

**Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee
Comment on
Councillor November 28 2006 Report to
Planning and Environment Committee
and
Council**

Agenda Item 14: Report Reference No. ACS2006 – CCS-PEC-0012

Background

As stated in Councillor Hume's report, the intent of the 2003 Official Plan, the 20/20 exercise, and the Environmental Strategy is to retain the existing tree cover and increase city-wide tree coverage to 30% from the approximately 27% coverage at the time of the last survey in 1995 as part of the RMOC's Natural Environment System Strategy.

Since that time Ottawa has grown, and many residential and commercial developments have been completed within and outside the urban limits. Many of these sites were treed and many if not most of the existing trees and associated vegetation were lost as a consequence of development. While intensification of land use provides many benefits, it also poses some serious challenges when trying to address any type of tree retention or even tree planting issues in our community.

The Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee (OFGAC) urges Planning and Development Committee and Council to welcome this focus on tree planting and to support the initiative in the report which would see a TREE (Tree, Reforestation and Environmental Enhancement) program developed which would result in 100,000 trees being planted in the next four years, in partnership with the community. The development of this plan is an important first step in acknowledging that our 'green infrastructure' is an important component of the City of Ottawa and requires attention and investment as does any other infrastructure.

Recommendation

OFGAC recommends that

- Planning and Environment recognize the need to invest in Ottawa's 'green infrastructure'; and further recommends that
- Planning and Environment Committee accept this report and follow-on activities.

Jackie Oblak
Vice-Chair
Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee