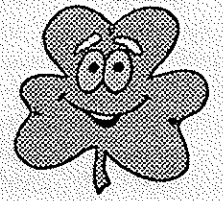




FALLINGBROOK Newsletter



Fallingbrook Community Association ~ Association communautaire de Fallingbrook

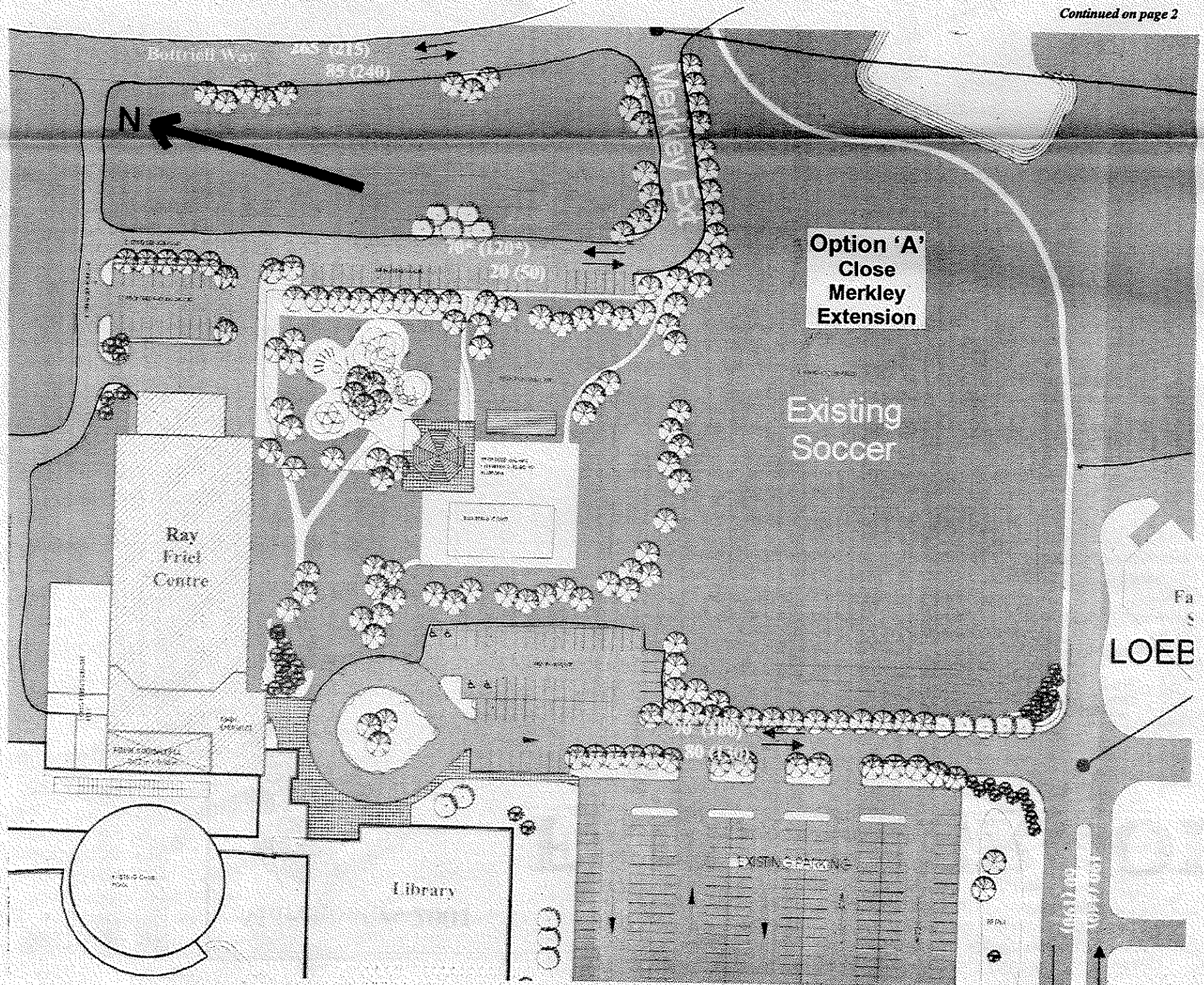
Cumberland Proposes: Close Merkley Extension

By David Villeneuve

In its final official meeting, Cumberland Council passed a motion recommending the closure of the Merkley Extension, the road running between the Merkley/Bottriell intersection and the Ray Friel Center parking lot. It is now up to the new City of Ottawa to decide whether to proceed with this proposal.

A traffic study by consultant Morrison-Hershfield, tabled on 11 December 2000, and examined traffic patterns on Merkley, the Merkley Extension, and the Ray Friel and Fallingbrook Shopping Center areas. This is one of several studies that have been done at the urging of several Merkley residents who feel that a lot of the traffic on Merkley is due to vehicles that are cutting through to go to the mall. Earlier studies had shown that less than 15% of vehicles on Merkley actually traveled the entire length; the majority of vehicles started or finished their trips at houses inside the Charlemagne/Bottriell area that is fed by Merkley. This percentage of cut-through traffic increased to 23% in a study conducted in January 2000. This amounts to one cut-through vehicle every three minutes.

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Merkley Extension: *from page 1*

Traffic studies were undertaken to measure the amount of traffic that traveled from Merkley to Tenth Line Road via the Merkley Extension. The highest rate corresponded to less than one vehicle every minute. The consultant noted that 60-70% of this cut-through traffic originated from the streets inside the Charlemagne/Bottriell area, namely those streets fed by Merkley.

