

HOSTED BY THE CARLETON CLIMATE  
COMMONS:

# NOONS FOR NOW

ONLINE EVERY THURSDAY, 12-1PM (EST)

## MAY 5: LOCAL ACTION AT THE EXPERIMENTAL FARM SUSAN ROSS, JOEL HARDEN, AND DIANE MCINTYRE

Hundreds of trees in Queen Juliana Park on the Experimental Farm in Ottawa are slated to be cut down for the development of the new Civic Hospital's parking lot. Work began in April, despite years of protesting, petitions, and the fact that the park is a designated National Historic Site. Join us this week to discuss how we got here, where things stand, and what happens next at the farm.

### SPEAKERS:

**Susan Ross** is an Associate Professor in the School of Indigenous and Canadian Studies cross appointed with the School of Architecture and Urbanism. Her research focuses on sustainable heritage conservation with particular focus on the intersections of heritage and waste.

**Diane McIntyre** will be representing Re-Imagine Ottawa, a community organization working against development-funded politics and planning in Ottawa. They are currently running a campaign to save the trees at Queen Juliana Park.

**Joel Harden** is the MPP for Ottawa Centre. He has been an active opponent of the plan to cut down trees at the Experimental Farm.

FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER:

[CARLETON.CA/CLIMATECOMMONS/NOONSFORNOW](https://carleton.ca/climatecommons/noonsfornow)



Professor Susan Ross  
Carleton University  
School of Indigenous and Canadian Studies/  
School of Architecture and Urbanism  
May 5, 2022



