

REGION OF OTTAWA-CARLETON
RÉGION D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

REPORT
RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf. 03 07-99-0095
Your File/V/Réf.

DATE 2 June 1999

TO/DEST. Transportation Committee

FROM/EXP. Councillor Diane Holmes

SUBJECT/OBJET **OTTAWA BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY - REQUEST FOR
FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR A TRAFFIC AND PARKING
STUDY**

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

That Transportation Committee direct staff to bring forward a report in response to the Ottawa Botanical Garden Society's request for financial support to conduct a traffic and parking study of the proposed botanic garden at the Central Experimental Farm.

BACKGROUND

I have received a request from the Ottawa Botanical Garden Society for financial support from the Region to undertake a traffic and parking study of the proposed botanic garden at the Central Experimental Farm.

The attached supporting material documents this request.

*Approved by
Diane Holmes*

/rn



May 31, 1999

Diane Holmes, Regional Councillor
Chair of the Transportation Committee
Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton
Ottawa, Carleton Centre, Cartier Square
111 Lisgar Street
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 2L7

Dear Diane,

I am writing to you to request financial support from the Regional Municipality to undertake a traffic and parking study of the proposed botanic garden.

Please find attached the documentation that I promised. This includes:-

- a brief overview of the proposal for a botanic garden at the Central Experimental Farm;
- a copy of the article from The Ottawa Citizen of last July; and,
- a copy of my letter to Ed Aquilina.

As I mentioned during my short briefing, we have about 100 volunteer professionals providing technical advice in the preparation of the proposal. In addition, we will require to undertake about \$100,000 of work consisting of three studies by independent contractors [at about \$25,000 each] and the cost of actually printing the document, maps, photographs, etc., estimated at \$25,000. The three contracts are for:- the business and financial analysis; the heritage study; and, the traffic and parking study.

The Regional Municipality would help greatly if it would undertake to fund and manage the traffic and parking study through its Engineering and Transportation Division. Such a study would allow us to determine:-

- If our parking proposals are reasonable;
- The traffic implications of the proximity of the botanic garden and the Agriculture Museum;
- The long-term relationship between the traffic to the museum and the garden and the traffic using Prince of Wales;
- The best parking area for buses; and,
- The use of OC Transpo buses to link the tourist centres downtown to the internal transportation system that we are proposing for the garden and the Agricultural Museum.

I might note that our internal transportation system is being examined by TES Limited, a local company well know for its expertise in internal transportation systems.

A traffic and parking study would be a requirement of any final approval process but, before that stage, the study would be useful to determine changes in our proposal so that it better meet the long-term requirements of the area.

We would be very willing to help a consultant in providing details of our plans, etc.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

original signed by

Ian E. Efford
President



THE OTTAWA BOTANIC GARDEN

PROPOSAL

AN OUTLINE

June 10, 1999

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Ottawa Botanical Garden Society is:

To re-establish and enhance a botanic garden in the National Capital Region dedicated to display the diversity of plant life, explain the economic and social role of plants, and expand our knowledge of plants and their cultivation.

OPERATING PRINCIPLES

To manage the administrative and financial affairs of the Society in a prudent and effective manner, so that the interests of the Society and the public are assured.

Once the garden is open, to run it in such a way that the cash flow covers normal operating expenses.

After a transition period, to be independent on government funding except for special project or events.

To raise private and public monies for capital development and special programmes and initiatives.

To manage the garden with a small, professional staff, volunteers, and contractual arrangements with individuals, businesses and companies from the surrounding region.

To recruit and train skilled personnel, either paid or volunteer, through an effective human resources program.

To establish close relationships with the cultural communities in the region in order to promote joint sponsorship of events and programmes.

EXPECTED BENEFITS

The protection and enhancement of the present Arboretum on the site.

The participation of Canadians in the development of a world quality botanic garden.

The increase in employment and economic development in the region.

The establishment of a centre of gardening which will serve all Canadians.

The education of the public and students in botany and horticulture.

The establishment of special programmes to use horticulture to benefit the disabled.

The protection of heritage and the development of cultural and horticultural heritage programmes.

The establishment of research in systematics, conservation, and horticulture in cooperation with other institutions, the private sector, and governments.

THE SOCIETY: PRESENT AND PROPOSED MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

The Ottawa Botanical Garden Society is a new society which was registered as a non-profit organization in December 1998 and received charitable status in May 1999.

