



# **Windsor Park: An Enduring Greenspace in Old Ottawa South**

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## **Development of Canadian Public Parks**

### **Early park development**

The establishment of Windsor Park in 1945 in Old Ottawa South, is part of a movement, beginning in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, to create public greenspaces in European and North American cities and towns. Before then, public squares, commons, military parade grounds, church plazas, or cemeteries served as what might be called proto-parks.<sup>1</sup> Public parks, as we know them today, only began appearing by the late 1800s as urban areas expanded.

The idea of dedicating an urban tract of land to public recreation was actually a bold new idea. Park promoters were part of a larger reform movement, which began in Europe. Public parks were a direct response to the concern over social problems caused by the Industrial Revolution and a response to the Romantic movement's belief in the healing power, both physical and mental, of nature.<sup>2</sup> Nineteenth century British and North American cities were often dirty, congested and polluted, which affected the health of their residents, especially the poor who lived in the worst conditions. The reform impulse was also directed to social problems. Many reform organizations sprang up to help remedy society's ills – from intemperance to tuberculosis to unclean drinking water and crime on the streets. A popular cause was creating urban parks to provide “breathing spaces,” where workers could revive under the healing properties of nature, participate in wholesome physical activities and, thus, improve the lives of the working poor and also reduce the excessive drinking seen as the bane of the life of the poor.

Later, park building was further boosted by the City Beautiful movement, which began in the 1890s. The North American City Beautiful reformers promoted the idea of designing cities with parks, trees, boulevards and stately buildings. By the early 1900s, park promoters were divided into two camps: those who wanted parks devoted to recreation or sports, and those who wanted parks designed for aesthetic enjoyment. This division persisted up to the First World War, even in Canada. By the time Windsor Park was created, this division had been resolved in favour of providing recreational space.

In Canada, one of the first formally designed parks was the Halifax Public Gardens founded by the Halifax Horticultural Society in 1836, which was open originally only to members. In the United States, the first public park was New York City's Central Park, which was landscaped for recreational and aesthetic enjoyment. Created in the 1860s and designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, it was the first park to be made on public land, developed with public funds and open to all. It became the model for large park building in Canada up into the 20th century. In 1874, Olmsted was invited by the City of Montreal to design Mount Royal Park.<sup>3</sup> However, beginning in the 1880s, the focus in Canada was more on building small urban parks and ornamental squares. Public parks became focal points for community, social and recreational activities. Most had a pavilion of some sort, where band concerts and dances were held. Circuses, political rallies, and travelling dignitaries, such as royalty, also came to the parks.<sup>4</sup>

### **Playground parks**

By the 1890s, yet another social movement was influencing park building and would directly influence the establishment of Windsor Park. This was the playground park movement, an import from the United States, and part of the reform spirit of the times. The playground movement was closely connected with the rise of social work with the poor and the increasing immigration to North America. Many children of the poor (mostly from immigrant families) were unsupervised during the long days their parents were working; thus organized play on a supervised playground was sold as yet another way to improve the lives of the poor. Playground parks began appearing in the United States by the 1890s.<sup>5</sup> By 1906, the Playground Association of America was formed, which led to incorporating more organized play into park programming. According to one commentator: "The playground became a laboratory where habits of health and social custom could be taught in a play atmosphere."<sup>6</sup>

In Canada, the National Council of Women (established by the energetic Lady Aberdeen, the Governor General's wife) played a major role from 1893 onwards in establishing supervised playgrounds in Canada.<sup>7</sup> For example, the local Council in London, Ontario, successfully lobbied City Council in 1901 to provide public playgrounds, gymnasiums, reading rooms, tennis courts, bath houses and open air concerts to "reduce drunkenness by making healthy living possible."<sup>8</sup>

In 1901, the National Council of Women made an official resolution to support the playground movement across Canada. In many Canadian cities, these local councils became catalysts for building playgrounds and, by extension, recreation areas that adults could also use. One of the first supervised playground parks to be opened in Canada was in Montreal in 1902.<sup>9</sup>

Early playground park promoters could be divided into two groups: those who saw the parks and recreation programs as preventing social problems such as child delinquency and adult drunkenness; and those who defined wholesome recreation as "an individual's right."<sup>10</sup> According to one commentator, the "emphasis on prevention became paramount in a bid for volunteer funds, and as a justification for many of the workers' giving of their time."<sup>11</sup>

The usual pattern of playground development in Canada began with a local Council of Women initiating a playground. Soon a playground association, which would take over playground management, would arise. Supervisors, usually female teachers, would lead activities such as stories, crafts, reading, sewing, music and games. The last step would see playgrounds and parks brought under the jurisdiction of a municipal parks and recreation department. Many such departments were created between the First and Second World Wars.<sup>12</sup>

As summer and winter programs were merged with new indoor programs in schools and newly built community centres, full-time supervisors were hired, usually men. By the

First World War, the emphasis in park and playground programming was shifting to sports and physical activities.<sup>13</sup>

### **Park development after the First World War**

An economic downturn and the onset of the First World War stopped park and playground building. By the 1920s, with the return of normal times, parks were no longer seen as “instruments of reform,” but more as recreation spaces. Many parks created in the 1920s were products of bureaucrats because most cities now had a well-entrenched parks board. Horticultural societies, which had spearheaded park building and civic beautification before the war, were no longer major players. In the public mind, parks and playgrounds were no longer seen as luxuries, but as necessities that governments should provide.

The Depression slowed down park building and the Second World War brought it to a complete halt. After the war, as leisure time increased, city councils came under pressure to convert more urban open spaces into parks. Municipal planning standards developed, in which park planning was a major factor. Park planning began to routinely consider including picnic grounds, playgrounds, playing fields, walking paths and natural areas. Parks became more functional – playing fields and tennis courts were considered more important than designing an intricate landscape of flower beds and tree and shrub groupings. As well, park components and layouts slowly became more standardized with a greater use of asphalt, fewer trees, approved styles of benches and fencing.<sup>14</sup> By the 1960s, parks were being described (and designed) as open spaces devoted to recreation.<sup>15</sup>

### **Ottawa Park and Playground History**

The evolution of Ottawa’s park system reflects the progression of Canadian park development in general, but with a difference. In addition to city efforts, Ottawa’s park system was strongly shaped by the presence and activities of the Ottawa Improvement Commission (OIC), the precursor of the National Capital Commission.<sup>16</sup> Thus, the federal government became responsible for developing and maintaining federal lands and buildings in the National Capital Region, which included the city’s major parklands (such as Vincent Massey–Hog’s Back Park).

However, before the heavy federal presence became active, the City created Ottawa’s first large, landscaped park, Major’s Hill Park, in 1874. Before then, Ottawans used Beechwood Cemetery, established in 1872, as a park.<sup>17</sup>

As part of the OIC’s beautification programs, such as the conversion of King Edward Avenue into a boulevard and the beginnings of Rockcliffe Park development, it hired Frederick Todd<sup>18</sup> in 1903 to create a city beautification plan. In his report to the OIC, Todd suggested that a system of parks connected by parkways be established in Ottawa. This seminal decision continues to echo in Ottawa park planning and subsequent city plans up into present day.

By 1908, Ottawa had seven parks (built by the OIC and the City), including Major's Hill, Central, Somerset Street, Rockcliffe, and King Edward Avenue parks. This effort was strongly influenced by the City Beautiful movement and equally strongly supported by the Ottawa Horticultural Society.

Playgrounds were slower to develop. One source notes in 1873 that volunteers supervised children's play on public squares and that funds were raised by popular subscriptions for games and equipment.<sup>19</sup> However, Ottawa's participation in the playground movement is more conventionally dated to 1898, when Mayor Bingham had Council "set aside 11 lots to be used as a recreation ground, to be known as the Ottawa Ward Playground."<sup>20</sup> It was not until 1911, under continued pressure from the local Council of Women, that City Council adopted a recommendation from the Board of Control to appoint a special committee for playgrounds.<sup>21</sup> This committee led to establishing, in 1912, the earliest playground [now McNabb Park] on the corner of Bronson and Gladstone avenues, then named Gladstone Park.<sup>22</sup>

In 1913, the Ottawa Playgrounds Association was formed, which assumed advocacy for and management of playgrounds from the local Council of Women, which could not afford to run the playgrounds on its own. Playgrounds were originally funded by donations.<sup>23</sup> The Association successfully petitioned City Council to use Plouffe, Anglesea and Bingham squares for playgrounds, supported by a grant of \$1,000.<sup>24</sup> As the city expanded, more municipal parkland was called for.<sup>25</sup> However, the First World War curtailed new park and playground building in Ottawa, as it did in the rest of Canada.

After the war, the Ottawa Playgrounds Association was disbanded when City Council established the Ottawa Playgrounds Commission (an advisory body of elected representatives and citizens) as part of the Civic Department in 1919,<sup>26</sup> and the City assumed complete responsibility for playgrounds. As other civic associations and movements were becoming more bureaucratized after the First World War, so were playground programs.

The Ottawa Playgrounds Commission made its first report in 1919, beginning with the bold statement:

The central purpose of the public playground movement in Ottawa has been to assist and encourage all manner of juvenile play and recreating rather than to engage in any highly specialized athletics. An effort is being made to get all to take part rather than by the process of competition to eliminate all except the strongest and most skillful contestants and leave the others simply looking on. All classes of the community mingle in the playground activities and there is probably no part of the city expenditures which is of greater value than the money which is thus spent in behalf of the good health, morals and happiness of the boyhood and girlhood of Ottawa.<sup>27</sup>

The 1919 report recommended that all parks should have permanent shelters. The City also supported four swimming pools, where children received swimming lessons,<sup>28</sup> three

skating rinks and nine baseball diamonds, noting that baseball was the favourite game on the nine playgrounds.

By 1925, Ottawa's recreation facilities had increased to 10 skating rinks, four hockey rinks, one figure skating rink, one speed skating rink, two toboggan slides, 12 playgrounds, four athletic fields, four swimming pools, four bowling greens and four tennis courts.<sup>29</sup> Ottawa's park area between 1927 and 1939 increased to 900 acres.<sup>30</sup>

Near the end of the Second World War, Alderman L.L. Coulter pushed to have the city-owned land in Old Ottawa South, what would become Windsor Park, developed into a park. His idea of turning green space into a park was taken up by the Board of Control in an even wider context. The Board decided to survey all open spaces within city boundaries "from the point of view of ultimately converting them into parkland."<sup>31</sup> An editorial in the *Ottawa Citizen* vigorously supported the idea, saying that "with wise collaboration now the green oases of open park spaces can be safeguarded for the common good."<sup>32</sup>

In 1948, the City began improving existing parks prompted by heavy criticism of the unsanitary, underdeveloped municipal parks and playgrounds:

It is a sad commentary on the city playgrounds that they look so bad, and that what is run by the Federal District Commission looks so beautiful. The city has been in the habit for years of say, in effect: 'Let Fred do it.' Fred being Bronson, chairman of the Federal District Commission.<sup>33</sup>

Alphonse Delude, Superintendent of Playgrounds, put a five-year improvement plan into action in 1948 that would schedule beach clean-ups, ball diamond creation, field house construction, and wading pool installation. For example, Brantwood Beach in Ottawa East got a new recreation building that year and nearer to home, the riverbanks along Brewer Park were scheduled for a major clean up.<sup>34</sup>

The next phase of park building was directly influenced by Prime Minister Mackenzie King's invitation to Jacques Gréber, a French town planner to undertake the fourth city plan for Ottawa.<sup>35</sup> Gréber presented his report in 1950, which recommended integrating parks and parkways and strongly advised that greenbelts and park systems were needed to further beautify the city.<sup>36</sup>

With the impetus from the Gréber Plan and federal green space activities, the 1950s were marked by the steady creation of new parks and playgrounds and the improvement of older parks. By this decade, 90 centres were under the Playgrounds Department's jurisdiction including two indoor swimming pools, four beaches, 11 wading pools, 12 neighbourhood or junior playgrounds, 11 senior playgrounds, six recreation fields and 33 hockey rinks.<sup>37</sup> By 1954, the City had an official policy to plant trees to provide shade, beauty and soil conservation in city parks.<sup>38</sup>

In 1952, the Ottawa Recreation Commission was joined to the Playgrounds Department creating the Department of Public Recreation.<sup>39</sup> In 1956, the Parks and Trees Branch of

the Department of Planning and Works was added to the Department of Public Recreation changing it to the Department of Recreation and Parks.<sup>40</sup> The Ottawa Sports Advisory Council was formed in 1958, as a sub-committee of the Recreation and Parks Committee.<sup>41</sup>

**Snapshot of activities in parks  
and playgrounds in the late 1950s**

- \* Playgrounds: junior, senior and regional Olympics, playdays, playday trips, special event days, group activities, softball, baseball, football, soccer, lacrosse, bocce, horseshoes, arts, crafts, drama.
- \* Outdoor rinks: free skating, speed skating, figure skating, broomball, hockey, shinny periods, carnivals. Learn to ski program at Carlington Park. Tennis courts, jurisdiction of Department and run by community groups.
- \* Training courses: conducted by the Department for beach supervisors and attendants, community centre supervisors, playground supervisors, hockey referees and coaches, lacrosse referees and coaches.
- \* Wading pools: allow small children safe enjoyment in water. Water-adaption programme is conducted.

*Taken from City of Ottawa brochure, "The Department of Recreation and Parks," ca. 1956.*

As the parks and recreation portfolio grew, the need for a coordinated official plan for parks and recreation intensified, but would not be realized until 1956. In that year, the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation submitted the first draft plan. Parkland was divided into three jurisdictions:

- city owned, operated by Department of Public Recreation and Parks, 232 acres
- city owned, federally operated, 130 acres
- federally owned, federally operated, 150 acres<sup>42</sup>

On November 6, 1957, Council approved a recommendation from the Board of Control to approve in principle the Official Plan for Parks and Recreation Areas.<sup>43</sup>

In 1972, all City departments were restructured, which saw the Department of Recreation and Parks become a branch of the Department of Community Development.<sup>44</sup> In 1987, the Department of Recreation and Culture was established.<sup>45</sup> In 2010, parks are under the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee now advises City Council.

## **The Story of Windsor Park**

Officially established in 1945, Windsor Park was a relative latecomer on the Ottawa park scene. Old Ottawa South could boast by 1919 that the Brighton Beach Aquatic Club was operating Brighton Beach on the Rideau River. The following year, Ottawa East had Brantwood Beach, which had some playground facilities. Founded by the Brantwood Beach Aquatic Club, by the mid-1940s it was overseen, unlike Brighton Beach, by the Playground Commission. However, Old Ottawa South's first official park was Brewer Park,<sup>46</sup> originally named Ottawa South Playground. It officially opened on August 30, 1930, on land bought from the Ottawa South Property Company. By 1954, Brewer Park encompassed 30.1 acres.<sup>47</sup>



## **Pre-1940s**

Long before Windsor Park was a gleam in a City councillor's eye, the area was swampy bush. By the early 1800s, its official location was: Nepean, Concession C, Rideau Front Lot L. [See Figure 1] The first settlers to this location began arriving in 1814. By 1879, the land was owned by Mrs. Hogg, D. Gordon, H. Mason, H. Hinds, and the mysterious J.D.<sup>48</sup> [See Figure 2] On an 1893 map, the same owners appear.

In 1873, this land was described as “well adapted for garden purposes.”<sup>49</sup> The area was originally developed as farmland, yet the riverfront was described as “pretty swampy”<sup>50</sup> lying as it does on the Rideau River flood plain. Spring floods were a normal occurrence and were often severe enough to make the Toronto newspapers. For example, in 1898, the *Globe and Mail* reported that the flooding along the Rideau River in Ottawa was “almost unprecedented.” The water “in the river covers all the level country in the vicinity.”<sup>51</sup> The water on March 15 was “nearly over the approaches to the bridge at Billingsbridge, and is still rising. The residents there are in a state of excitement. Almost a thousand persons are now homeless or confined to the upper rooms of their dwellings.”<sup>52</sup> In 1928, the water was so high in the Old Ottawa South area, that residents left their homes in rowboats. The water had risen so fast that year due to an ice blockage at Billings Bride that “many of the citizens awoke this morning surprised to find that they were cut off from their neighbors by the floods.”<sup>53</sup> [See Figure 15]

The river ice often made flood conditions worse, and threatened to knock down bridges when the ice broke up and began piling up against them. To reduce this danger, dynamiting the river ice, a yearly ritual that began in the late 1800s and continues into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, would shake house foundations and rattle their windows. [See Figures 17, 18]

The early settlers and their successors seem to manage on this flood plain. By 1910, three years after annexation to the City of Ottawa, “most of the area between Riverdale Ave. and the Rideau River was occupied by market gardens.”<sup>54</sup> One early commentator noted that “people thought you were crazy to want to live way out here in the country, where cows grazed on the pasture land ...”<sup>55</sup> On a 1911 map, Windsor Avenue juts [See Figure 3] into what would become parkland. On this map, a triangular area (between Riverdale Avenue and the river, was labeled “park” – whether this is a developer's wish or the city's long-term plan is not known. Windsor Avenue was never extended, nor were any other streets built in the park area. The present-day boundaries are quite clear by 1915: Belmont Avenue to the north, Riverdale Avenue to the west and the Rideau River to the east. [See Figure 4]

In 1935, T.H. Brewer recalled that in 1906, Sunnyside, Brighton and Fentiman were country lanes, which wound through berry bushes and trees, as were the parts of the Windsor Park area that were not being cultivated.<sup>56</sup> Belmont Avenue was originally a farm lane.<sup>57</sup> This is certainly seen on a 1922 aerial photo, where a path gently undulates behind the houses on the south side of Belmont Avenue. A row of trees or a hedge

appears along this path. The area above Windsor Avenue is a combination of cleared land and trees. Below Windsor Avenue seems to be a row of trees extending from Riverdale Avenue to the river. The triangle of land formed by Riverdale Avenue, the tree line and the Rideau River looks as if it is being cultivated, with a few buildings here and there. [See Figure 40] Alex Saunders, who grew up in the 1930s and 1940s in Old Ottawa South, recalls that this area was a market garden run by the Haddad family.<sup>58</sup>

By 1934, on sheets H-12 and I-12 of a municipal survey map, part of the Windsor Park area is clearly marked in the triangle of land intersected by Windsor Avenue. The Capital Ward Yard (later called Windsor Yard, which would revert to parkland by 2000), where the city stored heavy equipment, is also marked on the map. What is equally interesting is that the lands are designated as “corporation property.” [See Figures 8, 9] However, homeowners whose properties bordered on the park, were a bit less observant of these unofficial boundaries. By 1959, these property owners were told they could cultivate flowerbeds on city property next to their lots, but that they could not erect fences, which might be used as a claim for “squatter’s rights.”<sup>59</sup> Even today, Belmont Avenue owners have gardens that overflow into the park.

Old Ottawa South resident Pat Kealey remembers a child’s life in the future park area as pretty idyllic in the 1930s. She and her friends played in the bush (where today’s tennis courts are located) and along its many paths. As well, Alec Saunders recalls the area, which he called Ides Bush, as “a wild area with a mini forest...with lots of trees to play Tarzan ...low ground that was often swampy.”<sup>60</sup> Children built hideouts, tree houses and rafts from the leftover house construction materials often lying about. [See Figure 16] Saunders remembers many vacant lots on Belmont, which he said were “natural playgrounds.” In summer, Pat Kealey said she “lived” on the river: swimming and boating. Her father would stroll over to Brighton Beach for an early morning swim before going to work.<sup>61</sup> She also remembers during the Second World War, the Victory Gardens cultivated near the river.

### **1940s-1950s**

The bush would be tamed after the Second World War, which had curtailed park building. Many municipal open spaces had been used for temporary buildings during the war. In 1944, Alderman L.L. Coulter pressed hard for a park where Windsor Park is today. His motion to create an 8-acre park on land the City already owned was supported by the Board of Control,<sup>62</sup> and then designated as Windsor Park in 1945:

Last year the Board, along with representatives of Riverdale Ward, the Playgrounds Committee and Civic officials, examined the area along the banks of the Rideau River, which lies East of Windsor Avenue and South of the private properties on Belmont Avenue. It was felt that it would be advisable to set this city owned property aside for park and playground purposes.”<sup>63</sup> [See Appendix A for the entire text of the by-law.]

Although not explicitly stated in the sources consulted, we believe that Windsor Park was named after Windsor Avenue. As well, it is not to be confused with the 6.4-acre Windsor Park in the former Gloucester (3560 Wyman Place), established in the 1970s.

Recreation was given first priority in the park's early development, even though the 1946 inventory only listed a skating rink and a small portable hut on site. On the plans to come were a children's playground, wading pool, fieldhouse, basketball, horseshoe and croquet courts, hockey rink, etc.<sup>64</sup> Superintendent of Playgrounds, J. Alphonse Dulude noted in that year that the City had ambitious plans for all its playgrounds:

"...the proposed fieldhouses will be provided with permanent lighting and water services, w.c. facilities, first aid room, storage space, etc. permanent outdoor lighting services for skating and playground activities are also contemplated. Beautifying our civic playgrounds by planting trees, shrubbery, flowers, is also part of this program, in which the children will take an active part."<sup>65</sup>

By 1947, in addition to the hockey rink, the park now had a playground and baseball diamond.<sup>66</sup> The hockey rink was an instant success. By the early 1950s, teams were participating in the Bantam Playgrounds Hockey League. By the late 1950s, the Ottawa South Community Recreation Council's winter program was thriving: beginner's hockey lessons were given and four house teams competed in the PeeWee and Bantam leagues.

In addition to hockey, supervised activities such as crafts and learn-to-swim programs would be supported for many years. In spring 1952, the Municipal Recreation Committee surveyed the facilities at Windsor to see what was needed. It was hoped that some funds could be transferred from one park budget to another for improvements. Meanwhile, a delegation from the Parent Teacher associations from Hopewell Elementary and St. Margaret Mary schools asked that work on the playground proceed quickly to stop children playing on busy Riverdale Avenue.<sup>67</sup> The Parks Commissioner, Alphonse Dulude, noted later that year that the proposed location of the playground would be at the end of Windsor Avenue, which obviously changed. He said that the 10-year plan, which reserved \$6,000 for Windsor Park development<sup>68</sup>, only scheduled in new equipment for 1956, but that "there was maybe the possibility of placing some older equipment ... in the meantime."<sup>69</sup>

By 1950, there was still no permanent building on the site. But the spirit of community volunteerism was rising – no doubt connected to that spirit that beautified and improved cities, which supported the original playgrounds movement in early 20<sup>th</sup> century Ottawa. Improvements began to be seen after the Ottawa South Advisory Council was formed. The Council was composed of six groups: the Parent-Teacher Associations of St. Margaret Mary's and Hopewell schools; Trinity Church Men's and Woman's Associations; Southminster United Church; and the South Ottawa Kiwanis Club.

By 1953, after continuing pressure from residents, some preliminary grading and seeding was done for the playground when \$500 was transferred from the Mooney's Bay beach budget.<sup>70</sup> 1953 was said to be the first official year the Windsor Park playground operated. To celebrate, a play day was held in which 125 area children participated.

There were spirited competitions for throwing a football and basketball, a treasure hunt and a piggyback race.<sup>71</sup>

Despite the Council's increasing influence, in 1955, park users were still complaining that there were no proper toilet facilities. However, the Parks Commission said the park budget would not cover such an expense.

The Council was hiring playground supervisors by 1956 (if not before). In that year, Glebe Collegiate student and Old Ottawa South resident, Carol Purcell, was the supervisor. She noted in a July 1956 interview that "the parent co-operation at the park is so wonderful it makes the job a pleasure."<sup>72</sup>

By 1959, Windsor Park facilities included a tennis court, a junior playground, baseball diamond, and skating and hockey rinks.<sup>73</sup> Later, the wading pool and basketball court were installed.

However, when plans became more serious in 1959 to develop the playground and finally build a "community centre" where the fieldhouse is now, a group of homeowners blocked 10 trucks carrying fill to reclaim a swampy area. They did not want the structure built there, saying they "objected to noise." Park Commissioner Dulude noted: "We must have playground facilities to serve the majority." Alderman Lloyd Francis said: "This is a comic opera situation. They would like to have the park as a green extension to their front lawns."<sup>74</sup> [See Figure 39] The protest was silenced.

Recreational interests were further boosted when, in 1956, the baseball diamond became the unofficial home for the Windsor Park Little League, which was operating by 1950, with the Board of Control's permission after some opposition from adult users. However, keeping the diamond operational sometimes was challenging; for example, in 1955, city trucks had driven through the park all winter "scattering bottles, garbage and refuse." Children were organized and worked for two weeks to clear the baseball diamond. However, even after that work the children's supervisors continued to complain that the area was still dangerous because of broken bottles and filth.<sup>75</sup>

As well, walkers continued to enjoy the path along the river. Many appreciated that Windsor Park became part of the Rideau River Trail, begun in 1959. [See Figure 11] The originally proposed trail followed the west bank of the Rideau River through to the Bronson Avenue Bridge.<sup>76</sup> However, developers were later on allowed to built next to the river (for example, at the end of Marco Lane), which disrupted the continuous riverbank path.

As Windsor Park developed throughout the 1950s, it began to assume a major role in community life, and not just for sports. The park began to be used to host community events throughout the year: winter carnivals, spring fairs, fall art festivals, etc. One of the first winter carnivals was held in 1948, when a 13-year-old Riverdale Avenue resident was crowned Queen of the Windsor Avenue Rink. All contestants were given a chocolate bar, soft drink and an apple.<sup>77</sup> The next year, the winner was given a gold locket as a

prize.<sup>78</sup> Another early event was held in summer 1954. Old Ottawa South children were invited to bring their pets and compete in a pet show. A commentator said the area looked like a miniature zoo with white mice, tropical fish, rabbits and dogs. A highlight of the show was awarding the funniest pet prize to a dachshund dressed as a clown.<sup>79</sup>

In 1956, the Department of Public Recreation sponsored a sand castle contest and the playground supervisor organized a popular scavenger hunt. The fine arts were not ignored. In 1959, an area resident wrote two plays based on the stories of Sleeping Beauty and Robin Hood. Participating children made the costumes and the set and organized the concert and drama presentations.<sup>80</sup>

### **1960s**

By the 1960s, the park's hockey rink had become "the hub of winter activities of the Ottawa South Community Recreation Council."<sup>81</sup> A paid contractor cleaned the ice with a plow, which did not always result in a smooth ice surface. The surface improved when volunteers began clearing snow and flooding it when necessary, often late at night. Volunteers also began supervising the rink during the week.<sup>82</sup>

Community events and festivals continued through these years; for example, in 1965, 50 playgrounds, including Windsor Park, participated in a drama festival sponsored by the Department of Recreation and Parks.

### **1970s – 1980s**

The 1980s saw more playground improvements. In 1985, the City approved a \$6,000 grant to install equipment for pre-schoolers (a slide, play hut and two rides) after parents complained that there was nothing in the playground for this age group. That year also saw the baseball diamond repositioned, lights installed and the two tennis courts built on their present location. As well, paths through the park were improved including a new access from Riverdale Avenue.<sup>83</sup> [See Figures 22, 24, 37, 46]

However, the major focus in the park during this time period was dealing with the annual Rideau River flooding. Old Ottawa South residents along the Rideau River faced each spring with the threat of floods. For children, it was exciting. Old Ottawa South resident Pat Kealey remembers the basement in her parent's Belmont Avenue house flooding nearly every year. One time her father put Pat and her sister, who were toddlers, in a washtub and gave them a "sail" around the basement.<sup>84</sup> Claude Bennet, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, recalled in 1978 his early days on Bellwood Avenue "when spring flooding was an exciting event – watching ice floes on the river and wondering if the bridge would hold up."<sup>85</sup>

Because of the increased development closer to the river, flooding was affecting more and more residents. A dyke had been built in 1978 in Brewer Park to minimize flooding in the Riverdale and Leonard avenue areas. However, as in years past, residents and the City were still putting sandbags along the threatened areas, spending, by the late 1970s,

between \$15,000 and \$20,000 on sandbags each year. Homeowners along the river were urged to install sewer back-up valves and build their own sandbag dams in their driveways. By 1961, insurance companies had removed flood insurance from area residents' claims, noting that the payments were too much for them to handle every year.<sup>86</sup>

Year after year of flooding led in 1978 to a group of concerned Old Ottawa South citizens and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority discussing anti-flood programs. An *OSCAR* headline said it all: "Spring is in the air – can the floods be far behind?"<sup>87</sup> This citizen pressure paid off in 1983 when the City and the Conservation Authority agreed to build an earth dyke and pumping station on the north side of the Rideau River from Windsor Avenue to Bank Street. The province, the city and other municipalities along the river shared the cost.<sup>88</sup>

The resulting 550-metre long earth dyke was 2 metres high topped by an asphalt walkway that connected it to Windsor Park. The path continued on under the bridge to the other side of Bank Street, and was incorporated into the Rideau River Trail.<sup>89</sup> The Windsor Dyke and Pumping Station, officially opened on October 13, 1984, was described as "an attractive and environmentally appropriate structure."<sup>90</sup> [See Figures 31, 32] The Windsor Dyke has stopped the worse damage to properties, but it has not completely tamed nature. In 2008, the spring flooding was so bad that "Windsor Park looked more like a mangrove forest [after a season of record snowfall] than an Ottawa park...submerging half a tennis court."<sup>91</sup>

Although park boundaries remained fixed until the late 1990s, a minor change occurred in 1984 when the City sold land on either side of Garrett Place (the narrow street that led into the park from Belmont Avenue) in order to close the street to motorists. [See Figures 26, 47] The Garrett Place land was said to be "little bigger than a tennis court." The City retained an 8-metre strip as a pedestrian walkway and sold strips on either side to the adjacent property owners. Nearby residents were happy it was closed – evidently teenagers were using the dead end street as a place to party.<sup>92</sup> By 1989, Windsor Park encompassed 9.7 acres.

The next change was the creation of Linda Thom Park in 1989. It is a strip of parkland along the Rideau River from Windsor Park, along the earth dyke, to Wendover Avenue on the west side of Bank Street. The addition was 3 acres. The small park was included in the Rideau River Trail system. The park was named in September 1988 in honour of Linda Thom, a local resident who won an Olympic gold medal in 1984.<sup>93</sup>

### **1990s – 2000s**

As Windsor Park headed into the new millennium, it continued to be one of main centres of community life. Many of the same events and festivals were held there as in years past, but new events were also added, such as the Ottawa South Community Association (OSCA) Fall Fest (featuring hay rides, storytelling, puppet shows, music and games) and the Old Ottawa South Art & Music Festival, beginning in 2005. As well, new programs

appeared. To aid urban reforestation, the park was the beneficiary of the City's Memorial Tree project established in 2001. People could now plant a tree in memory of someone on city land, including parks.<sup>94</sup> Also, in 1991, the Linda Thom Park was refreshed. In 2002, the 30<sup>th</sup> Ottawa Girl Guides troop adopted this mini-park to keep it clean.<sup>95</sup> [See Figure 30]

By 2006, the baseball diamond was hardly being used by adult or children's leagues, so the City converted it into a soccer field in partnership with the Ottawa Internationals Soccer Club.<sup>96</sup> Before this, Old Ottawa South children had to find spaces at Brantwood Park (with waiting lists longer than the rosters) or drive to nearby parks. The soccer club has City permits and pays rent for the field.<sup>97</sup> [See Figures 21, 22]

However, the major change during this period began in the late 1990s, when the City decided to sell off the Capital Ward Yard, known later as the Windsor Yard, where the City stored heavy equipment. The site included a small office building surrounded by asphalt and a chain link fence.<sup>98</sup> In 1996, after the city ceased operations there, residents became very concerned about the empty lot, and a public meeting was held. While some residents favoured development, the majority wanted the land to revert to parkland. This group mounted a community campaign, which brought Mayor Jim Watson onside. Thanks to his efforts, the City not only tore down the building, but also took away the fencing, removed the asphalt and planted grass and five mature maple trees. Councillor Inez Berg contributed money from her office budget to fund the City's removal of a small stretch of roadway into the Yard.<sup>99</sup> In 2002, a young neighbourhood couple decided to donate a pink limestone bench to the new area to commemorate their wedding. Surplus boulders from a project in Brewer Park treating riverbank indentations were also installed.<sup>100</sup> [See Figures 27, 28, 29, 47]

Another innovation pleased area residents wanting to launch small boats from the park. In 2004, Councillor Clive Doucet led the initiative to install a ramp and floating dock in the northeastern part of the park. From that year on, launching canoes and kayaks became easier and wear and tear on the shoreline was reduced.<sup>101</sup> [See Figure 23]

Playground renovations continued in 1999 when a group of Old Ottawa South mothers began a campaign to raise money for a new pre-school, age-appropriate play structure. The effort also got a boost after OSCA applied for a Self-Help Grant from the City, which would match funds raised by the community to a maximum of \$7,500.<sup>102</sup> The organizers received support from local business and from door-to-door canvassing, OSCA funding and Councillor Inez Berg's office funds.<sup>103</sup> By January 2000, the community group had raised \$8,500. John Graham, president of OSCA, noted: "All in all, it has been a textbook example of community mobilization over a short time period to achieve a concrete objective."<sup>104</sup> The new preschool play structure, erected by volunteers with the City's help, opened May 2000. [See Figures 24, 25]

Obviously, community volunteerism and activism has been a major factor throughout the park's history. The hockey rink volunteers, for example, continued their dedicated maintenance (led by Gary Lum for many years) into the new millennium. By 2001,

snowblowers had been purchased by OSCA, which greatly helped to maintain the ice surface. In fact, the volunteers won an award in 2002 from the City for the quality of the ice surface and for their maintenance work in general.<sup>105</sup> The Windsor rink's ratings by the City have been constantly among the very best in Ottawa. In 2007, a very modest stipend began to be given "to those who are making a continuous and substantial contribution to maintaining and cleaning the rink."<sup>106</sup>

After the spring melt, the detritus of winter is often all too evident. To help keep the park clean and attractive, beginning in 1992, a number of dog walkers formed the Windsor Park Pups, which began leading an annual spring park clean-up that continues today. Since the late 1990s, other community volunteers, such as the tireless Peter Wells, have expanded the spring clean-up to include general park maintenance, re-painting, tidying up the play areas and collecting garbage.<sup>107</sup>

These volunteer efforts were excellent, but by 2003, community leaders knew an official maintenance plan was needed. OSCA and the Environment Committee of Ottawa South (ECOS) began discussing creating and implementing an Action Plan to deal with clean-up, tree planting, riverbank protection and other park issues. In 2004, the basic principles for park management had been worked out: maintaining the wetland area toward the east end of Windsor Park, removing Manitoba maples and replanting some of the willows along the river; replacing lost trees and adding new ones with species native to the area (such as willows, spruce, pine, oak and maples); and protecting and nurturing newly planted trees by using tree guards and appropriate watering.<sup>108</sup>

To further these goals, the Old Ottawa South Parks Renewal Committee (OOSPRC), working under ECOS, formed in 2004. OOSPRC held public meetings and negotiated with the City and the community association to get all stakeholders to agree on a park vegetation management plan. One of OOSPRC's first actions was to tackle the Manitoba maples that had invaded and were crowding out other vegetation along the river bank and other park areas.<sup>109</sup>

One of the immediate results of this clean-up was discovering a "hideout" in the thick growth around the Windsor Avenue parking lot. Evidently, visitors had been using the area to:

...set up a rendezvous point equipped with stolen lawn furniture. The area was littered with beer bottles, wine bottles, syringes and garbage. We can assume that people were engaging in unsavory activity. It was also evident that some people had established temporary living quarters amongst the trees. Pots, pans and eating utensils cluttered the treed area.<sup>110</sup>

In addition, the site was becoming a dump. Tires, bumpers, assorted car parts and household garbage were removed.

By 2005, the Vegetation Management Plan, developed for the area by the City's Forestry Services Program in consultation with OOSPRC, was in effect. Under the new plan, in 2006, reforestation began. The City and ECOS supplied 25 meter high Red and Silver



maples, oaks and basswoods, which were planted from the entrance of Windsor Park where Belmont meets the Rideau River up to the Windsor Pumping Station.<sup>111</sup> As well, new-growth Manitoba maples along the Rideau River from the Main Street Bridge to Brighton Park and from the Windsor Park baseball diamond to the entrance of Linda Thom Park were removed.<sup>112</sup>

## **A Cherished Park**

Windsor Park emerged out of the bush, and survived repeated floods, to become one of our major centres of community life. Windsor Park is a place of personal and community memories: watching our children begin their life in sports by swinging at a T-ball; chatting with other parents as our children played on the swing set or splashed in the wading pool; walking along the river path enjoying nature in the midst of the city; meeting friends for a game of tennis; or volunteering to plant trees or clean up winter garbage. For over 65 years, this greenspace has enhanced our sense of place in our community. We owe thanks to the City officials who had the vision to create public parks, as well as to our dedicated volunteers and local activists who do so much to help maintain it, staff community events and lobby for its interests when necessary.

# Appendix A

## By-law number 9518: Creating Windsor Park

A By-law of the Corporation of the City of Ottawa dedicating certain land as a public park.

