



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Great Glebe Garage Sale enters its 5th decade City traffic restrictions imposed without consultation

May 21, 2026 -- Over 40 years the Glebe has seen a lot of change but the Great Glebe Garage Sale has remained constant.

However, this year there is one change people need to be aware of – the City of Ottawa has imposed traffic restrictions in various places, without consulting the organizers of the event, the Glebe Community Association (GCA).

Since 1986, the GCA has sponsored the sale as a way for the community to connect, have fun, and support the Ottawa Food Bank. While actual numbers are hard to calculate, it's fair to say thousands come each year to experience one of Ottawa's unique events.

Once again this year, the GCA welcomes bargain hunters from all over the city and further afield to join us this Saturday, May 23rd, from 8 am to 2 pm. It's the one day a year that the entire neighbourhood turns into a giant flea market. Treasures can be found in every corner of the Glebe from Pretoria in the north to Queen Elizabeth Drive in the south and from the Rideau Canal in the east to Bronson in the west. You'll often find amazing treasures outside the busy central parts of the Glebe.

One big change this year is new traffic restrictions—including street closures and parking restrictions—imposed by the City of Ottawa. Consider walking, cycling or taking the bus. If you drive, we recommend parking further afield. Here's a summary of what to expect:

- Road closures on Second and Fourth avenues between Lyon and O'Connor will be in effect from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Closures on Glebe, First and Third avenues may also be put in place reactively during that period, depending on traffic congestion. There likely won't be any advance notice.
- Access to streets from Bank Street in either direction between Glebe and Fourth avenues will be closed. However, local traffic will still be able to access the area between Glebe and Fourth from Lyon and O'Connor.
- Parking and no-stopping restrictions will be in effect from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. The following streets will be closed to visitor parking, although Glebe residents with residential parking permits may park as usual: Glebe, First, Second, Third and Fourth avenues between Lyon and O'Connor.

These traffic measures have been imposed without consulting the community. The Glebe Community Association fears they will not improve safety or traffic flow and may in fact cause confusion and chaos.

“The Great Glebe Garage Sale has been safely run for four decades,” said John Crump, GCA President. “We’re not sure why all of a sudden traffic restrictions are being imposed. We were never given a reason, other than vague safety concerns, for why the city excluded the community.”

The GCA appreciates the proactive role Councillor Shawn Menard and his office have played in trying to get the city administration to cooperate with the community, Crump said. But despite their best efforts, and the numerous attempts by the GCA to speak with city traffic officials, the restrictions went ahead.

“We plan to take this issue up with the Mayor after the garage sale is over,” he added. “This is not the open and consultative approach that such an important community event needs or deserves.”

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