KOBIKAWA  
OUTWALL

Dow's Lake Peninsula

Dow's Lake Pavilion

Commissioners  
Park

Queen's Juliana Park

Dominion  
Arboretum

Ornamental

Yoga Fitness

COSMETIC  
TATTOOING SERVICES  
Tattooing

Sherwood Supermarket

Salon Shoes

Natural Resources Canada  
Circle of Nations

Dominion Observatory

Dre Engineering

Google

Google 3D





Agriculture  
Food Museum

Central  
Experimental Farm

Spence-Johnson Park

Rowe Lake Park

Shaw's Supermarket

Anytime Fitness

Google 3D

Google





WELLINGTON  
VILLAGE

The Ottawa Hospital  
St. Joseph's Campus

Wood Greenhouse

Anytime Fitness

Queens-Edwards Park

St. John's Park

St. John's Park

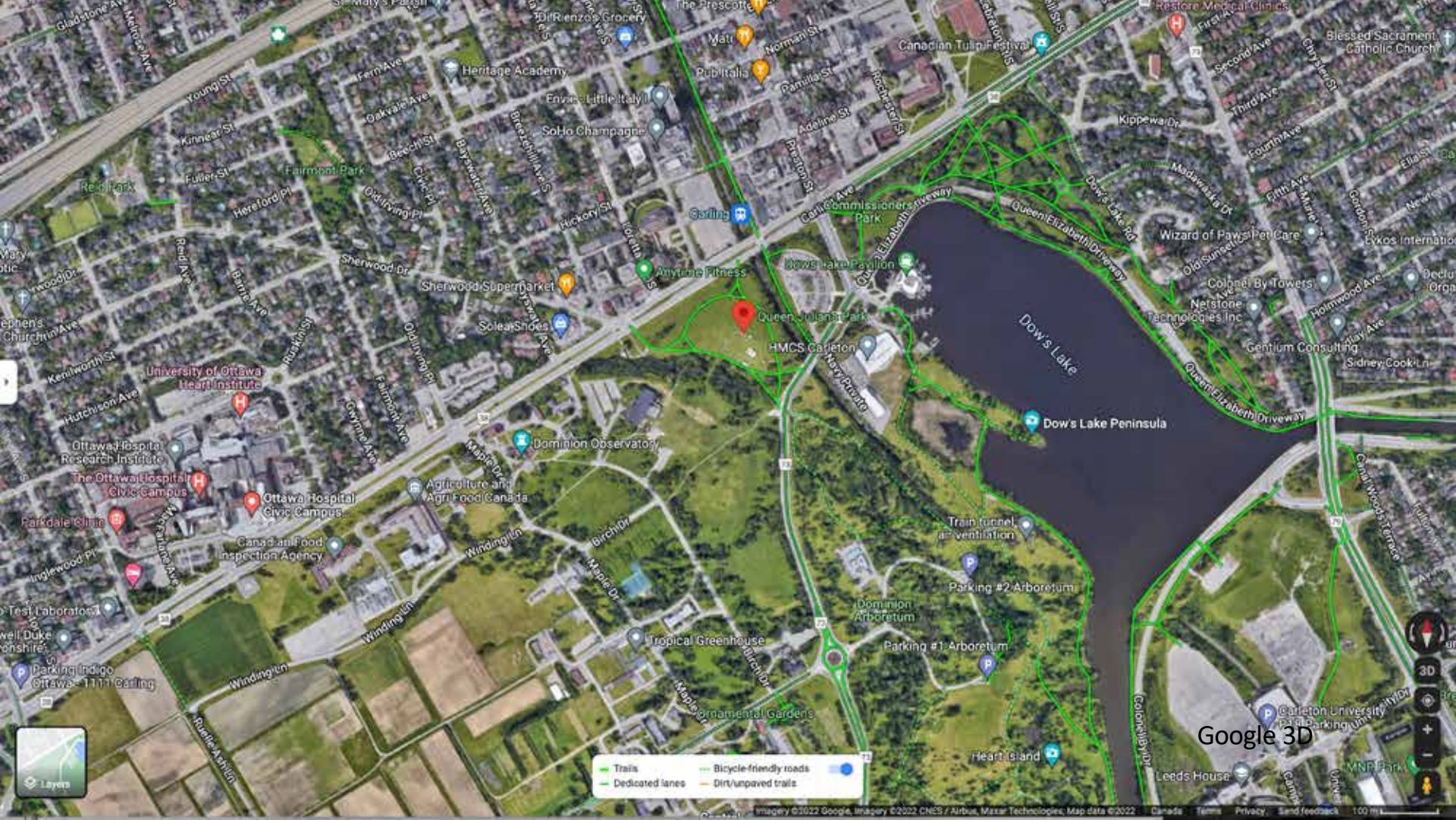
St. John's Park

Google 3D

Google







Google 3D

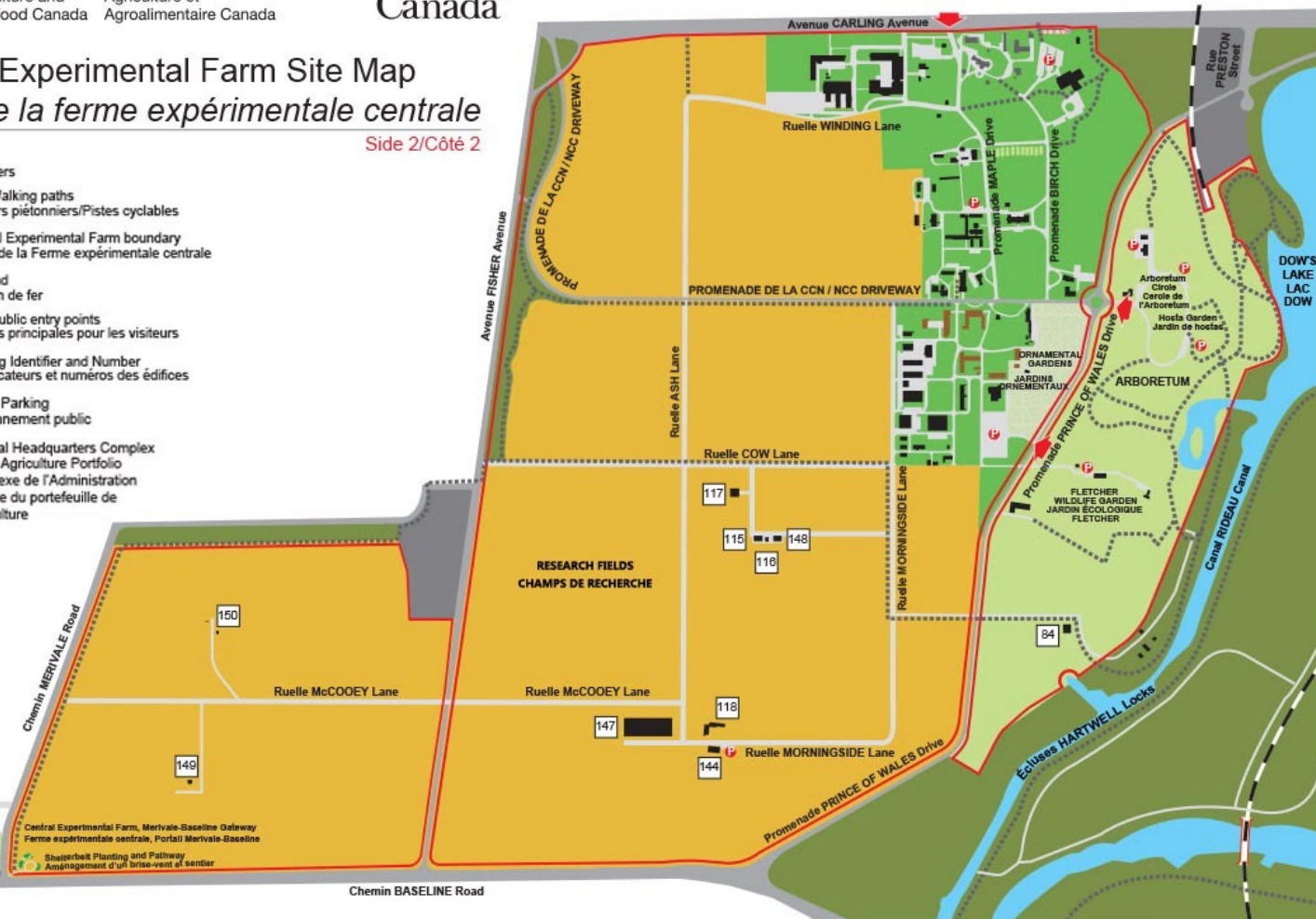
- Trails
- Bicycle-friendly roads
- Dedicated lanes
- Dirt/unpaved trails

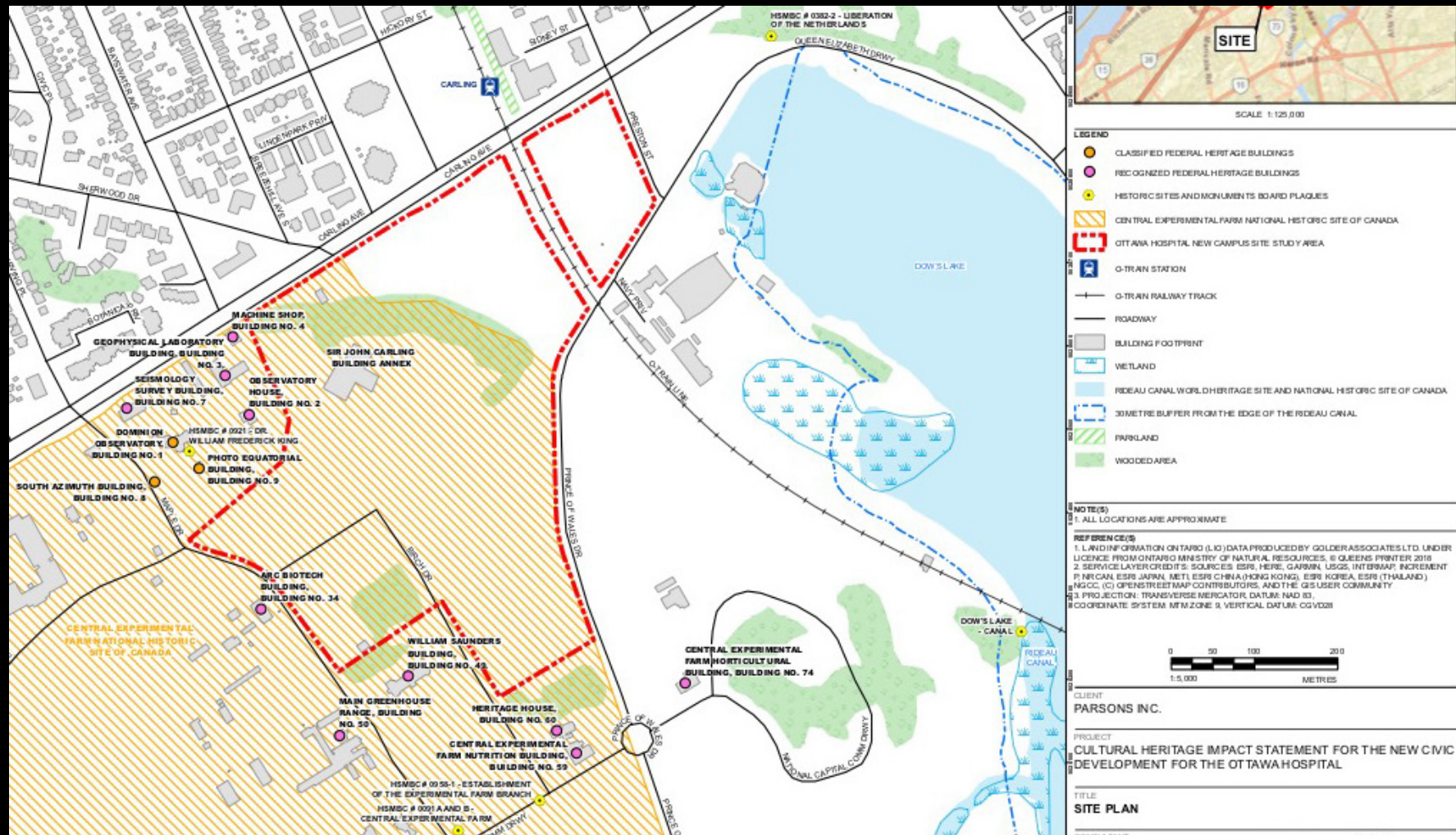


Central Experimental Farm Site Map  
*Carte de la ferme expérimentale centrale*

Side 2/Côté 2

-  Stairs  
Escaliers
-  Bike/Walking paths  
Sentiers piétonniers/Pistes cyclables
-  Central Experimental Farm boundary  
Limite de la Ferme expérimentale centrale
-  Railroad  
Chemin de fer
-  Main public entry points  
Entrées principales pour les visiteurs
-  Building Identifier and Number  
Identificateurs et numéros des édifices
-  Public Parking  
Stationnement public
-  National Headquarters Complex for the Agriculture Portfolio  
Complexe de l'Administration centrale du portefeuille de l'agriculture







Susan Ross





Susan Ross





Susan Ross





Susan Ross





Susan Ross





Susan Ross





Sir John Carling Building Implosion Promo Video By Front Page Media Group





## Reevely: Toxins leaked into Dow's Lake from new hospital site, feds say

Author of the article:

**David Reevely**

Publishing date:

Dec 21, 2016 • December 21, 2016 • 3 minute read • Join the conversation

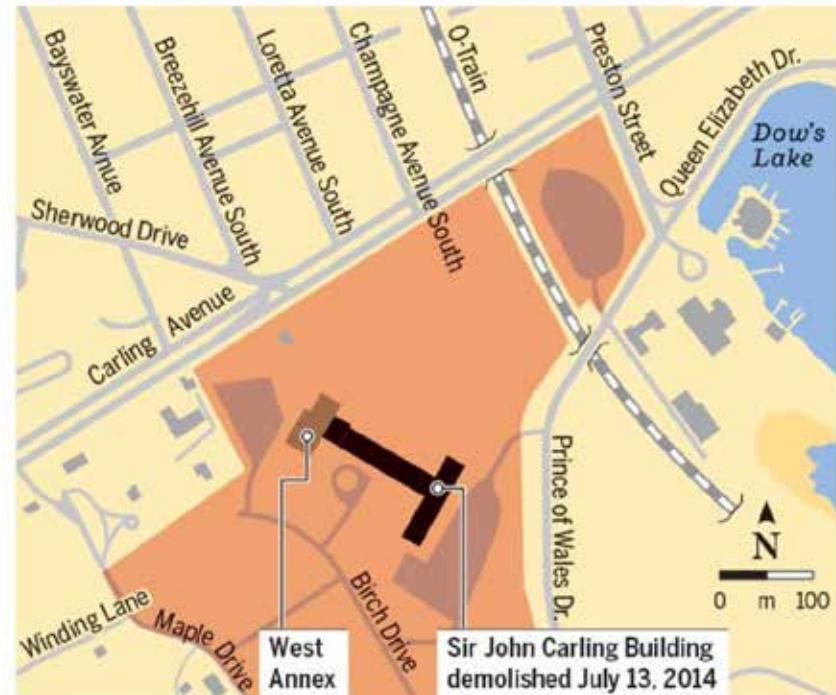


The Sir John Carling Building in mid-implosion in July 2014. The process left toxic chemicals in the former Agriculture Canada headquarters' filled-in basement.  
PHOTO BY DAVID KAWAI /Ottawa Citizen

## SIR JOHN CARLING BUILDING SITE CONTAMINATED

Poisonous chemical residue from the explosives used during the demolition of the Sir John Carling Building has seeped into the surrounding soil and into the property's storm-sewer system, which emptied into Dow's Lake. The storm sewer has since been cut off but the site of the building and surrounding property remain contaminated.