The Municipal Council of the Corporation of the City of Ottawa enacts as follows:

1. That certain parcel of land situate, lying and being in the City of Ottawa, in the County of Carleton, being composed of part of the south half of Lot Letter "L" in Concession "C," Rideau Front of the said Township of Nepean, now within the City of Ottawa, which may be more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at a point on the northerly boundary of the lands described in a deed dated April 15th, 1910, and registered April 20th, 1910, from Benjamin Stock to Albert Edwin Honeywell and registered as number 96167, the said point being as a distance of 142.48 ft. in an easterly direction from the existing easterly boundary of Riverdale Avenue, measured along the said northerly boundary and being also located on the southerly boundary of Lot 45, shown on registered plan number 102636. Thence easterly along the northerly boundary of the land described in said deed number 96167 a distance of 41.44 ft. more or less to an angle in the said northerly boundary. Thence continuing easterly along the northerly boundary of the lands described in said deed number 96167, the same being parallel to the centre line of said Lot Letter "L," a distance of 1,194 ft. more or less to the water's edge of the Rideau River. Thence southerly along the water's edge of the Rideau River to its intersection with the division line between Township Lots Letter "L" and "M." Thence westerly and along the said division line 424 ft. more or less to where the said division line is intersected by the production southerly of the easterly boundary of the lands subdivided by registered plan number 98977. Thence northerly in a straight line a distance of 20 ft. more or less to the southeast angle of Lot number 20 on the south side of Windsor Avenue as shown on said plan number 98977. Thence northerly and along the easterly boundary of the lands subdivided by the said plan 236.25 ft. more or less to the northeasterly angle of Lot number 28 on the north side of Windsor Avenue also shown on said plan number 98977. Thence easterly along the southerly boundary of the lands described in deed number 22381 a distance of 171.26 ft. more or less to the easterly limit of the lands described in the said deed. Thence in a northwesterly direction a distance of 62.7 ft. more or less to an angle in the northerly boundary of the lands described in deed number 22381. Thence westerly and along the northerly boundary of the said lands a distance of 278.89 ft. more or less to a point distant 142.48 ft. in an easterly direction from the existing easterly boundary of Riverdale Avenue. Thence northerly in a straight line 63 ft. more or less to the place of beginning, shown outlined in green on the plan hereto annexed as Schedule "A," is hereby designated as a public park.

GIVEN under the Corporate Seal of the City of Ottawa this 18th day of June, 1945.

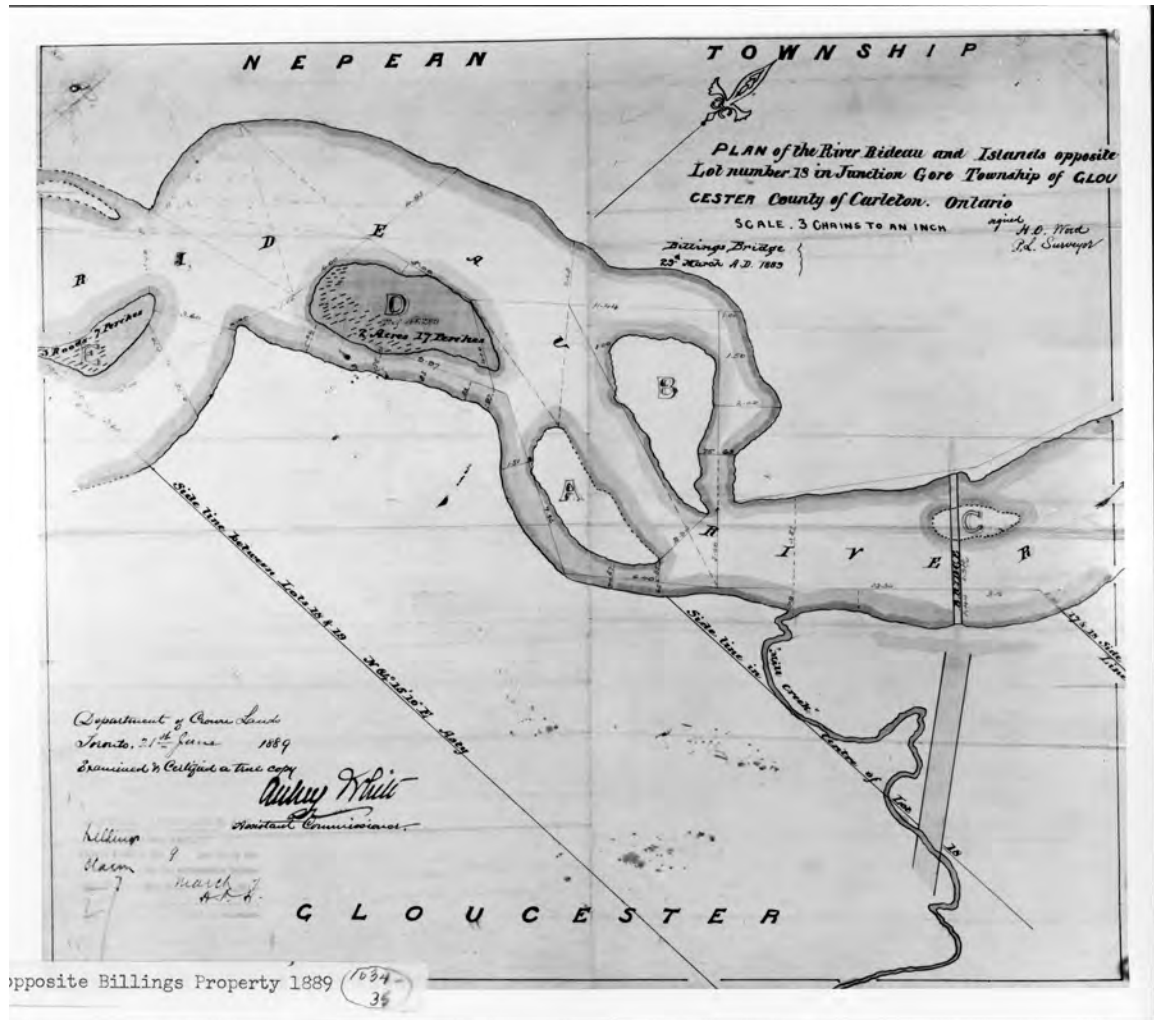
(Sgd.) N. R. OGILVIE, City Clerk.

(Sgd.) J. E. S. LEWIS, Mayor

## **Appendix B**

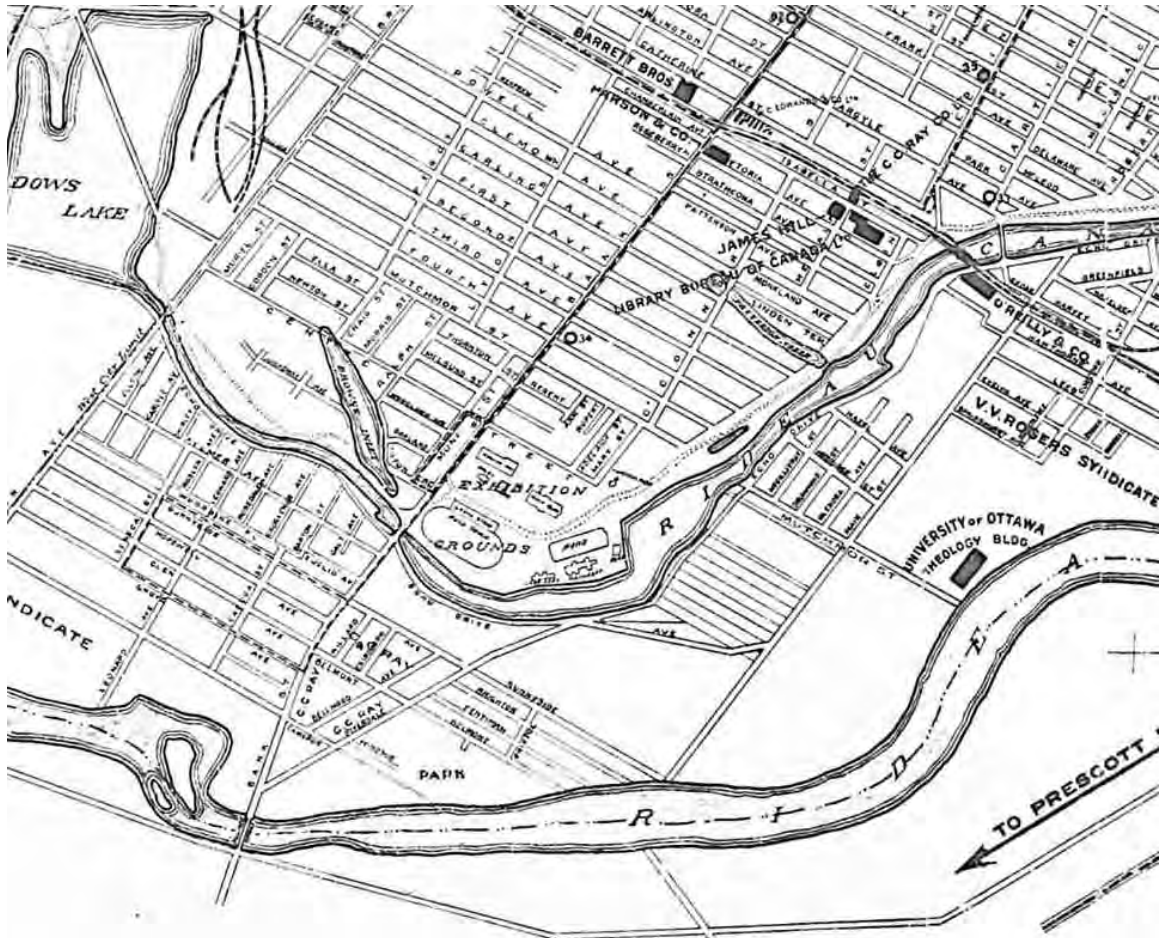
### **Historic Maps, Plans and Photographs**

**Figure 1:** Plan of Rideau River and Islands Opposite Lot Number 18 in Junction Gore, Township of Gloucester, County of Carleton, 1889. City of Ottawa Archives. CA Bill 0339F.

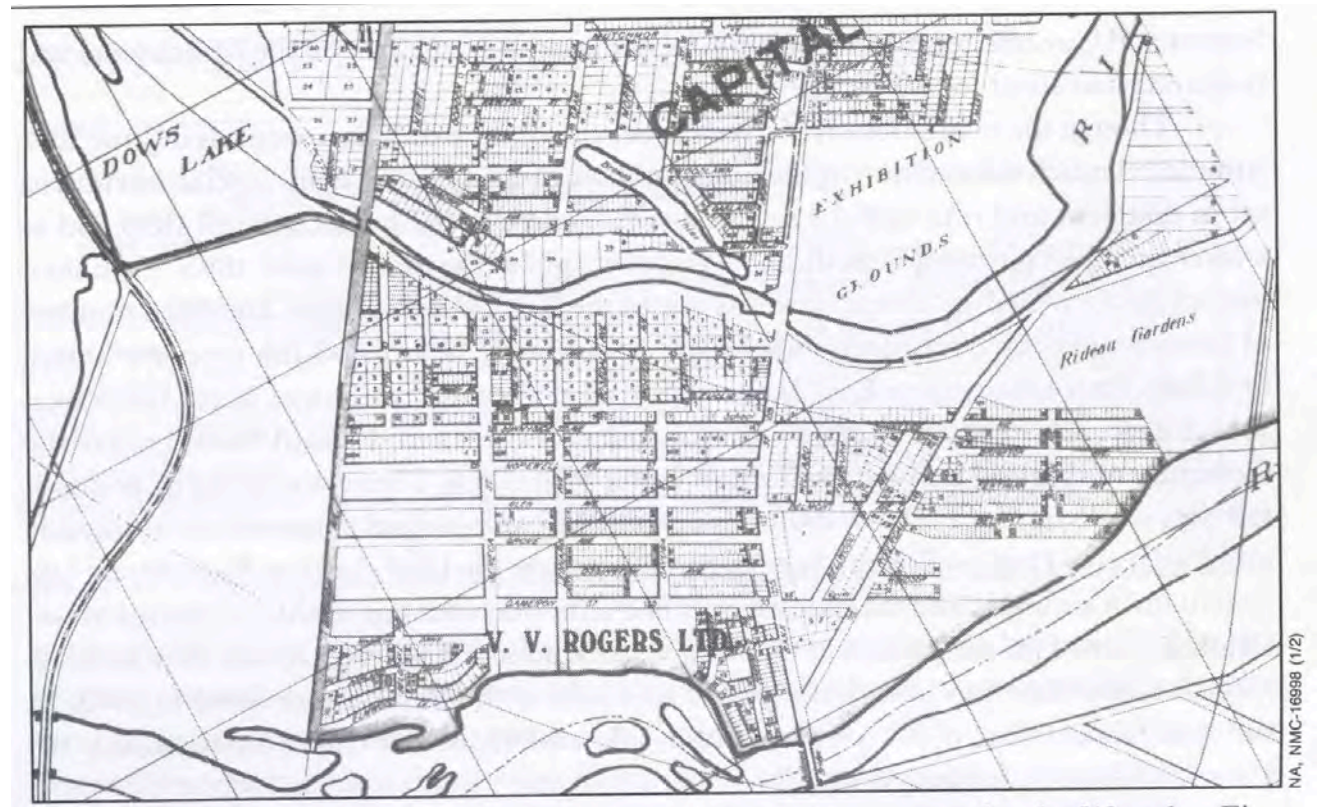


[illegible]