At this time the Society is directed by a interim Board made up of five individuals and an Executive Committee of half a dozen. The interim Board consists of the President, the Vice President, the Treasurer, the Director of Operations for the Society and the Secretary.

It is expected that the permanent arrangement for the Society will be an independent Board overseeing the whole of the Society's activities, an Executive Committee, which will run the activities of the Society itself, a Director and staff of the botanic garden, which will run the garden as a non-profit business. A foundation, or similar organization, may be set up for the purpose of raising funds for the garden, and a Trust, which will raise and invest money for the sole purpose of supporting the activities of the garden. There may also be a commercial company established, fully owned by the garden, for the commercialization of particular developments and whose profits would return directly to the garden or the Trust.

As many non-profit organizations have failed, a detailed review is underway on the subject of the structure of the Board. This review is taking into account our desire to have a Board which is weighted towards a majority of members with business experience as well as being well-connected in fund raising. In addition, the Board representation will accommodate the need of the federal and regional governments and related interest groups.

For more information please contact

**Ottawa Botanical Garden Society,
Box 727, Postal Station "B",
59 Sparks Street,
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5P8**

613 291 2820; fax 613 526 0081; avocet.intl@sympatico.ca

or the President, Dr. Ian E. Efford at 613 526 4427.

HISTORY OF THE SITE

At the moment, a detailed historical review of the site is being prepared. Certain facts are already well known. These include:-

- A botanic garden and arboretum was established in 1887 and survived until at least 1915.
- The National Research Council of Canada proposed its re-establishment in 1929 as a National Botanic Garden.
- The Greber Report on the development of Ottawa identified the site as ideal for a botanic garden in 1949.
- Cabinet accepted a proposal by Agriculture Canada to establish a botanic garden on the site in 1962 to be opened in 1967. Work began on the garden but was stopped by the election of a new government and the Decision of Cabinet was never announced.
- In 1987, the National Capital Commission and Agriculture Canada proposed that the government establish a botanic garden on the site.
- The new City of Ottawa plan for the area proposes that the best use of the land is as a botanic garden.
- The Ottawa 2000 Committee was established to stimulate the development and implementation of millennium projects in the region. In May 1999, the Committee announced that, out of 27 proposals, the Ottawa Botanical Garden Society proposal was designated their recommended project for a Millennium Park. In agreeing with this recommendation, the Society accepted the inclusion of nine projects into the garden which were considered by the Ottawa 2000 Committee to be important recognition of the millennium and to national role that the garden would play. The Society will work closely with Ottawa 2000 to implement these in harmony with the garden.

The Society's objective is to break this "stop-start" cycle and actually build a botanic garden.

STEPS IN THE DECISION MAKING

The Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has announced a desire to turn over the non-research areas of the Central Experimental Farm, which is in the middle of Ottawa, to other organizations to manage in a way which is compatible with the heritage nature of the Farm and the present land use. A botanic garden would fit exactly with such a desire and would take up the eastern edge of the Farm lands. There seem to be no other uses for this land and, it is believed that the Department would welcome a proposal to use the area as a botanic garden.

The Society has about 100 professionals volunteering to prepare the proposal for a botanic garden on the far eastern edge of the Farm and has arranged with two consulting companies to provide additional specialized services in the area of heritage and financial analysis.

Significant sponsorship commitments in support of the garden will improve the chances that this project would be approved by the government. If approval is reached before March 2000, the Society can apply for an additional one third of the amount donated from the federal Millennium Fund. It is likely that additional matching funds will be available from the Provincial Government through the Trillium Fund.

THE GARDENS

The garden, as we conceive it, will consist of eleven distinctive areas. The role of each of these areas is briefly summarized below and they are identified on the attached map.