■ Future Civic campus



SOURCE: GOOGLE MAPS

DAVID REEVELY AND DENNIS LEUNG



Susan Ross





Susan Ross





Susan Ross

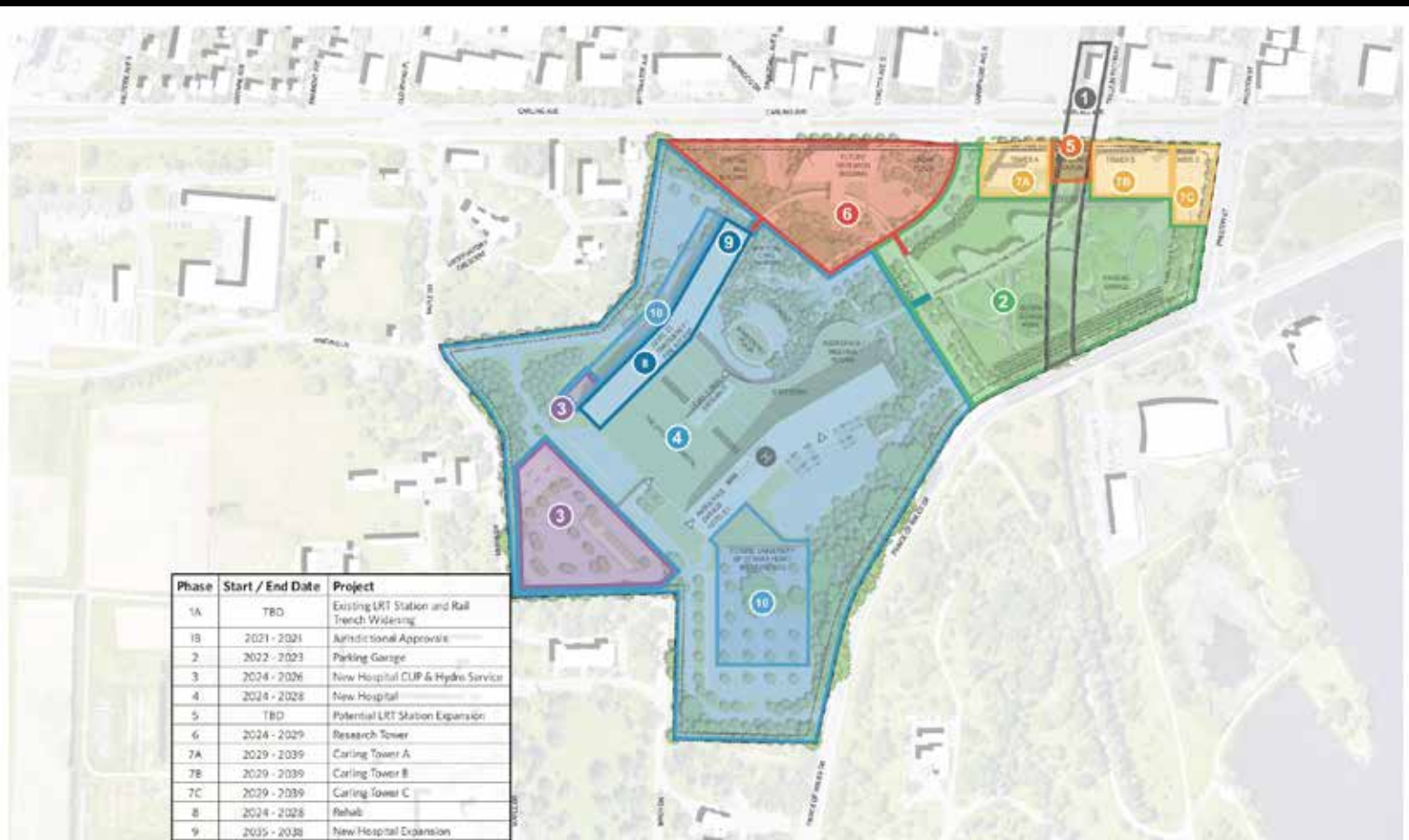




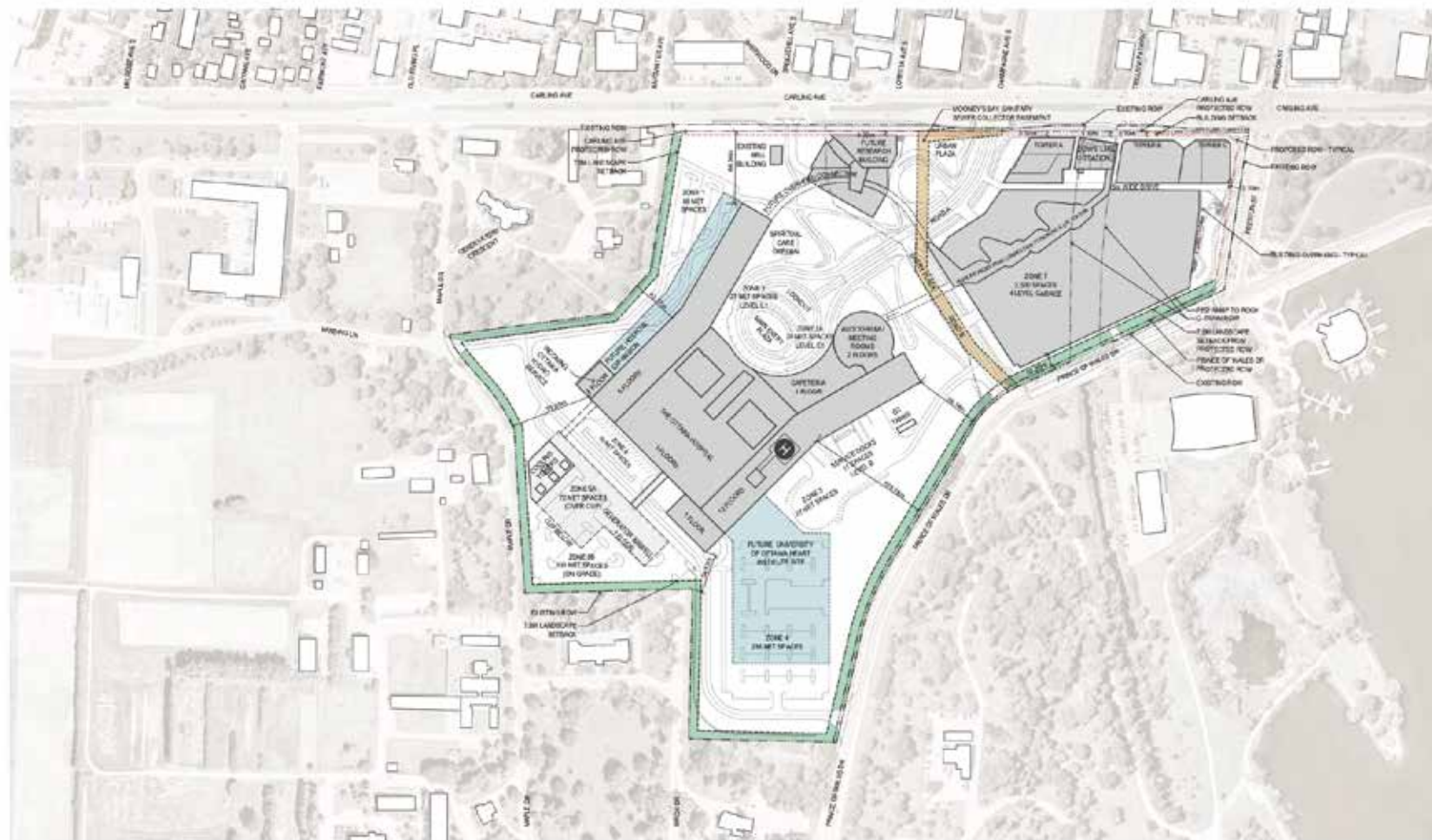
Pat McGrath / Ottawa Citizen

















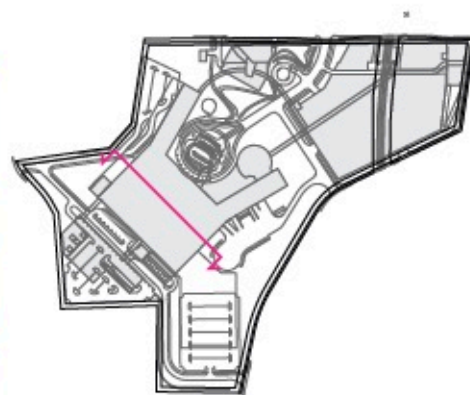
Canopy Cover Area Take-Offs	Square Metres	Percent of Total Site
Building Coverage	73,819 sm	35%
Open Space	132,193 sm	65%
Total Hospital Site Area*	203,012 sm**	100%
	Square Metres	Percent of Total Site Area
Tree Canopy Cover Target in 40 Years	61,000 sm	30%

\* Excluding City LRT ROW

\*\* Source: Annis, O'Sullivan, Vollebakk Ltd., October 1, 2020



SECTION THROUGH TOWERS AND CENTRAL PODIUM









<https://www.bruyere.org/>



Montreal – former Royal Victoria Hospital



Berlin – Urban Hospital





Susan Ross



What a sustainable site design can look like... when trees are protected (UBC CK Choi Building)



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NEWS



## CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL FARM'S MANAGEMENT PLAN SHOULD BE RESPECTED



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Teaching slides from CDNS 1101 S 2016



# A National Historic Site since 1997

- As a cultural landscape, the more than 400-hectare farm in the heart of the Nation's Capital reflects the 19th-century philosophy of agriculture and carefully integrates an administrative core and a range of other buildings with arboretum, ornamental gardens, display beds and experimental fields in a picturesque composition;
- since its establishment in 1886, the farm has made significant scientific contributions to agriculture in Canada by uniting scientific experimentation with practical verification, as exemplified by the development of the hardy strains of wheat that were so influential in expanding Western Canadian agriculture;
- a rare example of a farm within a city, the Central Experimental Farm has become a symbol of the central role agriculture has played in shaping the country. (Historic Places Statement of Significance)



## Top 10 Endangered Places

### Explore Past Listings

- National
- British Columbia
- Alberta
- Saskatchewan
- Manitoba
- Ontario**
- Quebec
- New Brunswick
- Nova Scotia
- Prince Edward Island
- Newfoundland and Labrador
- Territories

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## Central Experimental Farm

Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, ON – FEDS PLAY FAST AND LOOSE WITH A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

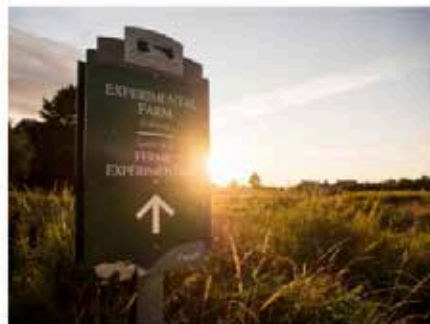


Photo by Andrew Power

### Why it matters

A rare example of a farm within a city, the Central Experimental Farm (CEF) was established in 1886 as an agricultural and scientific research centre. In recognition of its historical, cultural and scientific significance—and to protect it from encroachment and inappropriate development—it was designated a National Historic Site in 1998. The accompanying Management Plan and Commemorative Integrity Statement identify the national heritage value of the Farm in terms of its history, contributions to Canadian science and farming, overall design, research fields and historic landscape elements.

As a cultural landscape, the CEF is significant for its ongoing research on long-term climate change and soil integrity, its extensive contributions to agricultural research, and as a symbol of the central role agriculture has played in shaping Canada.

To this day, the Farm remains an open-air laboratory focused on long-term experiments in agriculture.

### Why it's endangered

On November 3, 2014, the federal government announced it would be severing 60 acres of the northwest corner of the Farm to be leased to the Ottawa Hospital for the development of a future hospital campus. This block of land represents close to 20% of the total useable crop research area on the Farm and will include fields that have been in continuous use for experimentation since 1886.

The severance runs contrary to the Management Plan, and was made without consulting the Central Experimental Farm Advisory Council, a body created to advise the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada on the implementation of the Management Plan and engage the public in the evolution of the Farm.



### Where things stand

The scientific and heritage communities have been actively advocating for a reversal of the decision to sever this nationally important scientific landscape, which will threaten the long-term vitality and health of the Farm as a cultural heritage landscape. Advocates include Heritage Ottawa, the Greenspace Alliance of



Photo by Joyce Lundrigan via Wikipedia Commons





## A Long-term Experiment - Effects of Tillage on Crops and Soil

### Why long-term experiments ?

This field is the site of one of the oldest experiments in North America to measure the effects of mechanical tillage on soil health and plant yield. It is the only experiment of its kind being conducted in our climate. Long-term field experiments are designed to measure and model the effect of farming practices on crop growth and soil properties. Soil is a living system, and the effects of tillage may take decades to show. We have been recording data at this site for more than 20 years.

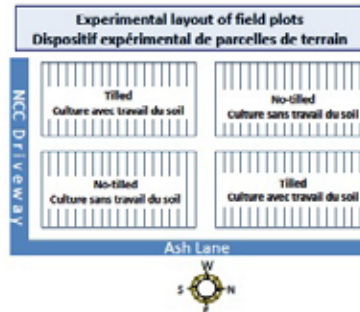
### What is Tillage?

- Tillage (ploughing or cultivating the soil) is used to control weeds, incorporate nutrients, and prepare the soil for planting seeds. No-till is a soil-conservation practice that eliminates ploughing.
- This experiment compares the effects of tillage and no-till on crop yield and soil health.
- Recommendations from this study will help farmers improve soil health, reduce the loss of crop nutrients, and increase their farm profit.

### Experimental design

This study compares conventional tillage (using moldboard ploughing) to no-till on corn, wheat, and soybean – crops commonly grown in this region. This field experiment contains 72 plots of each of these crops, grown in rotation under tillage or no-till. We have collected data on soil carbon, water infiltration, compaction, greenhouse gas emissions, crop yields, crop diseases, and fuel consumption.

Conventional-till	No-till
<b>Advantages</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suited for poorly drained soils</li> <li>Plant residue incorporated</li> <li>Well-prepared seedbed</li> <li>Earlier planting (soil warmer)</li> </ul>	<b>Advantages</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevents soil erosion</li> <li>Conserves soil moisture</li> <li>Reduces fuel and labour costs</li> <li>Builds soil structure</li> </ul>
<b>Disadvantages</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More soil erosion</li> <li>Reduced soil carbon reserves</li> <li>Higher fuel and labour costs</li> </ul>	<b>Disadvantages</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No incorporation of plant residue</li> <li>More weeds</li> <li>Increased use of herbicides</li> <li>Soil warms slowly in spring</li> </ul>



## Expérience à long terme - Effets du travail du sol sur les cultures et le sol



### Objectifs des expériences à long terme

Ce champ est l'un des sites expérimentaux les plus anciens en Amérique du Nord où l'on mesure les effets du travail du sol mécanique sur la santé du sol et le rendement culturel. C'est le seul endroit où l'on mène ce genre d'étude sous nos climats. L'expérience au champ à long terme consiste à mesurer et à modéliser les effets des pratiques agricoles sur la croissance des cultures et sur les propriétés du sol. Le sol étant un système vivant, les effets du travail du sol peuvent prendre des décennies à se manifester. Nous recueillons les données de ce site depuis plus de 20 ans.

### Qu'est-ce que le travail du sol?

- Le travail du sol (au moyen d'une charrue ou d'un cultivateur) sert à lutter contre les mauvaises herbes, à incorporer des éléments nutritifs et à préparer le sol pour l'ensemencement. La culture sans travail du sol est une pratique de conservation du sol sans labour.
- La présente expérience compare les effets de la culture avec travail du sol et de la culture sans travail du sol sur le rendement des cultures et la santé du sol.
- Les recommandations de la présente étude aideront les agriculteurs à améliorer la santé de leur sol, à réduire la perte d'éléments nutritifs et à accroître leurs revenus.

### Protocole expérimental

La présente expérience au champ compare la culture du maïs du blé et du soja — cultures couramment pratiquées dans la région — sous des régimes de travail du sol conventionnel (au moyen d'une charrue à socs et à versoirs) et sans travail du sol. L'étude comprend 72 parcelles de chacune de ces cultures, lesquelles sont cultivées en rotation, soit avec travail du sol, soit sans travail du sol. Nous recueillons des données sur le carbone du sol, l'infiltration d'eau, la compaction du sol, les émissions de gaz à effet de serre, les rendements culturels, les maladies des plantes et la consommation de carburant.

Travail du sol conventionnel	Sans travail du sol
<b>Avantages</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convient aux sols mal drainés</li> <li>Le chaume est enterré dans le sol</li> <li>Le lit de semence est bien préparé</li> <li>Plus tôt la plantation (plus chaud le sol)</li> </ul>	<b>Avantages</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prévient l'érosion du sol</li> <li>Conservent l'humidité du sol</li> <li>Moins les coûts de carburant et de main-d'œuvre</li> <li>Améliore la structure du sol</li> </ul>
<b>Désavantages</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plus d'érosion du sol</li> <li>Les réserves en carbone du sol sont réduites</li> <li>Plus grande utilisation de combustibles</li> <li>Moins et coûts de main-d'œuvre plus élevés</li> </ul>	<b>Désavantages</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Le chaume n'est pas enfoui dans le sol</li> <li>Les mauvaises herbes sont plus abondantes</li> <li>Utilisation accrue d'herbicides</li> <li>Réchauffement du sol plus lent au printemps</li> </ul>

# Discussion

Should the Central Experimental Farm – which is a unique landscape of national importance, and the location of multiple national institutions (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Canadian Museum of Agriculture, Dominion Arboretum, National Research Council, etc) – give up research fields to allow expansion of the Ottawa Hospital?

What are the options?