

Town and Gown Committee Launched Christopher Collmorgen

On August 27, 2012, the Town and Gown Committee (TGC) of Sandy Hill convened for the first time in the Senate Room of the University of Ottawa. The TGC represents the start of a new relationship between the City, the University of Ottawa and the residents of Sandy Hill.

Town and Gown Committees have been struck all across Canada, the US and around the world to address the challenges of living in near-campus neighbourhood and to capitalize on the diversity of their residents to build stronger, more inclusive and more vibrant communities.

Although there are more than 100,000 post-secondary students in Ottawa, a decision was taken to initially limit the focus of the Town and Gown Committee to Sandy Hill in order to develop strategies and best practices. Once this has been achieved, it is envisioned that the Town and Gown Committee will become a city-wide initiative.

The ratified Terms of Reference – available for viewing on the Action Sandy Hill website at www.ash-acs.ca – envision Sandy Hill as a community in which residents

- take pride in their neighborhood;
- enjoy and contribute toward a high quality of living and learning; and
- are aware of and respect the rights and responsibilities of living together in a vibrant and dynamic near-campus urban neighborhood.

The mandate of the TGC is to develop and enhance relationships and communication between the University of Ottawa, the City of Ottawa, protective services, residents, students and landlords. The Committee serves as a forum for the exchange of information on issues and initiatives involving the University of Ottawa, the City of Ottawa and the community of Sandy Hill and to develop and implement appropriate and coordinated responses. All members of the Committee work toward the vision.

The TGC is comprised of nine members: three representatives of the University of Ottawa (the Vice Chancellor, the Student Federation, and the Graduate Students Association), three representatives of the City of Ottawa (our Ward Councillor, Ottawa Police Services and Bylaw Services), and three representatives from Sandy Hill (Action Sandy Hill, a Resident-at-large, and a Representative of Sandy Hill landlords).

The Committee will meet three times a year: in early August in advance of the start of the new school year, once in November, and once in early spring prior to the end of exams and move-out. The Committee will set and review priorities and progress and create working groups as needed to address specific matters as they arise, such as coordinating resources for a safe and happy Welcome Week in September, improving the quality of available housing stock and addressing property standards and bylaw issues.

Of the nine positions on the TGC, two remain open – Resident at Large and Representative of Sandy Hill Landlords – for which nominations are being accepted until 17 October, 2012. If you

are interested in either position, please call Councillor Fleury's office at 613-580-2482 or visit his website at www.mathieufleury.ca for details on how to apply.

If you are interested in becoming involved with Town Gown Committee initiatives or just want additional information, please contact ASH via the website or at 613-241-4646.