash settlement that will see the city

- disposing of land at the intersection of Bren Maur Road and Jockvale Road; and in return
- acquiring what OFGC has termed the “Figure 8” woodlot [Cedar Woodlot] which will soon be in 2 blocks when Marketplace boulevard is extended) on Strandherd; and
- acquisition of the mature Sugar Maple and Beech woodlot [Maple woodlot] on the east side of Woodroffe.

The Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee supports this land exchange.

The Cedar Woodlot is UNA No. 60 in the Urban Natural Areas Environmental Evaluation Study (UNAEES) and according to the staff report it was ranked Moderate in phase 2 of the study.

The Maple woodlot is UNA 61 and it too was ranked as Moderate.

The Bren Maur site is not on the UNAEES list but it does have some mature trees on the site, some in the form of hedgerows.

Because the city is acquiring 51.8 acres in exchange for 42.9 acres of its own land, the city must pay an additional \$2.5 million.

The Environmental Resources Areas Acquisition fund will be tapped for \$2.4 million of that amount (the difference is coming from another source)

Although we agree with this transaction because it saves environmentally sensitive land from destruction, we regret that so much money must be paid to complete the acquisition. Land developers in Ottawa should consider Eco-gifting for land such as this. Mechanisms exist in City policies to issue income tax receipts for donations (of land or other tangibles as well as for money). Similar mechanisms exist at the provincial and federal level as well. It is time for Councillors to begin actively exploring these options in regard to ecologically important land in Ottawa.

You received a report in June on the status of the Environmental Resource Areas Acquisition Fund. There remains \$1.3 M in the fund itself plus \$3.4 M in the Environmental Areas Acquisition Capital Reserve (total \$4.7 M).

If you and council approve this transaction, there remains only \$2.3 M in the Capital Reserve Fund, enough, we assume, for one more purchase of environmentally significant land in this huge city.

You must therefore, lend your support in the 2007 budget process and Long Range financial Plan process to replenishing the ERAAF and the EAA Capital Reserve.

Iola Price
Chair
Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee