

5 Carleton University

There are two universities in Capital Ward, Saint Paul and Carleton. Saint Paul's, while being a significant landowner, fits into the fabric of Old Ottawa East. Carleton University with 18 000 students and 3000 staff occupying a peninsula of land is big enough and private enough to be considered a community unto itself.

Carleton has its own security services, paves its own roads, has its own development plan, and has impressive boundaries, which separate it from the nearby communities. The Experimental Farm and the Canal separate it completely from the communities to the west; to the east, Brewer Park separates it from Old Ottawa South; to the south it is separated by the Rideau River and Vincent Massey Park; and to the north the canal separates it again, this time from the Glebe.

Unlike l'Université d'Ottawa which directly connects at the street level with Sandy Hill, Carleton has no pedestrian or streetscape connections. Carleton's principal pedestrian connection is at Brewer Way and Bronson and pedestrians must cross Bronson Avenue, then the width of Brewer Park before arriving at the first street, Seneca, in Old Ottawa South. A student in a wheelchair was killed at this intersection three years ago. Safety improvements to the intersection have been made - white striping, a warning amber light for drivers, a longer activated signal - but what is required is a returning of this intersection to four lanes as it was prior to 1998 with tree planting and a gateway feature to clearly indicate to drivers that they are no longer on a limited access highway which is what the Airport Parkway is prior to Brewer Way and Bronson.

The light rail station and service at Carleton has already made a significant difference to both the culture and the manner in which students interface with the city. For the first time, students have an easy and quick access to South Keys and the residential areas south of the University. Many students have, for the first time, chosen to live and shop and work in the south end because of this convenient access. Students living in the west end now can connect to and from Carleton using the Transitway and the O-Train without going through the downtown.

As the O-Train expands to Gatineau, to the east and west ends, and further south to the airport, Carleton's O-Train station will increase in importance and utility bringing about physical changes to the campus as well as changes to the culture.