**Figure 3:** Map section, 1911. Library and Archives Canada, NMC 0026577.



**Figure 4.** Section of map, 1915. Library and Archives Canada, NMC 16998.



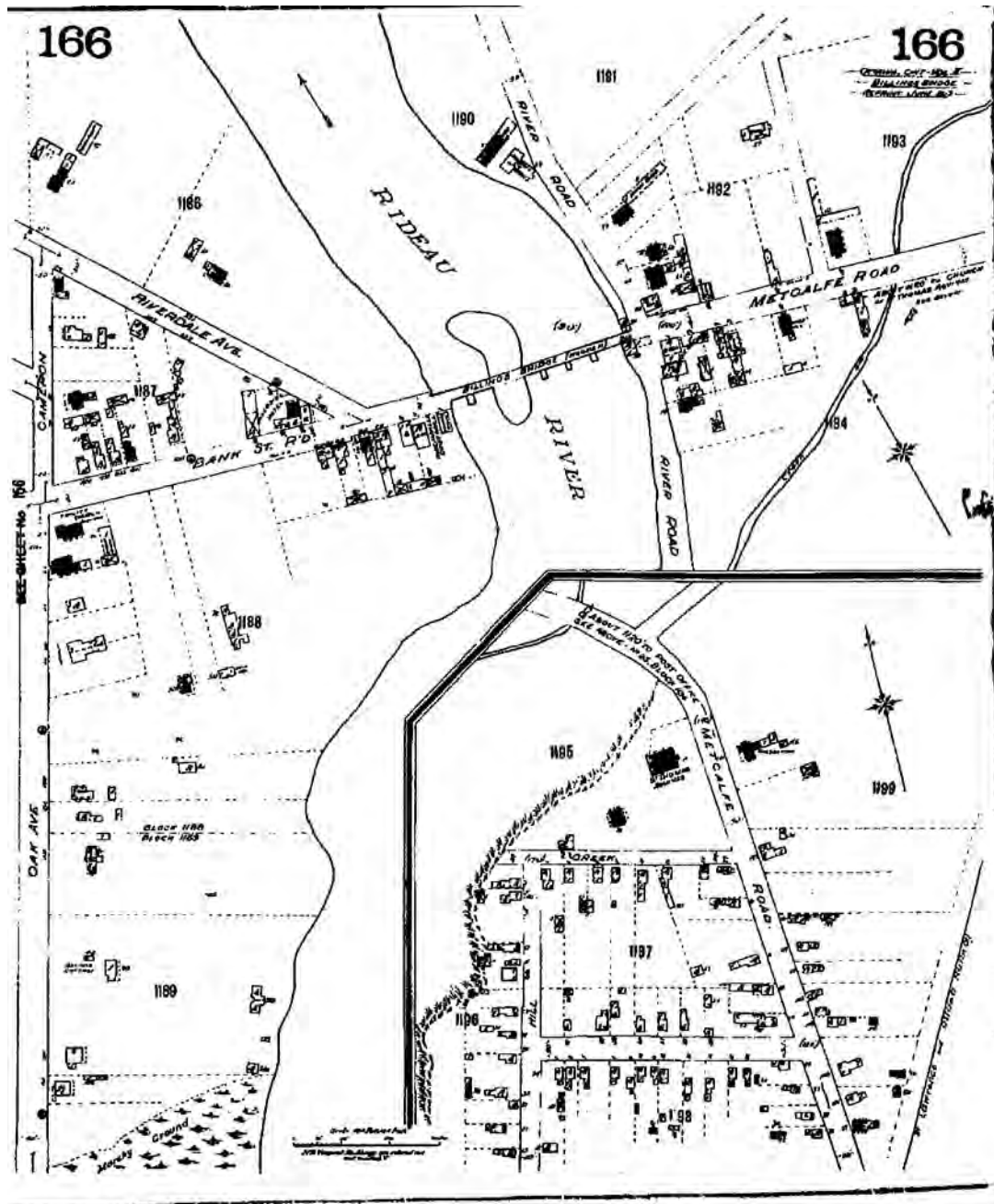


**Figure 5:** Fire Insurance Map, Sheet 156, 1912. City of Ottawa Archives.

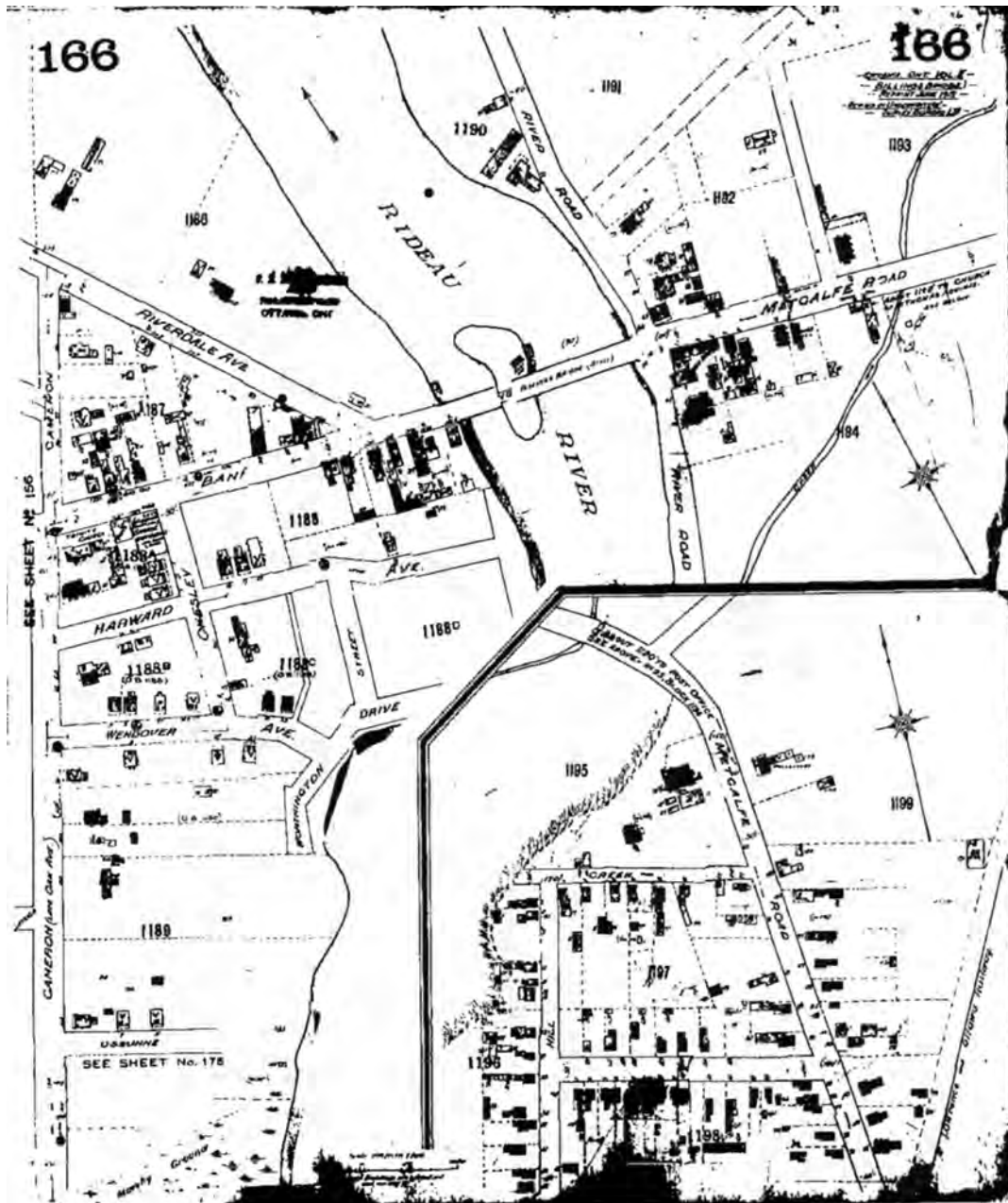




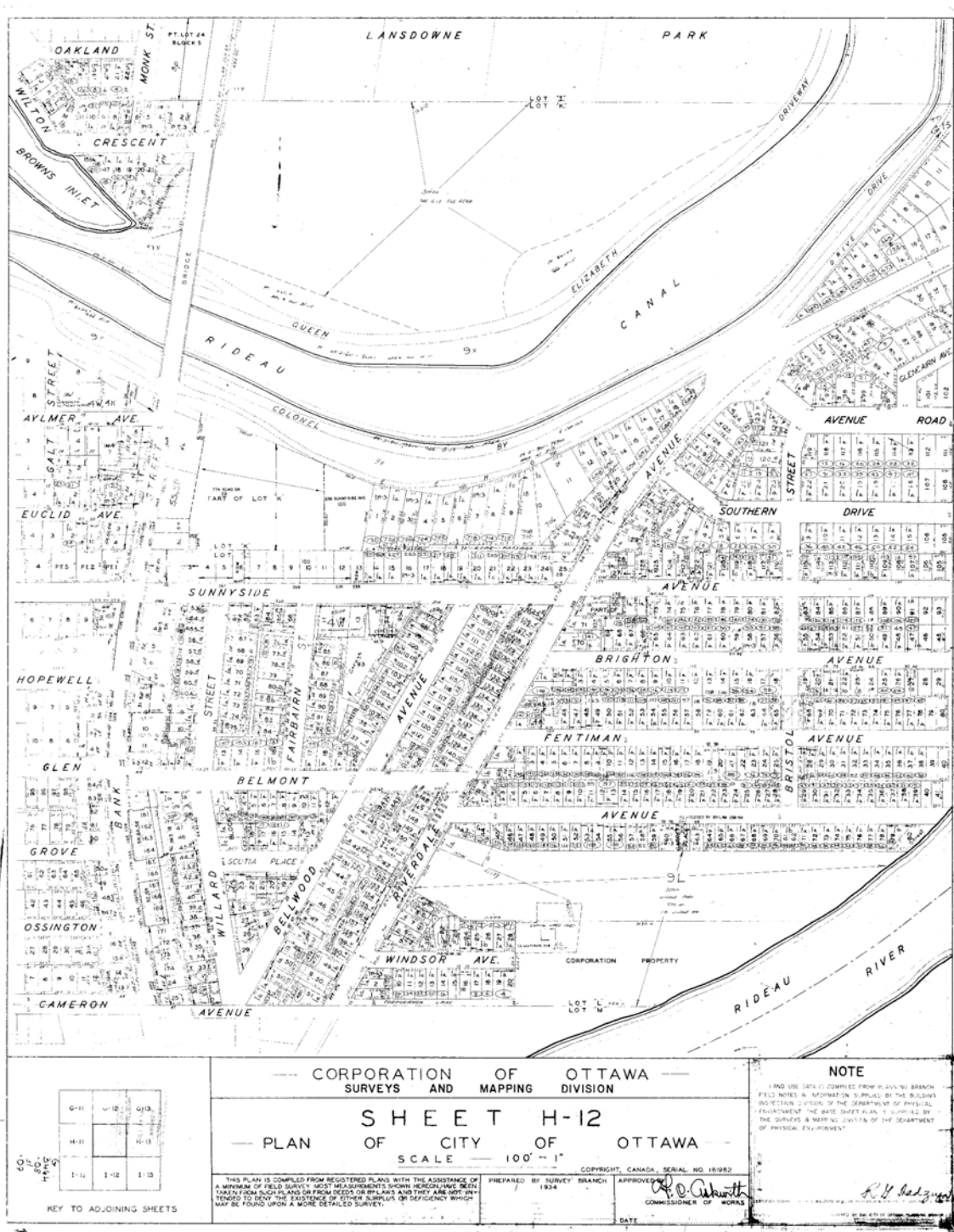
**Figure 6:** Fire Insurance Map, Sheet 166, 1912. Taken from: Paine, Cecilia. *The Historic Landscape and the Landscape Architect's Role in its Preservation: Some Investigations*. Master of Landscape Architecture, Thesis, University of Michigan, 1980.



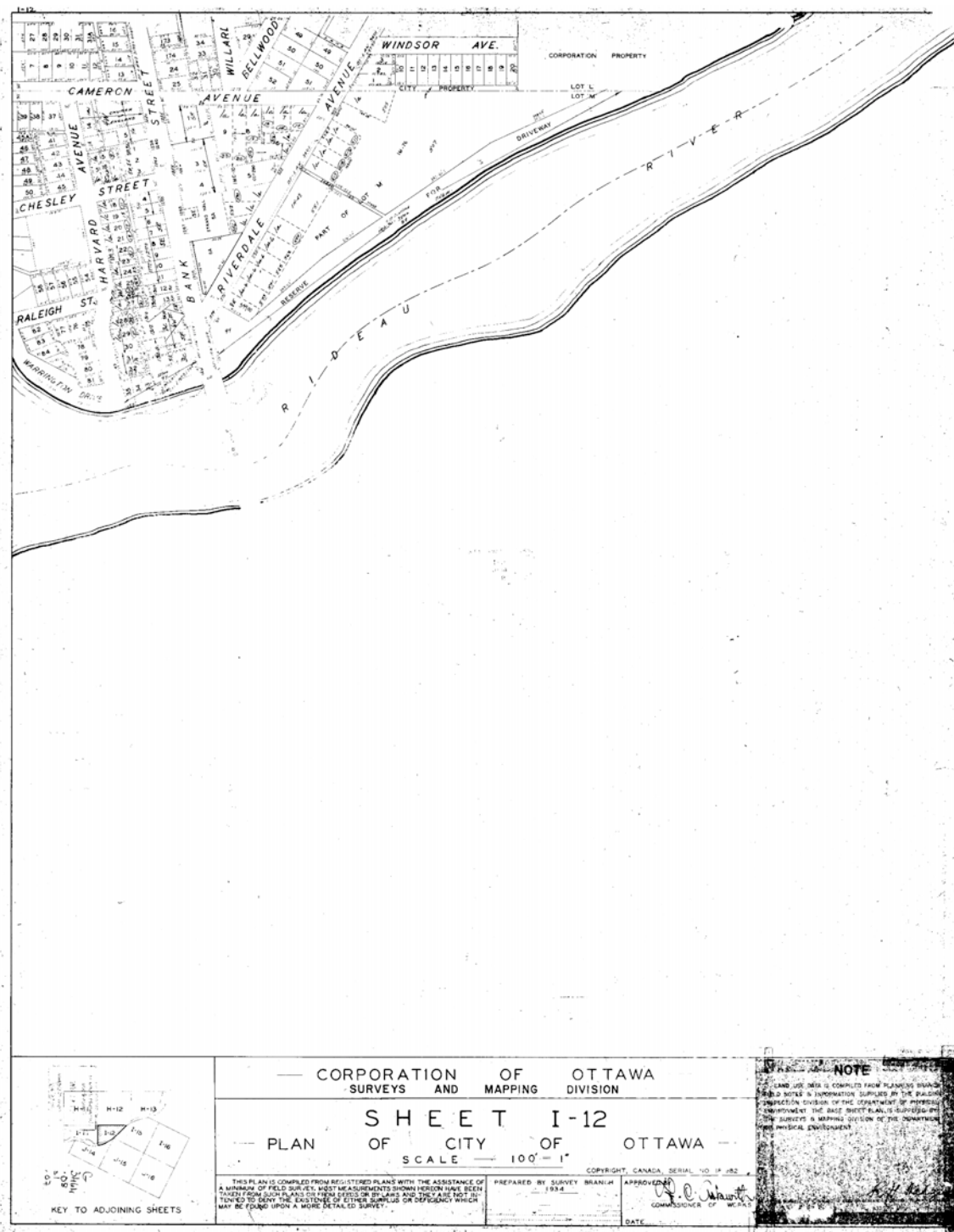
**Figure 7:** Fire Insurance Map, 1922, sheet 166. Taken from: Paine, Cecilia. *The Historic Landscape and the Landscape Architect's Role in its Preservation: Some Investigations*. Master of Landscape Architecture, Thesis, University of Michigan, 1980.



**Figure 8:** Sheet H-12, Plan of City of Ottawa, 1934. Corporation of Ottawa, Surveys and Mapping Division.

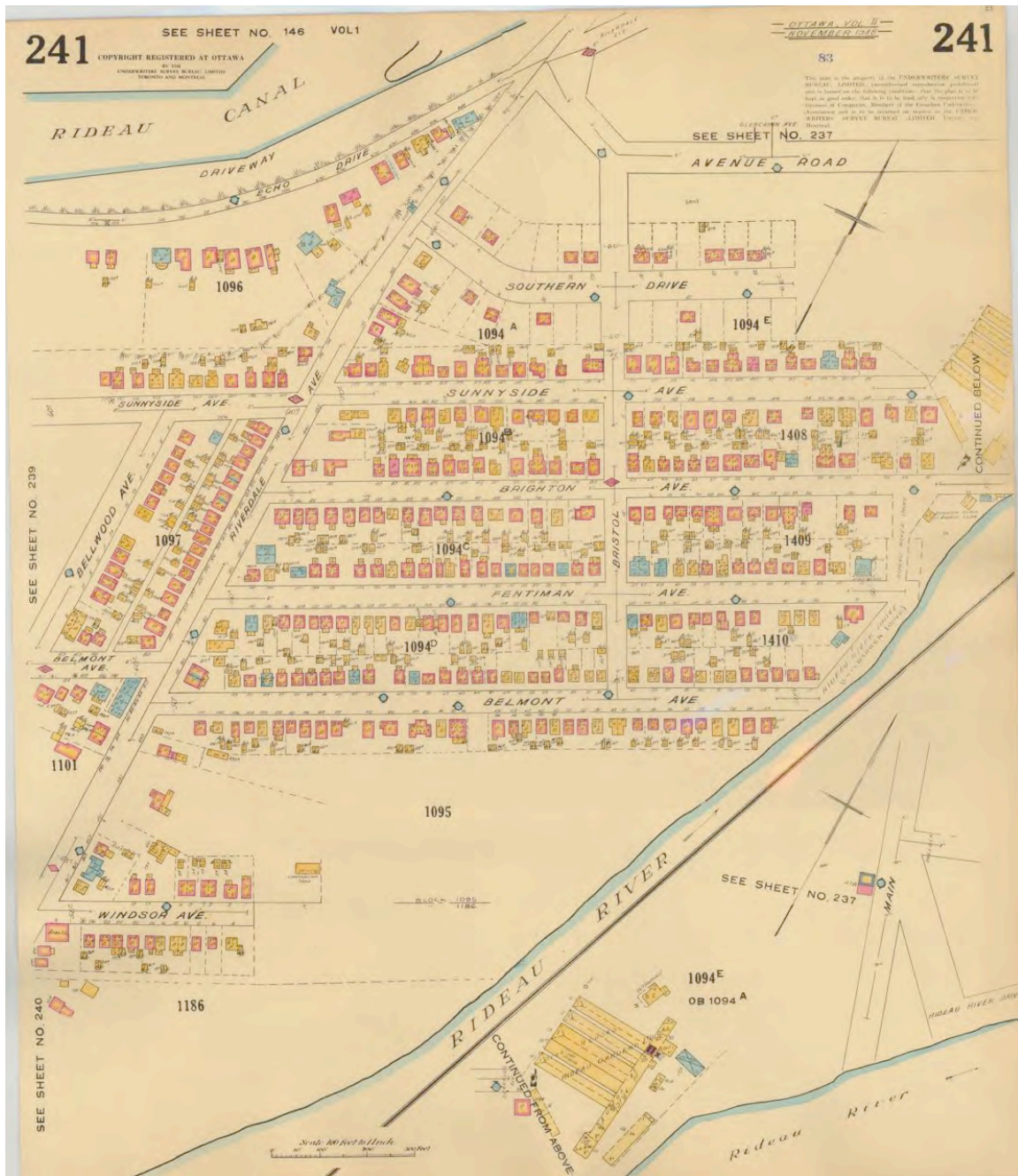


**Figure 9:** Sheet I-12, Plan of City of Ottawa, 1934. Corporation of Ottawa, Surveys and Mapping Division.

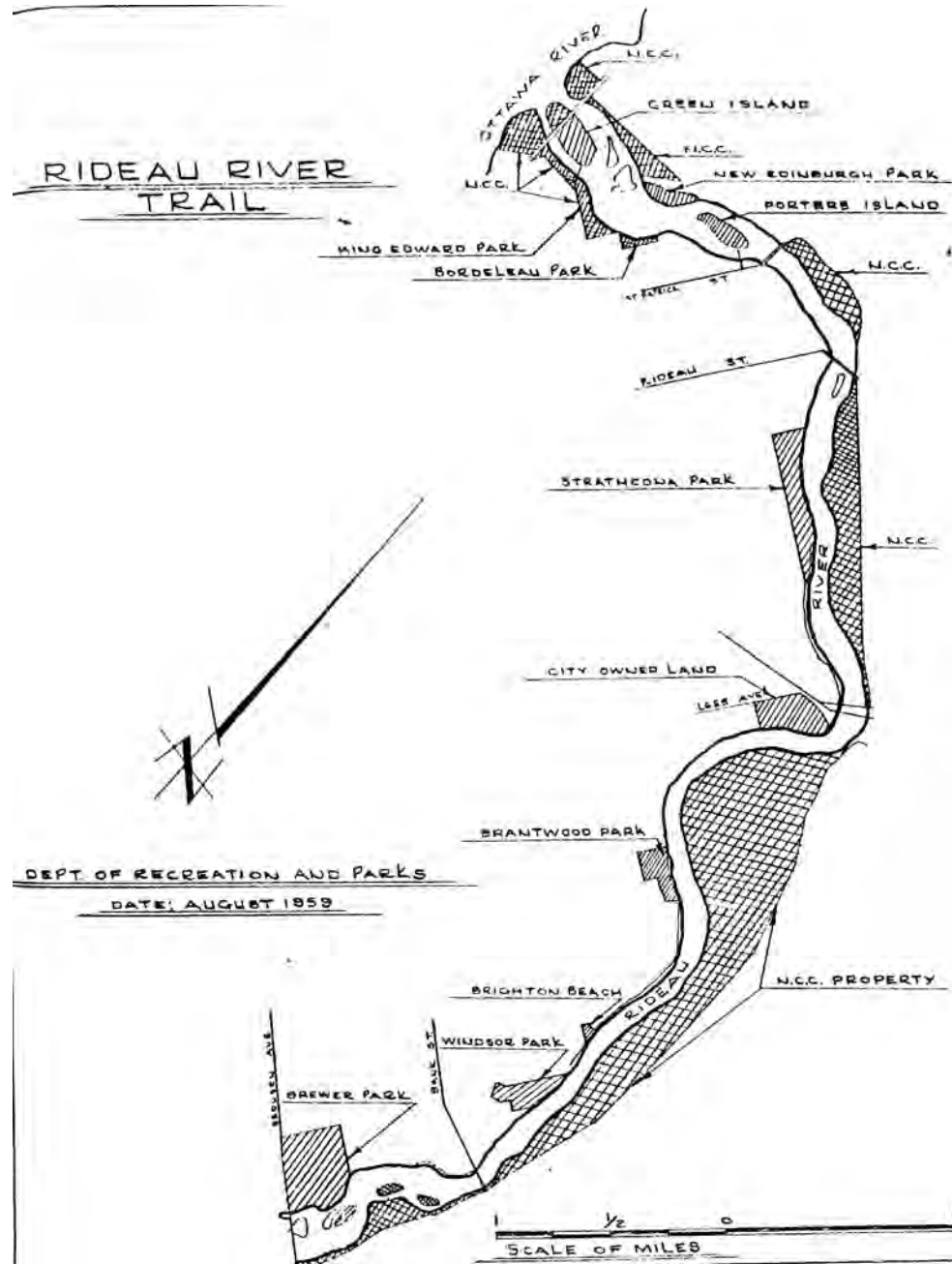




**Figure 10:** Fire Insurance Map, sheet 241, 1925 (revised 1948). City of Ottawa Archives.



**Figure 11:** Rideau River Trail, 1959. Taken from: City of Ottawa Archives. City of Ottawa. Civic Recreation Report for 1959.



**Figure 12:** Looking east from Billings Bridge, n.d. PA-009207, Library and Archives Canada.



**Figure 13:** Rideau River watering place, ca. 1895-1896. PA 125108, Library and Archives Canada.





**Figure 14:** Near Billings Bridge, 8 September 1900. PA 132298, Library and Archives Canada.



**Figure 15:** Floods on the Rideau River, April 1901. PA 132322, Library and Archives Canada.



**Figure 16:** Boys – tennis court parking lot [Windsor Park], 1959. City of Ottawa Archives.



**Figure 17:** Cutting ice on the Rideau River, 1954. CA 3389-001, City of Ottawa Archives.



**Figure 18:** Cutting ice on the Rideau River, 1954. CA 3389-002, City of Ottawa Archives.

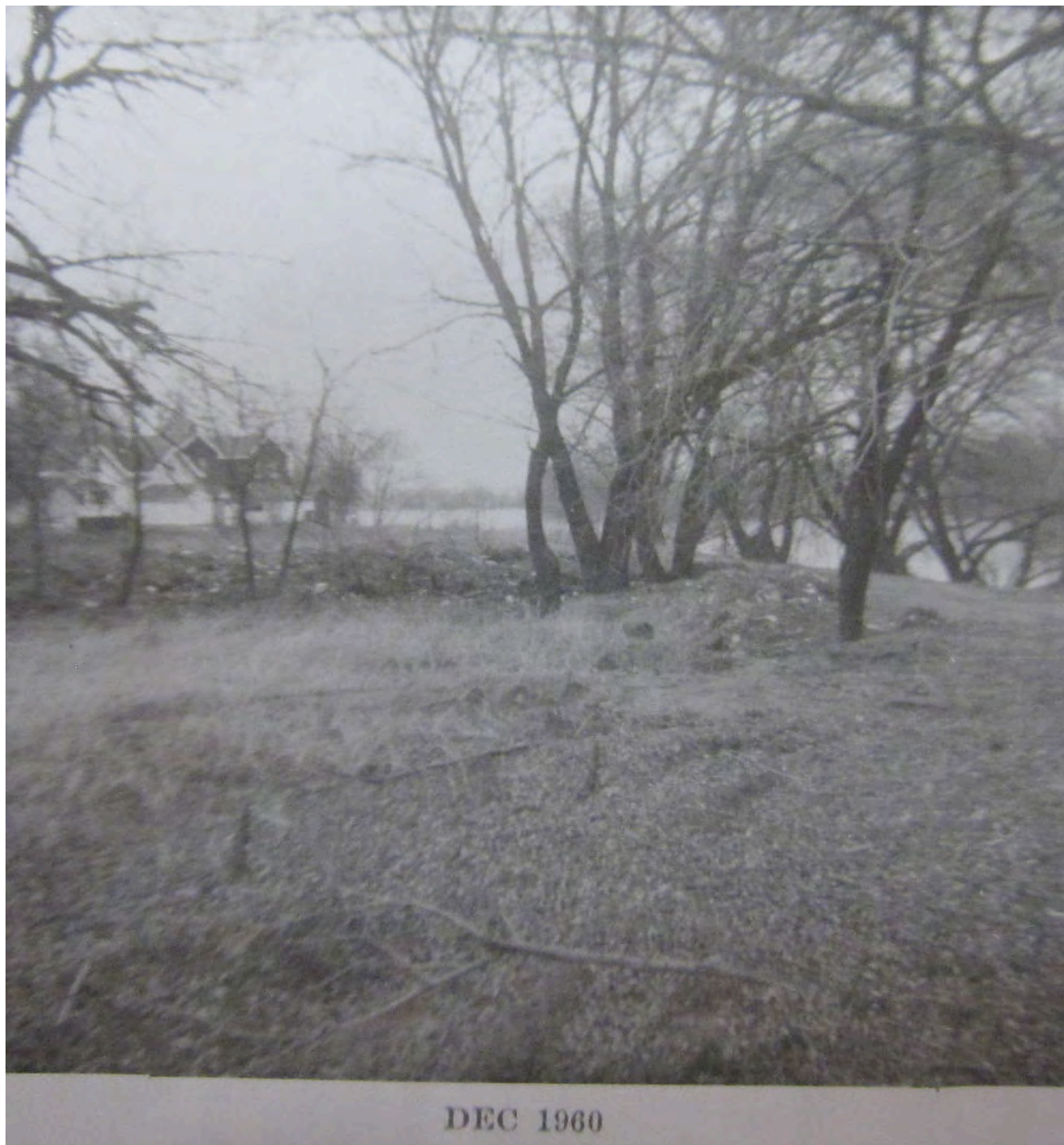




**Figure 19:** Windsor Park, 1960. Old Ottawa South History Project Photo Archive.



**Figure 20:** Windsor Park, 1960. Old Ottawa South History Project Photo Archive.





**Figure 21:** Soccer pitch, Windsor Park, 2010. Photo by author.





**Figure 22:** Looking across soccer pitch to hockey rink area and basketball court, Windsor Park. Photo by author.



**Figure 23:** Boat launch dock, Windsor Park, 2010. Photo by author.





**Figure 24:** Playground area, Windsor Park, 2010. Photo by author.



**Figure 25:** Playground area, Windsor Park, 2010. Photo by author.





**Figure 26:** Old Garret Place street, now park entrance from Belmont Avenue, Windsor Park, 2010. Photo by author.



**Figure 27:** Parking area off Windsor Avenue, Windsor Park, 2010. Photo by author.





**Figure 28:** Looking across parking area to Windsor Yard, Windsor Park, 2010.  
Photo by author.





**Figure 29:** Windsor Yard area, Windsor Park, 2010. Note pink limestone bench. Photo by author.





**Figure 30:** Linda Thom Park, Windsor Park section, 2010. Photo by author.



**Figure 31:** Pumping Station, Windsor Park, 2010. Photo by author.





**Figure 32:** Pumping Station, side view, Windsor Park, 2010. Photo by author.



**Figure 33:** Path along Rideau River below earth dyke, 2010. Photo by author.





**Figure 34:** Windsor Park fieldhouse, 2010. Photo by author.



**Figure 35.** Path between tennis courts, Windsor Park, 2010. Photo by author.





**Figure 36:** Basketball court, Windsor Park, 2010. Photo by author.



**Figure 37:** Paths from Riverdale Avenue, Windsor Park, 2010. Photo by author.





**Figure 38:** Wading pool and swing set area of the playground, Windsor Park, 2010. Photo by author.



**Figure 39:** Residential gardens flowing into Windsor park, 2010. Photo by author.





**Figure 40:** Aerial, close up, Windsor Park, 1922. HA20, National Air Photo Library.



**Figure 41:** Aerial, close up, Windsor Park, 1931. A4568-36, National Air Photo Library.



**Figure 42:** Aerial, close up, Rideau River flood, Windsor Park, 1947. A10903-069, National Air Photo Library.



**Figure 43:** Billings Bridge, 1957. CA 8074, City of Ottawa Archives.





**Figure 44:** Aerial, Old Ottawa South, 30 April 1974. CA 9776, City of Ottawa Archives.





**Figure 45:** Aerial, cropped, ca. 1976. A31011-168, National Air Photo Library.



**Figure 46:** Aerial, cropped, Windsor Park, 1976. City of Ottawa. 1977. Surveys and Mapping. Air Photos, 1976: 1:15,000. 365050250 [computer file].

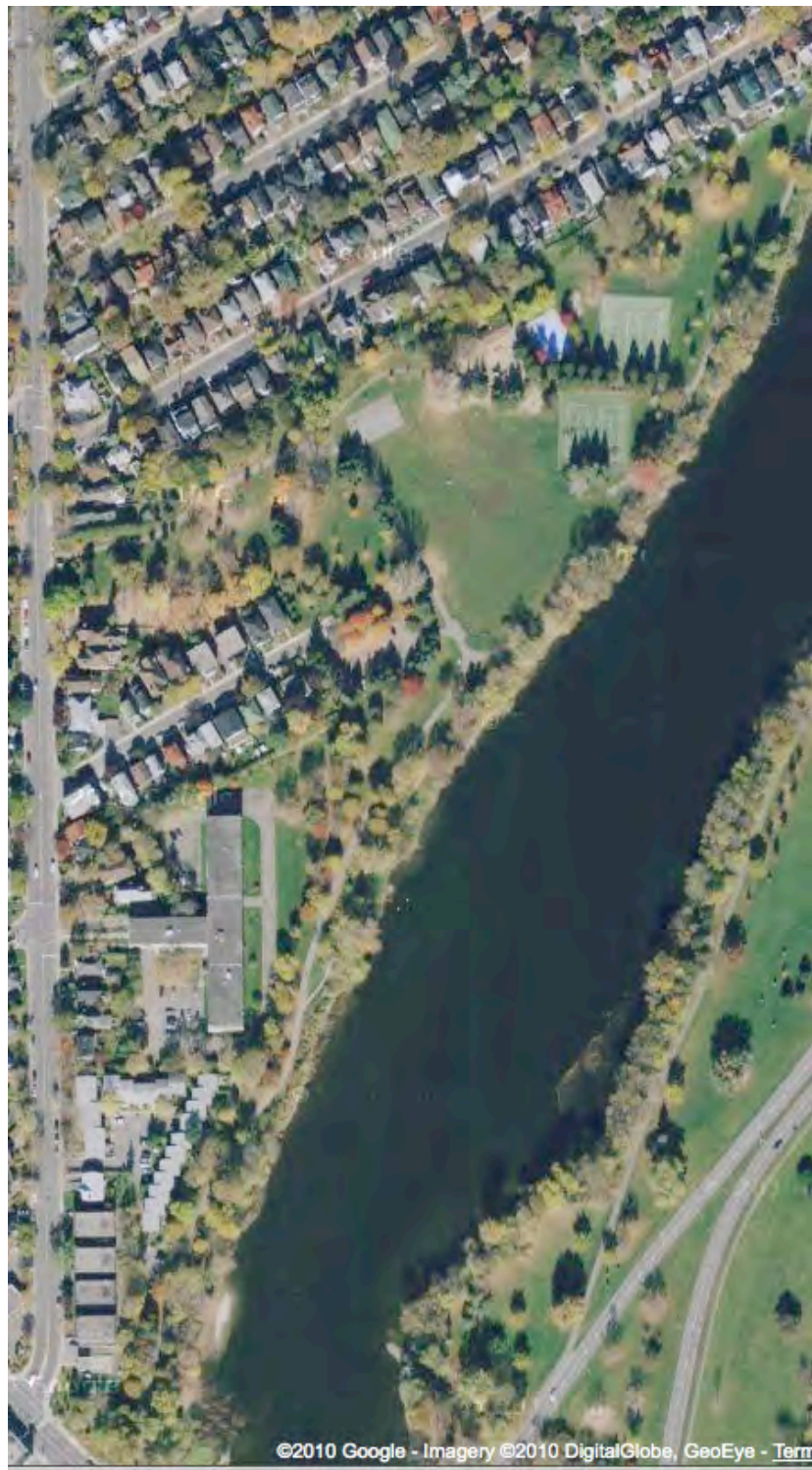


**Figure 47:** Aerial, cropped, Windsor Park, 2002. City of Ottawa. 2004. Surveys and Mapping. Air Photos, Spring 2002: 1:15,000. 360050200 [computer file].





**Figure 48:** Windsor Park, 2010. Google Maps.



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## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Chadwick, George F. *The Park and the Town: Public Landscape in the 19th and 20th Centuries*. London: The Architectural Press, 1966.

<sup>2</sup> von Baeyer, Edwinna. *Rhetoric and Roses: The History of Canadian Gardening, 1900-1930*. Markham, ON: Fitzhenry and Whiteside, 1984, see chapter 4.

<sup>3</sup> von Baeyer. *Rhetoric and Roses*, p. 82.

<sup>4</sup> Martin, Linda and Kerry Segrave. *City Parks of Canada*. Oakville, Ontario: Mosaic Press, 1983, p. 8.

<sup>5</sup> Cranz, Galen. *The Politics of Parks Design: A History of Urban Parks in America*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1982, p. 63.

<sup>6</sup> McFarland, Elsie Marie. *The Development of Public Recreation in Canada*. Ottawa: Canadian Parks and Recreation, c. 1970, p. 37.

<sup>7</sup> McFarland, p. 20.

<sup>8</sup> McFarland, p. 19.

<sup>9</sup> McFarland, p. 21.

<sup>10</sup> McFarland, p. 38.

<sup>11</sup> McFarland, p. 38.

<sup>12</sup> McFarland, p. 38.

<sup>13</sup> McFarland, p. 39.

<sup>14</sup> Cranz, p. 122.

<sup>15</sup> Cranz, p. 137.

<sup>16</sup> The OIC, formed in 1899, was succeeded by the Federal District Commission in 1927, which, in turn was succeeded by the National Capital Commission in 1958.

<sup>17</sup> Beechwood was designed in the Rural Cemetery Style that included scenic vistas, wooded areas, winding tree-lined roadways, open grassy areas.

<sup>18</sup> Frederick Todd (1876-1948) became known for a number of major projects such as the Plains of Abraham Park in Quebec City, the Chemin de la croix garden for St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal, Winnipeg's Assiniboine Park, garden city projects such as Shaughnessy Heights in Vancouver and a host of private country estate designs especially for the Montreal

elite. Jacobs, Peter. "Frederick G. Todd and the Creation of Canada's Urban Landscape." *APT Bulletin* 15 (1983) pp. 27-34. See also, Pratte, France Gagnon. *Country Houses for Montrealers, 1892-1924*. Montreal: Meridian Press, 1987.

<sup>19</sup> City of Ottawa. Civic Recreation Report for 1953. "History of Recreation in Ottawa," n.p.

<sup>20</sup> McFarland, p. 30.

<sup>21</sup> The first members were Aldermen Masson, Lapointe, Grant, Julien and controller Davidson. City of Ottawa. Civic Recreation Report for 1953. "History of Recreation in Ottawa," n.p.

<sup>22</sup> City of Ottawa. Civic Recreation Report for 1953. "History of Recreation in Ottawa," n.p.

<sup>23</sup> Archives of the City of Ottawa. Ottawa. Department of Recreation and Culture Fonds. RG2. 1920-1985.

<sup>24</sup> City of Ottawa. Civic Recreation Report for 1953. "History of Recreation in Ottawa," n.p.

<sup>25</sup> City of Ottawa. Civic Recreation Report for 1959. "The Pioneers in Parkland," p. 3.

