



President's Report on GCA Activities 2025-2026
GCA Annual General Meeting, 17 September 2026

John Crump, GCA President

Ever since the Toronto Maple Leafs last won the Stanley Cup (that would be 1967), the GCA has advocated “for a liveable, sustainable, diverse urban neighbourhood.” That the GCA thrives is thanks to everyone who contributes, and to all those who join as members (and if you haven’t, please see our membership team or sign up at the table near the door).

Communications review

The GCA has been working hard to up its communications game over the last year. As part of this effort we sent out a survey to email subscribers to solicit input on priorities for the coming year. The survey had close to a 24% response rate – pretty good for these kinds of things. Out of more than 2,800 recipients, 679 responded to the survey. The top three issues were planning and development; parks and green space; and local businesses and vitality.

The survey revealed what we already know – we live in a highly engaged and opinionated community. Glebe residents have a strong pride in their community as well as a deep concern about change, pressures, and future directions. I’m pleased to report the survey showed continued strong support for the GCA, as well as calls for it to evolve.

The association *has* evolved since its inception -- and will continue to do so. This is reflected in an increased focus on communications, including exploring opportunities for greater collaboration with the Glebe Report in light of the strong alignment between the mandates of the two organizations. The GCA contributes many articles to the Glebe Report -- and is featuring articles from the paper more prominently in its own communication channels. Stay tuned for a series of co-hosted events this year.

We also have a nascent Instagram page so if that is your social media hangout, keep an eye out for the latest.

Environment

As usual, the GCA’s Environment Committee has been hard at it and co-hosted three Climate & Your Cash events to help residents divest from fossil fuels and find insurance for the future climate.

The profits from this event helped fund a Tiny Forest at First Avenue Public School, to be planted this fall in collaboration with the Parent Council, the public school board and a donation from Councillor Menard’s office.

Volunteers have been removing invasive species from Brown’s Inlet. Planting of site appropriate native species will begin this fall. Members of the committee have worked with counterparts in Old Ottawa South on Fall and Spring Big Waste Collections, held at Windsor and Brewer Parks respectively.

Great Glebe Garage Sale

The 40th Great Glebe Garage Sale was a huge success. For the first time, the City imposed traffic restrictions erecting barriers on the avenues at Bank St between Glebe Ave and Fifth. We had some concerns about how all this came about, and a lack of communication from the City. However, on the day of the event, the City's Traffic Management department met with the GCA to do a walk-around. Both parties agreed that the traffic calming measures succeeded in making the event safer for both pedestrians and vehicles.

As well, the City has committed to better collaboration with the GCA when making the traffic management plans for the 2027 event.

We are looking forward to the 41st iteration of this popular event and will once again use it as an opportunity to raise much needed funds for the Ottawa Food Bank.

Health, Housing and Social Services

In February, the Health, Housing and Social Services Committee organized and co-hosted the very successful "Community Conversation on Homelessness" with Centretown Community Association as well as leading homelessness and housing experts from Operation Come Home, the Ottawa Mission, Salus and the Centretown Citizens Ottawa Corporation (CCOC).

The GCA continues its work with other community associations on issues of housing and safety to address concerns of the communities.

And some really good housing news – after many years of advocacy for affordable housing at Bank and Chamberlain, the CCOC has now taken on the project that will see a corner parking lot turned into approximately 100 mixed-income, affordable homes. While the development is in the early planning stages, the vision calls for a variety of unit sizes, with a focus on larger units in a nine-storey building with ground floor commercial spaces along Bank Street.

Last October the GCA passed a motion urging a resolution to the problem of ongoing noise from rooftop air-conditioning equipment at The Clemow, a 16-storey residential development at 275 Carling Avenue. While the owners of the Clemow have taken steps to reduce the noise, the problem persisted into this summer. Hopefully, a resolution will be found soon.

Heritage

The heritage committee is working closely with the councillor's office and city staff to monitor any applications or changes to both buildings in the Glebe's two heritage conservation districts, and its other designated and non-designated buildings, as needed.

The committee also continues to look at ways to support the City's future designation work. In the next Council term, it would like a closer look at options for previously requested district designation for Powell/Glebe West as well as Bank Street, and along the canal.

Lansdowne 2.0

I don't know how many times I've written about Lansdowne 2.0 this year – it really is a "gift" to the community that keeps on giving. Or should I say taking – time and energy. The GCA spent considerable time in the summer and fall of 2025 advocating for a reconsideration of Lansdowne 2.0. Through public communications and submissions to Ottawa City Council, we drew attention to issues such as the huge price tag, negative environmental impacts, flawed planning, lack of transportation and dearth of meaningful public consultation.

We worked with many partners across the city to draw attention to the city-wide impacts of spending nearly half a billion dollars on Lansdowne while the City had many other spending priorities, including a huge infrastructure shortfall. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in our efforts and the project was approved. Sadly, but predictably, this decision has led to the departure of The Ottawa Charge.

We now face 10 years of construction at Lansdowne. The GCA continues to monitor the project as members of a community stakeholders group.

Parks

This year, the GCA Parks Committee continued its commitment to the preservation, maintenance and improvement of safe, beautiful parks and other green spaces in the Glebe.

Highlights include working with the city to pursue mitigation of damage and vandalism that has been occurring at Exploration Park. We also concluded a garden maintenance agreement for Fire Station Park as part of the city's new Community Gardens Action Plan in order to bring more greening and amenities there.

Community advocacy and consultation on the year-long soil risk management and redevelopment work by the city at Lionel Britton Park were completed. Other advocacy included ensuring the placement of better receptacles for sorted recycling, garbage, dog waste, and other organics in Sylvia Holden Park and the piloting of a boarded hockey rink at the same location.

The Committee has also been involved in greening the soon-to-be 'old' Chamberlain Avenue and ultimate expansion of Glebe Memorial Park, and the repair, painting, and improvements of the rink shack at that location. The annual park clean up took place with great volunteer support.

Transportation

The *Bank Street Active Transportation and Transit Priority Feasibility Study* was the main transportation issue this year. After considerable thought and discussion, the GCA supported its active transportation measures, and did not oppose its transit priority measures. Both of which will be implemented in a one-year pilot project in 2027.

On the active transportation front, we welcome the plans to study alternative north-south bicycle routes through the Glebe on streets parallel to Bank Street. We were happy to see that Council also supported a bicycle route through Lansdowne Park.

As for the transit priority measures, the GCA will be involved in monitoring the impacts of new transit-only lanes at peak hours, as well as a short stretch of 24-hour bike lanes.

Membership

It may surprise you to learn that the GCA has no paid staff. Just dedicated volunteers giving their time. For that reason, no other activity is more important than our annual membership campaign.

The Membership Committee is made up of Area Reps from different parts of the Glebe, focused primarily on running the annual membership campaign, which is the main revenue generator for GCA activities. Thanks to all the Block Rep canvassers who dedicate significant time and effort going door-to-door and encouraging online membership purchases in the neighbourhood.

Not only is the membership campaign our major source of revenue, there is strength (and credibility) in numbers. Last year, the GCA had about 1100 members. We are still compiling numbers from this year's campaign.

Final Words

There is some turnover this year and I would like to thank Laura Smith, Genevieve McInnes, Elizabeth Ballard and Maggie Gorman Velez who are leaving the board.

Finally, I am stepping down as President and would like to thank everyone at the GCA for their support, energy and good humour over the last few years. It's been a privilege.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John C. Kelly", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.