

Our File/N/Réf. 02-00-0115  
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DATE 09 June 2000

TO/DEST. Chair and Members of Regional Council

FROM/EXP. Commissioner, Planning and Development Approvals Department

SUBJECT/OBJET **INQUIRY - PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE -  
28 MARCH 2000 (PEC NO. 17-00)**

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This memo is in response to Councillor Beamish's inquiry made at March 28 Planning and Environment Committee:

"Ottawa's Green Map" is a project under the auspices of Ottawa 2000. The Region has invested a contribution of staff time and electronic data to this project. Could staff please provide a brief update on the project on one of the upcoming agendas."

### **REPOSNE**

Regional staff have been assisting Ottawa 2000 and its sub-committees with several of their projects. These projects have implications for regional property (such as the Trans Canada Trail on the abandoned rail corridor) or could further Regional Official Plan objectives (such as improving our understanding of the ecology of our community through a Green Map) or contribute to health care prevention (such as the Heart Beat Parade).

Members of the Environment Committee of Ottawa 2000 originally suggested the idea of creating a Green Map for Ottawa-Carleton. The committee is made up of community group members who are implementing various environmentally-oriented projects in celebration of the Millennium. The purpose of a Green Map is to highlight the physical and social attributes of a community that contribute to its environmental quality by showing them on an easy to read map.

### Information Previously Distributed

To be listed on Planning and Environment  
Committee agenda of 27 June 2000

Ottawa 2000 will be hosting a demonstration of the prototype software and the initial Green Map for Canada's Capital on June 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. in the Honeywell Room of Ottawa-Carleton Centre, 111 Lisgar Street, Ottawa.

Many communities have created Green Maps, either as paper maps or down-loadable static map images posted on the Internet. Canada's Capital Green Map will be unique. It will use interactive GIS technology and special software so that users will be able to create customised maps and ask a range of questions via the Internet. Canada's Capital Green Map will be a series of electronically linked maps and data bases of physical features, environmental information and a directory of environmentally-friendly agencies, goods and services. Canada's Capital Green Map will enable residents, visitors, students, teachers, community groups, businesses and "virtual tourists" to learn about the green assets of the Capital Region.

Green Maps were started by a young woman in New York City in the mid-1990s and quickly became popular. Using a set of internationally recognisable icons, a community can create its own Green Map. By July 2000, Ottawa-Carleton will join over 100 communities around the world participating in the creation of Green Maps.

### **What is the Scope of the Region's Participation?**

The Region has supported and contributed in the development of the Green Map in many ways:

- endorsing the grant submissions to the Canadian Millennium Partnership Program and the Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) GeoInnovations Program;
- providing space for community and user group consultation;
- providing GIS computer-mapping and data for various physical features such as drainage patterns, topographic features, environmental mapping and the roadway network;
- providing advice on map making and the use of Regional data.

The Region entered into a data-sharing agreement for the development of Canada's Capital Green Map, similar to other agreements the Region has entered into with other organizations.

Other agencies that have provided computer mapping data and advice include the National Capital Commission, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and the City of Ottawa.

### **Who are the participants in the development of Canada's Capital Green Map?**

Key participants in the development of Canada's Capital Green Map include:

- **Ottawa 2000**, a non-profit organisation established to encourage residents of Ottawa-Carleton to celebrate the Year 2000 and the New Millennium.
- **The Environment Committee** of Ottawa 2000 formed to foster projects by various community groups to celebrate the Millennium. Member community groups included the Environment Committee of Ottawa South (ECOS) and Canada's Capital Green Space Alliance. A team of individuals on the Committee took on the development of a Green Map as one of many environmental projects.

- **The Kitichissippi Foundation** was created in 1999 by members of the Environment Committee of Ottawa 2000 to manage the Green Map in our community. An interim board was created.
- Two private-sector companies, **Terra Choice** and **Isosceles**, joined with Ottawa 2000 to successfully secure a software development grant from the federal government to develop a Green Map and Web Engine.

### **What is an interactive Green Map?**

The Green Map Web Engine software allows users in the National Capital Region, and throughout the world, to produce interactive Canada's Capital Green Maps on the World Wide Web. The Web Engine is the software that accesses the different data components to create the Green Map. Through the Web, users will be able to view and to contribute local eco-information in visually compelling, multi-media formats. Users will be able to view, customize, query, retrieve and print out maps and related information for areas of local environmental interest and concern.

The map can include information on environmentally conscious buildings, businesses, organisations and resources as well as highlighting places of outstanding natural beauty, ecological areas, outdoor environmental activities, recreational pathways, farmers' markets, etc.

The Green Map Web Engine software has two main user-friendly interfaces. The *Green Map Knowledge Manager* will enable experts and community members to record, retrieve, and use this information to promote and care for our community's green assets. The *Green Trip Planner* will help users to make environmentally informed decisions regarding entertainment, recreation, accommodation, work, shopping and travel. It will help users to travel to various destinations by bike, foot or bus.

### **How was the Project Funded and Developed?**

An interactive Green Map accessible via the Internet requires special computer software and professional expertise. To fund the development of the Green Map, Ottawa 2000, the community groups and private business partners made application to various grant programs. Ottawa 2000 and two local businesses (Isosceles and Terra Choice) were successful in securing a software development grant from the Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) GeoInnovations Program. This program provides research and development funding to businesses to develop unique software to meet a specific client's needs and to broaden the availability of innovative Canadian software.

There are two distinct elements that were to be developed under this program. One is a software mapping system (or "web-engine") to create interactive maps via the Internet using computer-based mapping data. The second component involves the application of the software mapping system to create a Green Map for the National Capital Region. The terms of the grant require that the Green Map Web Engine and the Green Map for the Capital Region be completed by July 2000.

## Next Steps

Canada's Capital Green Map is only a preliminary version that can be expanded and updated as additional or updated information becomes available. This may include more detailed information such as recreational pathways, trail networks and green spaces.

Ottawa 2000 and the private-sector partners in the NRCan program are wrapping-up their project commitment to produce the Green Map Web Engine and a preliminary Green Map for the National Capital Region. Further development of the map and its maintenance are uncertain. Ideally a non-profit corporate entity should operate and manage the Green Map locally. Members of Ottawa 2000's Environment Committee created the Kitichissippi Foundation in 1999 to manage the site but the interim board has not been meeting regularly. Ottawa 2000 and its private sector partners, as well as community group members, are trying to create the best structure or mechanism to manage and operate Canada's Capital Green Map. Regional staff will continue to offer assistance to help find a solution to ongoing management. In 2001 this responsibility should pass to the new city.

*Approved by  
Nick Tunnacliffe*