<sup>26</sup> City of Ottawa. Civic Recreation Report for 1953. "History of Recreation in Ottawa," n.p.

<sup>27</sup> City of Ottawa. Civic Recreation and Parks Report for 1958. "From Our 1919 Files," n.p.

<sup>28</sup> City of Ottawa. Civic Recreation and Parks Report for 1958. "From Our 1919 Files," n.p.

<sup>29</sup> McFarland, p. 37.

<sup>30</sup> City of Ottawa. Civic Recreation Report for 1953. "History of Recreation in Ottawa," n.p. It is beyond the scope of this paper, however by 1945, indoor recreation was also receiving attention -- three indoor community centres were opened by the Playgrounds Commission in school buildings

<sup>31</sup> "Parks for Greater Ottawa." *Ottawa Citizen* (4 May 1944), p. 46.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

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- <sup>33</sup> Cross, Austin. "Ottawa is waking up to need for sanitary playgrounds." *Ottawa Citizen* (7 July 1948) p. 70.
- <sup>34</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>35</sup> von Baeyer, Edwinna. *Garden of Dreams: Kingsmere and Mackenzie King*. Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1990, pp. 19-20.
- <sup>36</sup> Fardin, Linda Decaire. The Conservation of Urban Parks of Aesthetic and Historic Interest. M.A. thesis. York, England: Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies, University of York, 1991, pp. 24-25.
- <sup>37</sup> City of Ottawa. Civic Recreation Report for 1953. "History of Recreation in Ottawa," n.p.
- <sup>38</sup> Archives of the City of Ottawa. RG 2-1-2. "Survey of Facilities", 1954, n.p.
- <sup>39</sup> Archives of the City of Ottawa. Ottawa. Department of Recreation and Culture Fonds. RG2. 1920-1985.
- <sup>40</sup> Archives of the City of Ottawa. Ottawa. Department of Recreation and Culture Fonds. RG2. 1920-1985.
- <sup>41</sup> City of Ottawa. Civic Recreation and Parks Report for 1958. "Civic Recreation and Parks Record," n.p.
- <sup>42</sup> City of Ottawa. Civic Recreation Report for 1959. "Official Plan," p. 6.
- <sup>43</sup> City of Ottawa. Civic Recreation Report for 1959. "Official Plan," p. 10.
- <sup>44</sup> Archives of the City of Ottawa. Ottawa. Department of Recreation and Culture Fonds. RG2. 1920-1985.
- <sup>45</sup> Archives of the City of Ottawa. Ottawa. Department of Recreation and Culture Fonds. RG2. 1920-1985.
- <sup>46</sup> Brewer Park was named after Alderman Thomas H. Brewer, who was said to be instrumental in obtaining the land for the park. City of Ottawa. Civic Recreation Report for 1954. "Brewer Park," n.p.
- <sup>47</sup> "Official Opening for Brewer Park." *Ottawa Citizen* (28 August 1930) p. 6.
- <sup>48</sup> *Historical Atlas of Carleton County*. H. Belden and Co., 1879. Reprinted by Cummings Atlas Reprints, Stratford, ON: 1976.
- <sup>49</sup> Bouse, David. "The Evolution of Old Ottawa South." Accessed at <http://www.olderottawasouth.ca/index.php/oos/history-project>, on 7 May 2010.
- <sup>50</sup> Wilson, George H., comp. "Striking Tale of the Fairbairn Farm, Another Epic South End History." *Ottawa Citizen* (7 March 1931) p. 2.
- <sup>51</sup> "The Raging Waters." *The Globe and Mail* (15 March 1898) p. 8.
- <sup>52</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>53</sup> "Boats replace cars in Billings Bridge." *The Globe and Mail* (7 April 1928) p. 2.
- <sup>54</sup> Reminiscences by Alderman Alex Roger. From a 1950 publication for the 40th anniversary of Hopewell Public School by Alex Roger, Gloucester Reeve 1948-1949 & Gloucester Ward councillor 1958-1960.
- <sup>55</sup> Ross, Nancy. "Memories of an earlier Ottawa South." *OSCAR* (April 1978).
- <sup>56</sup> "Easter Half Ottawa South as it was Thirty Years Ago." *Ottawa Citizen* (5 April 1935) p. 17.
- <sup>57</sup> Wilson, p. 2.
- <sup>58</sup> Saunders, Alex. "Memories of Old Ottawa South – 1935 to 1950." *OSCAR* (March 2010), p. 3.
- <sup>59</sup> Residents block park fill." *Ottawa Citizen* (13 April 1959) p. 51.
- <sup>60</sup> Saunders, *OSCAR* (March 2010), p. 3.
- <sup>61</sup> Pat Kealey, private conversation, 4 December 2009.
- <sup>62</sup> "To Survey Open Spaces in City." *Ottawa Citizen* (3 May 1944), p. 8. Coulter's vision was said to have inspired the City to begin surveying its open spaces, which the editor of the *Ottawa Citizen* said, "with wise collaboration now the green oases of open park spaces can be safeguarded for the common good." "Parks for Greater Ottawa." *Ottawa Citizen* (4 May 1944), p. 46.
- <sup>63</sup> City of Ottawa. Council Minutes. June 15, 1945, p. 41.
- <sup>64</sup> Archives of the City of Ottawa. RG 2/1. Box 1. Annual Report of the Playgrounds Department of the City of Ottawa Canada for the year 1946, p. 322.
- <sup>65</sup> Archives of the City of Ottawa. RG 2/1. Box 1. Annual Report of the Playgrounds Department of the City of Ottawa Canada for the year 1946, p. 322.
- <sup>66</sup> Archives of the City of Ottawa. RG 2/1. Report of the City of Ottawa Department of Public Recreation. Annual Report of the Playgrounds Department of the city of Ottawa for the year 1947.
- <sup>67</sup> "Improvements asked for Windsor Park." *Ottawa Citizen* (27 May 1952) p. 12.
- <sup>68</sup> Archives of the City of Ottawa. RG 2/1. Report of the City of Ottawa Department of Public Recreation. Annual Report of the Playgrounds Department of the City of Ottawa for the year 1951.
- <sup>69</sup> "Will Crown Royalty at Carnivals." *Ottawa Citizen* (9 December 1952) p. 18.
- <sup>70</sup> *Ottawa Citizen* (20 May 1953) p. 3.
- <sup>71</sup> "Windsor Park play day held." *Ottawa Citizen* (1 September 1953) p. 38.



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- <sup>72</sup> “Friendly Colonel’s wife travels to faraway places.” *Ottawa Citizen* (22 July 1956) p. 76.
- <sup>73</sup> City of Ottawa. Civic Recreation Report for 1959, n.p.
- <sup>74</sup> “Residents block park fill.” *Ottawa Citizen* (13 April 1959) p. 51.
- <sup>75</sup> “Scratches on floor and canal swim problems.” *Ottawa Citizen* (9 May 1955) p. 37.
- <sup>76</sup> City of Ottawa. Civic Recreation Report for 1959. “Rideau River Trail,” p. 11.
- <sup>77</sup> “Name Eileen Going Carnival Queen of Windsor Avenue.” *Ottawa Citizen* (10 February 1948) p. 27.
- <sup>78</sup> *Ottawa Citizen* 8 February 1949, p. 36. However, in 1952, the Municipal Recreation Commission overruled objections to crowning winter carnival “royalty” by unnamed “patriotic” organizations. “Will crown royalty at carnivals.” *Ottawa Citizen* (9 December 1952) p. 18.
- <sup>79</sup> Archives of the City of Ottawa. RG 2/3, Box 21. Civic Recreation Record, 1953, p. 9.
- <sup>80</sup> “Around the town.” *Ottawa Citizen* (9 June 1959) p. 7.
- <sup>81</sup> Archives of the City of Ottawa. RG 2/1. Report of the City of Ottawa Department of Public Recreation. Municipal, Community and Neighbourhood Outdoor Ice Rinks of Statement of Objectives and Planning Surveys of Municipal and Community Recreation Programmes and Policies. “Windsor Park.” Sept. 1960.
- <sup>82</sup> McCoy, Brendan. “Windsor Park Needs Rink Coordinator.” *OSCAR* 33, 2 (February 2007) p. 6.
- <sup>83</sup> “Ottawa South pre-schoolers get playground.” *Ottawa Citizen* (26 August 1985) p. 19.
- <sup>84</sup> Pat Kealey, private conversation, 4 December 2009.
- <sup>85</sup> Garland, Sandra. “Windsor Dyke opened with style.” *OSCAR* (November 1984) p. 1.
- <sup>86</sup> Cox, Debbie and Juanity Snowdon. “Here come de Flood...” *OSCAR* (March 1978) p. 4.
- <sup>87</sup> McIntaggart, L.E. “Renovate the Rideau River, please.” *OSCAR* (March 1978) p. 5.
- <sup>88</sup> “Flooding thing of the past.” *OSCAR* (November 1982) p. 1.
- <sup>89</sup> “Dike gets the go ahead.” *OSCAR* (March 1983) p. 4.
- <sup>90</sup> The proposed pumping station originally was opposed by nearby residents such as Ernest Assaly, a major property owner and developer, who feared it would be an eyesore, block their river view and reduce their property values. “Despite delays dike planned.” *Ottawa Citizen* (13 September 1982) p. 48. Garland, Sandra. “Windsor Dyke opened with style.” *OSCAR* (November 1984) p. 1.
- <sup>91</sup> “Rideau River breaches banks, flooding Ottawa streets. CBC News. 11 April 2008.
- <sup>92</sup> Brennan, Rick, “2 Ottawa families buy a city street.” *Ottawa Citizen* (30 March 1984) p. 42.
- <sup>93</sup> Linda Thom, an Old Ottawa South resident, won her gold medal in the women’s 25 m Pistol event, “...becoming the first woman to win a gold medal in the summer Olympics since 1928 and the first Canadian to win a gold medal in the summer Olympics since 1968.” Wikipedia [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linda\_Thom]. “Linda Thom Park to expand.” *Ottawa Citizen* (7 April 1989) p. C.2.
- <sup>94</sup> Kealey, Pat. “Winter in the Ward Yard.” *OSCAR* 29, 5 (February 2001).
- <sup>95</sup> Leroux, Caitlin, Sutherland, Susan, and Brown Jilly. “Dilemma at Windsor Park and Linda Thom Park.” *OSCAR* 30, 11 (December 2002).
- <sup>96</sup> MacDonald, Gary. “Why Is There A Big Ring Of Snow Fence In Windsor Park?” *OSCAR* 34, 11 (December 2007) p. 5.
- <sup>97</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>98</sup> Graham, John. “Windsor Park developments.” *OSCAR* (March 2000). In 1985, it was also one of six sites where residents could bring waste oil to be recycled.
- <sup>99</sup> Graham, John. “Windsor Park.” *OSCAR* (June 2000).
- <sup>100</sup> Kealey, Pat. “Beautiful boulders added to Ward Yard at Windsor Park.” *OSCAR* 30, 19 (November 2002).
- <sup>101</sup> *OSCAR* (September 2004), p. 9.
- <sup>102</sup> “Windsor Park children’s play area.” *OSCAR*. 27, No.11 (September 1999) p.1.
- <sup>103</sup> Hunter, Georgina. “Play structure campaign on target.” *OSCAR* (January 2000).
- <sup>104</sup> Graham, John. “Windsor Park developments.” *OSCAR* (March 2000).
- <sup>105</sup> Jenkin, Michael. “Windsor Park rink wins award.” *OSCAR* 30, 4 (April 2002) p. 1.
- <sup>106</sup> McCoy, Brendan. “Windsor Park Rink Needs Coordinator.” *OSCAR* 33, 2 (February 2007) p. 6.
- <sup>107</sup> Calvert, John. “Local Heroes of Windsor Park.” *OSCAR* 36, 4 (April 2008) p. 21. Dog walkers have also been singled out for helping keep the park safe: ... dog walkers are in the park at all hours of the day and night and provide an informal and low key security patrol. Especially during the summer and fall warm late

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evenings when young people are a little restless and inclined to rambunctious behaviour, the dog walkers have helped to tone down or put a stop to underage drinking, bonfires, vandalism and possibly drug use.

<sup>108</sup> Deline, Patty. Concerns raised about trees in Windsor, Linda Thom parks." *OSCAR* 30, 3 (March 2004) p.1.

<sup>109</sup> Deline, Patty. "Manitoba Maples invade Windsor Park riverbank." *OSCAR* 30, 4. (April 2004) p.6.

<sup>110</sup> Lum, Gary. "Group hopes to renew urban forest." *OSCAR* 30, 7. (September 2004) p. 8.

<sup>111</sup> Lum, Gary. "Community Helps Reforest Windsor Park." *OSCAR* 32, 6 (June 2006) p. 1.

<sup>112</sup> Lum, Gary. "An Invitation to Park Maintenance Day." *OSCAR* 32, 8 (October 2006) p. 10.