1. **The Arboretum** The arboretum, established in 1887, consists of a very fine collection of trees which have suffered from poor maintenance. Its care and management will be improved, including extending the Fletcher Wildlife Garden's concept into the arboretum by cutting the grass less, seeding wildflowers into the undergrowth, and encouraging increases in the insect, bird, and other animal populations.
2. **Fletcher Wildlife Garden** This area would remain unchanged, hopefully under the specific management of the Fletcher Wildlife Society.
3. **The Ornamental Garden** This garden would illustrate the role that Agriculture Canada has played in developing new vegetable and ornamental plants for Canada. In particular, there would be a strong effort made to inform the public about the role played by experts such as Isabella Preston and others in developing new varieties of plants for our cold climate.
4. **Children's Garden** This garden will be small and designed to encourage children under 6 to experience nature in the garden setting. Such experience will contribute to their greater sensitivity and understanding of nature, plants, and the environment when they are older.
5. **Perennial Garden** The perennial garden would be designed as a beautiful place to visit. Probably with two streams and a small pond, it would consist of about 50 landscaped beds designed to illustrate the various soil types and ecological variety in the plant kingdom. Guiding the selection of plants would be a master list of the 6000 or more different plants that a botanic garden should make available for the public to see.
6. **Heritage Garden** The core areas would be a series of gardens which illustrate the history of plants in this region of Canada from aboriginal times to the present. The end of the sequence will be a garden which explains to the public some future developments, such as breeding, biotechnical changes, etc.

CONCEPTUAL SKETCH OF CHINESE GARDEN / ESQUISSE CONCEPTUELLE DU JARDIN CHINOIS

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- A - MAIN BUILDING
UPPER LEVEL - HOUSE OFFICES
TWO LEVELS 1- SOUVENIR SHOP
LOWER LEVEL - TEAHOUSE
- F - SECURE INNER GARDEN
- 3 - GATE FEATURE
- 4 - MAIN ENTRANCE TO GARDEN
- 5 - COVERED BRIDGE / PAGODA
SECONDARY ENTRANCE



In this same area would be other special gardens:-

- a herb and medicine garden showing the types of plants that are used for culinary or medical purposes by different cultures;
 - a garden for the disabled which has two roles:- 1. a garden for the disabled to visit, and 2. an educational centre for the non-disabled where they can learn how to make gardens more accessible.
 - a row of gardens designed by different landscape gardeners to illustrate a variety of ways of developing a new back garden or re-building an old one.
7. **Field Research Gardens** These will be field demonstrations used for research, trial of different horticultural stocks, teaching areas, and nursery beds. This area would be surrounded by a demonstration walk of nut trees and heritage fruit trees.
 8. **The Piazza and Greenhouse Conservatory** At the north end of the property would be a large open landscaped piazza with a nine part greenhouse complex. These greenhouses would be managed for different climatic zones with one retained for horticultural events and plants shows.
 9. **The Display Gardens and Butterfly House** This area would carry the NCC display bed further down Carling Avenue and would have the butterfly greenhouse as its centre. This butterfly house would have the same design as the conservatory.
 10. **Nursery Greenhouses** Tucked behind the central parking lot would be a row of nursery greenhouses.
 11. **The Chinese Garden** This garden, to be designed by the City of Beijing, could be located in the northern corner of this site.

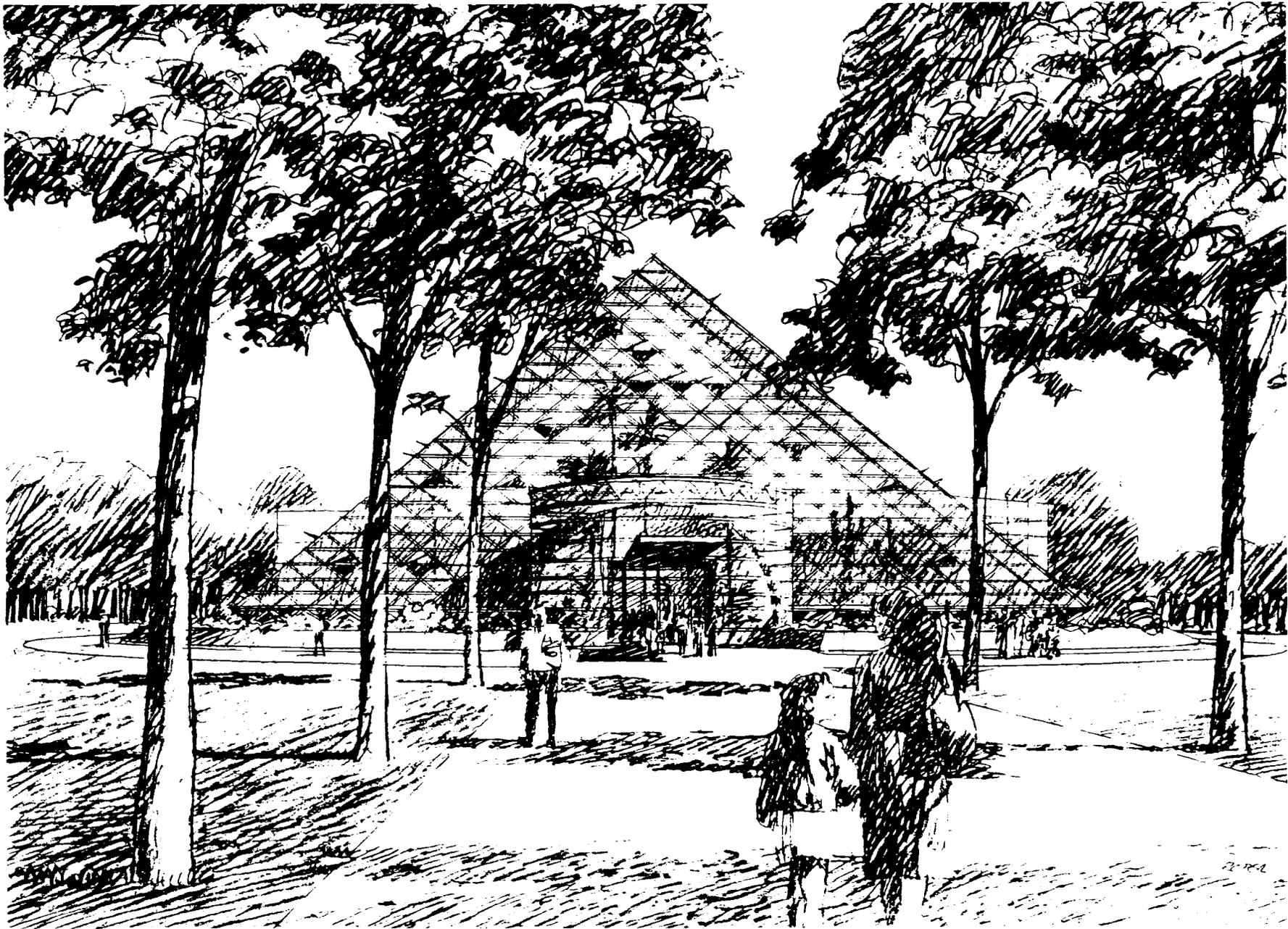
NOTE:

- a. The butterfly house and conservatory would have entrance fees as would the three gardens at the far south of the property. The land around them would be open to the public at no charge.
- b. A quiet, easy access bus system is planned to carry the infirm, the disabled, parents with children, and the tired, between the facilities and the adjoining Agricultural Museum.

THE PROGRAMMES

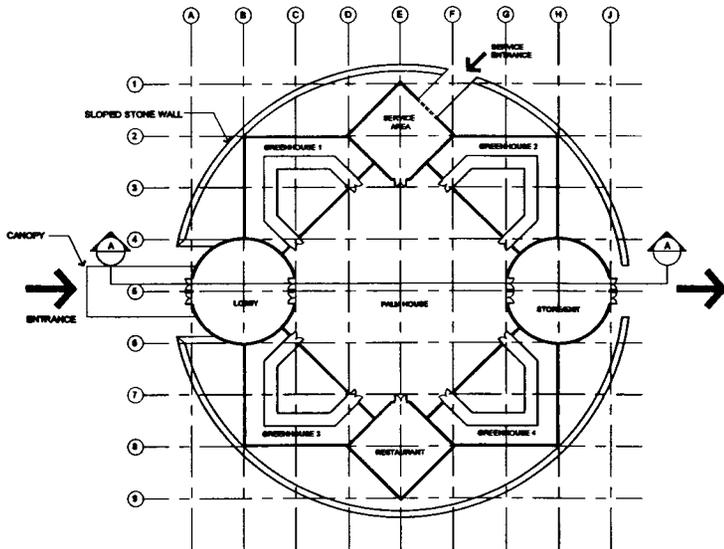
The botanic garden is intended to be a new, dynamic centre of activity with a wide range of programmes designed to touch the lives of different segments of the community. The management of the garden will work in partnership with the business community in the region and “out source” as much of its work as possible. Thus, the garden will be intellectually and financially “inclusive”, rather than a closed, self-contained entity. It is expected that such an approach will result in greater benefits from the garden to the regional community and a garden which is more efficient and cost effective to run.

ONCEPTUAL SKETCH OF MAIN GREENHOUSE / ESQUISSE CONCEPTUELLE DE LA SERRE PRINCIPALE

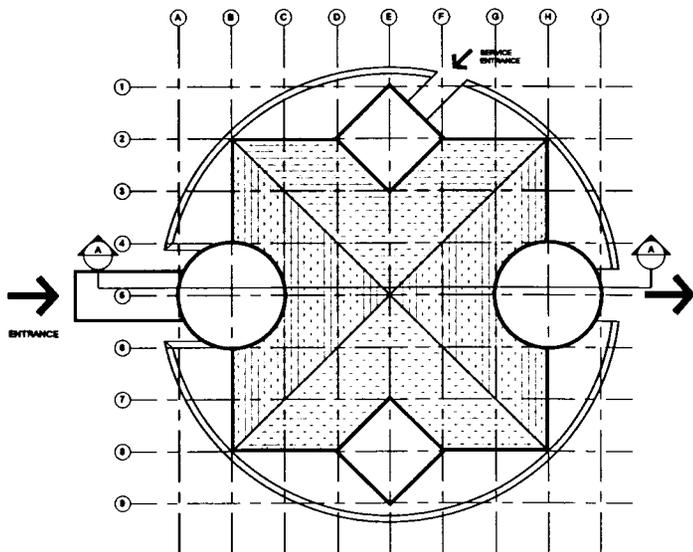


OTTAWA BOTANICAL GARDEN / JARDIN BOTANIQUE D'OTTAWA

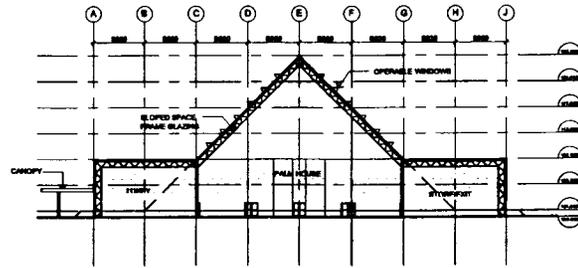
CONCEPTUAL SKETCH OF MAIN GREENHOUSE / ESQUISSE CONCEPTUELLE DE LA SERRE PRINCIPALE



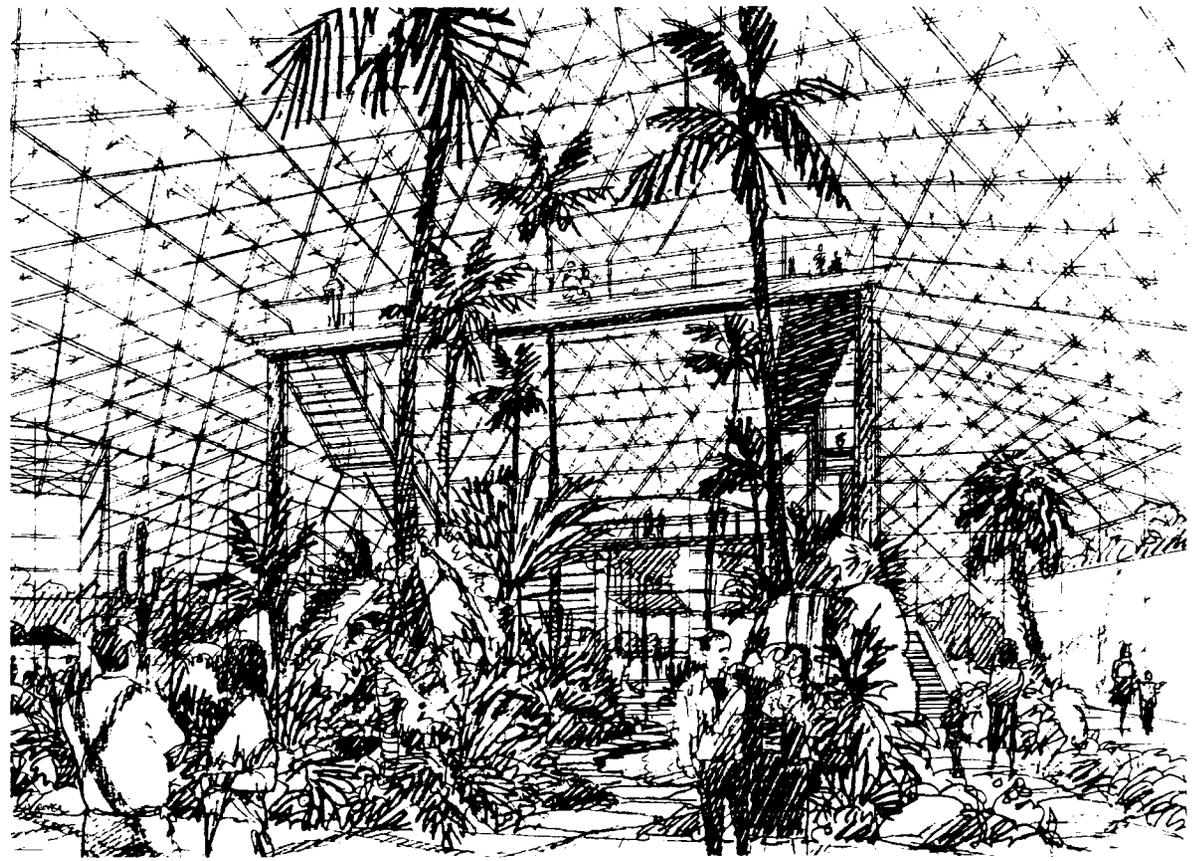
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



ROOF PLAN



CROSS SECTION



OTTAWA BOTANICAL GARDEN / JARDIN BOTANIQUE D'OTTAWA

Programmes to be run by the garden will include:-

1. Community Education and Extension

This programme will consist of informal tours and courses for the general public as well as extension courses and lectures which will be delivered outside the garden. The garden will act as a centre for the study of wild plants in the region and in co-operation with the horticultural societies and garden clubs.

2. Formal Education

Discussions have taken place with the regional school boards and the four colleges concerning the use of the facilities to provide educational opportunities. In addition, Algonquin College has indicated an interest in a close link with the horticultural therapy programme.

3. Research

A major component of any botanic garden, as opposed to a display garden, is that there is ongoing research in the fields of horticulture, systematic botany, conservation, and other areas specific to that particular garden, such as the benefits and methodology of horticultural therapy. We are planning to develop a close link between the federal government, industry, universities, and the garden's research programme in order to develop strengths in the field of biochemistry, pharmacology, and systematics. With the increasing interest in the potential of medical treatment from different plants, a strong research link in this field has the potential to generate new companies and new products which can stimulate economic growth in the region and income for the garden.

4. Horticultural Therapy

It is quite clear that horticultural therapy has a significant role to play in enhancing the speedy recovery of mentally or physically ill patients and in providing meaningful occupation to those unable to participate in the normal work force. Its role as a centre for horticultural therapy will be reflected in the effort made by the garden to find meaningful occupation for as many disabled individuals as possible. The garden will focus a great deal of attention on making sure that all facilities are accessible to every member of the public.

5. Horticultural Heritage

There is presently a great increase in interest in gardening, but little attention has been paid to the origin of the plants that we grow. The horticulture heritage programme will be designed to explain the history of plants in our gardens, their origins and cultural links, etc. The programme will cover the period from aboriginal gardens to the present, and into the future.

6. Cultural Heritage

The Central Experimental Farm played a major role in the development of Ottawa and yet this is not reflected in any of the signage presently seen at the Farm. No mention is made of the electric tram system, the railway, the canal, the beautiful wooden houses which dotted the site, the Macoum residence, scientists, etc. The cultural heritage programme will be small but it will be designed to make sure that visitors become fully aware of the history of the area.

7. Cultural Linkages

This programme will establish strong ties with other cultural activities within the community, whether it is music in the park, the celebrations of various cultural festivals of immigrant groups, the display of art over a weekend, or sculptures in the garden. The idea would be to make the garden a place that welcomes visitors and thus, develop support for the garden and greater interest in the plants and animals. At the same time, the links will also help to strengthen those cultural partners.

Submitted to Merridy Bradley, editor of the newsletter of Council of Heritage Organizations in Ottawa/Le Conseil des organismes du patrimoine d'Ottawa for publication in June.

Heritage Opportunities: The Botanic Garden

One of the most exciting heritage projects for the year 2000 would be the re-creation of the botanic garden at the Central Experimental Farm. It would provide the means by which the arboretum, Fletcher Wildlife Garden, and the heritage buildings on the site would be maintained and protected indefinitely. Furthermore, the garden would be instrumental in initiating programmes in horticulture and cultural heritage which are lacking at this time.

The botanic garden and arboretum was established in 1887. Although many government documents refer to the garden as being established by the Act which created the CEF, it is not actually mentioned in the Act. Nevertheless, its creation right after the Act was proclaimed suggests that it was in the associated Cabinet Document or Decision of Cabinet. Regular government reports, show the garden survived quite well until the First World War and then began a steady decline and just about disappeared except for the arboretum which remains as a fine collection of trees in serious need of maintenance. Although the Farm, including the arboretum, has been declared a National Historic Site, the government's only major action so far has been to identify heritage value through the preparation of a commemorative integrity statement.

Since the time of the garden's collapse, almost every decade has brought forth another government report which proposed the re-birth of the garden, including I understand, one that was actually approved by Cabinet in 1962 for a garden commemorating the Canadian centennial. Unfortunately, this decision was not announced before the government of the day collapsed.

As we enter the 21st Century, we are provided with a wonderful opportunity to re-establish this important heritage feature in the centre of the capital and expand it as a means of protecting a significant area of the Farm. The government no longer wishes to provide funds for the maintenance of the area occupied by the arboretum and its surrounding. The question is how to create sufficient cashflow whilst not destroying the ambiance of the Farm? We suggest that this can be done by building a new botanic garden on the land on both sides of Prince of Wales Drive south of the Fletcher Wildlife Gardens. An entry fee would be charged for this area. In addition, it is proposed to clear the DND site near the Dow's Lake pavilion and develop the area as a public plaza. In the plaza would be placed a greenhouse conservatory complex and, on the other side of the road on Carling Avenue, a display garden containing a butterfly house. Both these facilities would also charge entry fees. From such sources of funds sufficient monies would flow to allow the arboretum area to be maintained properly and, along with the Fletcher Wildlife Garden, remain open and free to the public. The lands within the present arboretum that are identified as having significant heritage value will be protected and conserved.

From the heritage perspective, what are the detrimental features of this approach? Three points come to mind. Firstly, the whole area is now fenced but some of those fences will have to be raised from four feet to six or seven feet. This will be necessary to protect the area from vandalism and theft, both problems at this time. Secondly, a small building will be placed in the area of the lock road. This building will be a combined gatehouse, toilet, cafe, shop facility and there might also be a toilet put near the Ornamental Gardens. Finally, the Cities of Beijing and Ottawa have been discussing the construction, by Beijing, of a Royal Chinese Garden in the area and, one possible site is just south of the lock. Such a site that would hide the two buildings from the Farm because of the slope of the land and the trees that would be further up the hill. None of these changes appear to be too high a price to pay for protecting the whole area from further decline from other less compatible uses.

But let us look further. From the heritage perspective, what are the additional benefits? Firstly, a significant section of the botanic garden would be a heritage garden which would show the transition of the plants in the garden from aboriginal times to the present and possibly the future. This garden would pay particular attention to the plants introduced into our gardens by different immigrant cultures. Secondly, the present Ornamental Garden, whilst retaining its structure and form, could be changed to demonstrate the vegetables and flowers that were developed by Agriculture Canada over the years and the role that scientists and horticulturalists, such as Isabella Preston, played in their development. At the present time, historically important plants such as her lilacs, are dying out and there is no mention anywhere of the important role that the department and the individuals played in the development of Canadian horticulture. Finally, the long cultural history of the area, with its record of beautiful wooden buildings, the electric tram cars, the canal, the railway, etc. could be presented to the public by signage and other means. All benefits from a botanic garden that was established to be financially viable and independent of government funding decisions.

Thus, a new botanic garden would be of great benefit to gardeners and to scientists interested in botany: it will also be a major new tourist attraction. In addition, the proposed garden would protect and enhance the heritage nature of the Farm via preventing significant change to a large part of the land. The required compromises are few and, through negotiation and open discussion with the heritage community, can have minimal negative impact. In fact, the garden should enhance some of the scenic aspects of the area by hiding behind beautiful trees some of the architectural wonders of Carleton University.

In conclusion, I would welcome open discussion with the heritage community and its contribution to the final proposal that we plan to submit for consideration to the government. Together, we can create an outstanding botanic garden which not only protects the heritage nature of the area but better explains its significance to all Canadians.

Ian E. Efford, President
The Ottawa Botanical Garden Society
526 4427 or avocet.intl@sympatico.ca



COPY

February 18, 1999

Ed Aquilina
Office Chairman
Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton
Ottawa, Carleton Centre, Cartier Square
111 Lisgar Street
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 2L7

Dear Ed,

Please find attached the document that I promised yesterday.

On the matter of our earlier conversation, a traffic study contracted out by the Regional Municipality's Transportation Division, would be of considerable help in determining the impact and design of both the botanic garden and the Agriculture Museum.

Such a study is required before a number of other issues can be resolved. These would include changes required along Prince of Wales and its eventual re-alignment, the exact location and size of parking lots, and the link to an internal people mover system in the botanic garden which might also supply visitors to the museum. In discussion with the NCC, they indicated that such a study would be a requirement of any final approval process but, before that stage, it would be useful in modifying our proposal to better meet the long-term requirements of the area.

We would be very willing to help a consultant in providing details of our plans, etc.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Ian E. Efford
President

cc Michelle Dondo-Tardiff, Director, Agriculture Museum



JOHN MAJOR, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

Ian Efford, shown here in his backyard garden, has won the support of Regional Chair Bob Chiarelli for a botanical garden at the Experimental Farm.

Chiarelli backs proposal for botanical garden at Farm

Plant paradise could draw 250,000 tourists

BY KEN GRAY

There's no shortage of vision in Ottawa these days.

First, people started touting the Chaudière Falls and area as the next civic people place.

Then there was the multi-use, 21st-century, rebuilt, Rough-Riderless Lansdowne Park. And the new, improved, aquarium-added Daly site.

Don't forget the bulldozer-enhanced Metcalfe Street vista leading to the Parliament Buildings.

And turning CFB Rockcliffe's military base into a prime residential development. Now we have one more.

Former senior federal public servant Ian Efford wants to make part of the Experimental Farm into The Millennium Botanical Garden. Unlike some of the other aforementioned projects, it has the advantage of practicality and relative low cost.

As well, such a garden arises from Ottawa's grassroots, a novel concept in the realm of vision.

"We want to integrate it with the tourist industry without being cutesy," said the former University of British Columbia ecology professor and now businessman. "People would travel long distances to go to one."

Mr. Efford's idea has tweaked the interest of Regional Chair Bob Chiarelli, not a bad ally given that the 62-year-old wants to tap Mr. Chiarelli and the federal government for \$10 million in startup money. The other \$10 million would be raised from foundations.

The garden "makes sense for our community and I will do anything as regional chair to encourage a determination of its feasibility," Mr. Chiarelli said, adding that he likes the tourism and educational aspects of the project.

'(A botanical garden) makes sense for our community and I will do anything ... to encourage a determination of its feasibility.'

Regional Chair Bob Chiarelli

Other than the obvious appeal of the plants and their related tourist, education and research functions, Mr. Efford foresees other uses for the garden:

- As a forum for music, particularly chamber music, jazz or bands.
- Walking and jogging.
- Children's activities such as riding miniature trains.
- Raised gardens for the handicapped and seniors.

Mr. Efford uses London's Kew Gardens as his ideal, but recognizes his ver-

business, he said.

"A beautiful garden adds to the quality of life to attract good employees," Mr. Efford said, who has gardened much of his life but really became serious about it five years ago. He is also hooked into a number of local and international gardening societies.

Continuing costs of maintaining the garden would come from admissions, maybe \$6.50 for an adult. Mr. Efford believes the garden could draw 250,000 people a year.

An informal group of about 10 people is working with Mr. Efford, but he believes that once word gets out about his idea, he can tap into the 30,000 area members of gardening groups.

Graeme Kirby, who is heading the Experimental Farm consultation, said ideas presented to it can succeed if they have funding and a viable location.

Mr. Kirby said the Efford proposal met with "quite interested attention."

The Kirby report will be submitted Aug. 15.

Trevor Cole, the former curator of the Dominion Arboretum, said of Mr. Efford: "He knows people in high places and speaks their language."

Mr. Cole called the proposal "a wonderful idea," but the "big roadblock is money."

The federal government started a botanical garden at the farm in 1966 as a centennial project, Mr. Cole said.

However, funding for maintaining the garden was not forthcoming from the government and the project disappeared, Mr. Cole added.