Traffic speed on Merkley was monitored with an automatic unit for a week in 2000. The average speed was 50 km/hr. Half of the vehicles traveled at under the speed limit. A few vehicles were clocked at over 100 km/hr! Anecdotal information from police officers indicates that almost all of the speeders who have been ticketed live inside the Charlemagne/Bottriell area.

The consultant offered three options for modifying the Merkley extension into the Ray Friel site, as shown in the accompanying drawings. Option "A" would close the Merkley extension, so there would be no access between Bottriell and the Ray Friel Center or the Fallingbrook Mall. Traffic from streets feeding onto Merkley would then have to go from Merkley to Bottriell to Tenth Line Road.

Option "B" would close the existing Merkley extension, but would still permit access from Bottriell to the Ray Friel Center and Fallingbrook Mall via a new access road from Bottriell north of the Merkley/Bottriell intersection. The consultants felt that this was enough of a diversion as to discourage cut-through traffic from Merkley.

Option "C" would improve the Merkley extension and run it directly from Merkley/Bottriell to Tenth Line Road. This option is not likely to please the residents who live on Merkley.

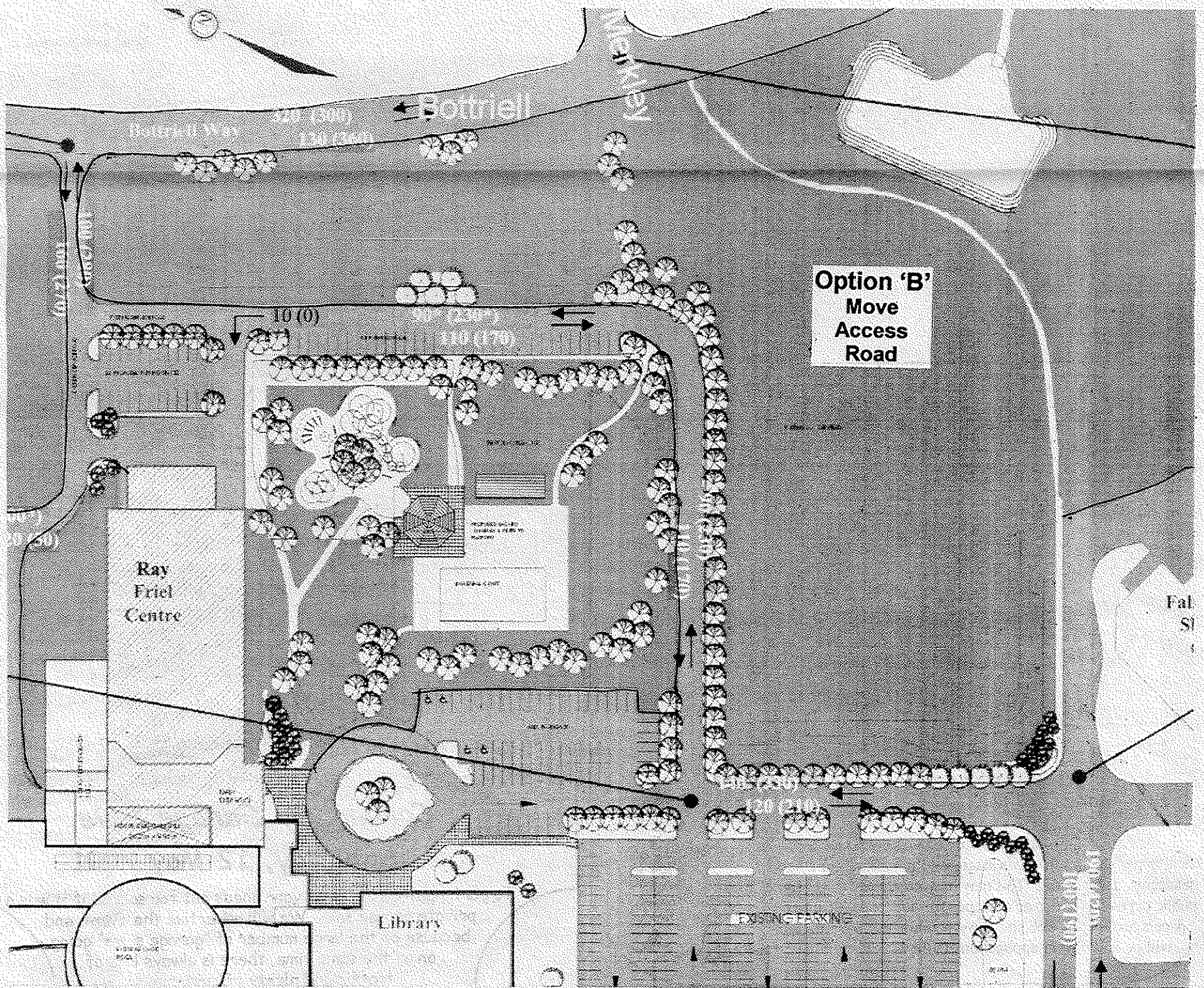
The consultant did not examine whether the remaining entrances to Ray Friel and the Fallingbrook Mall would be able to handle the additional traffic. Already there are major delays in turning left into the Ray Friel / Fallingbrook Mall access road from Tenth Line Road.

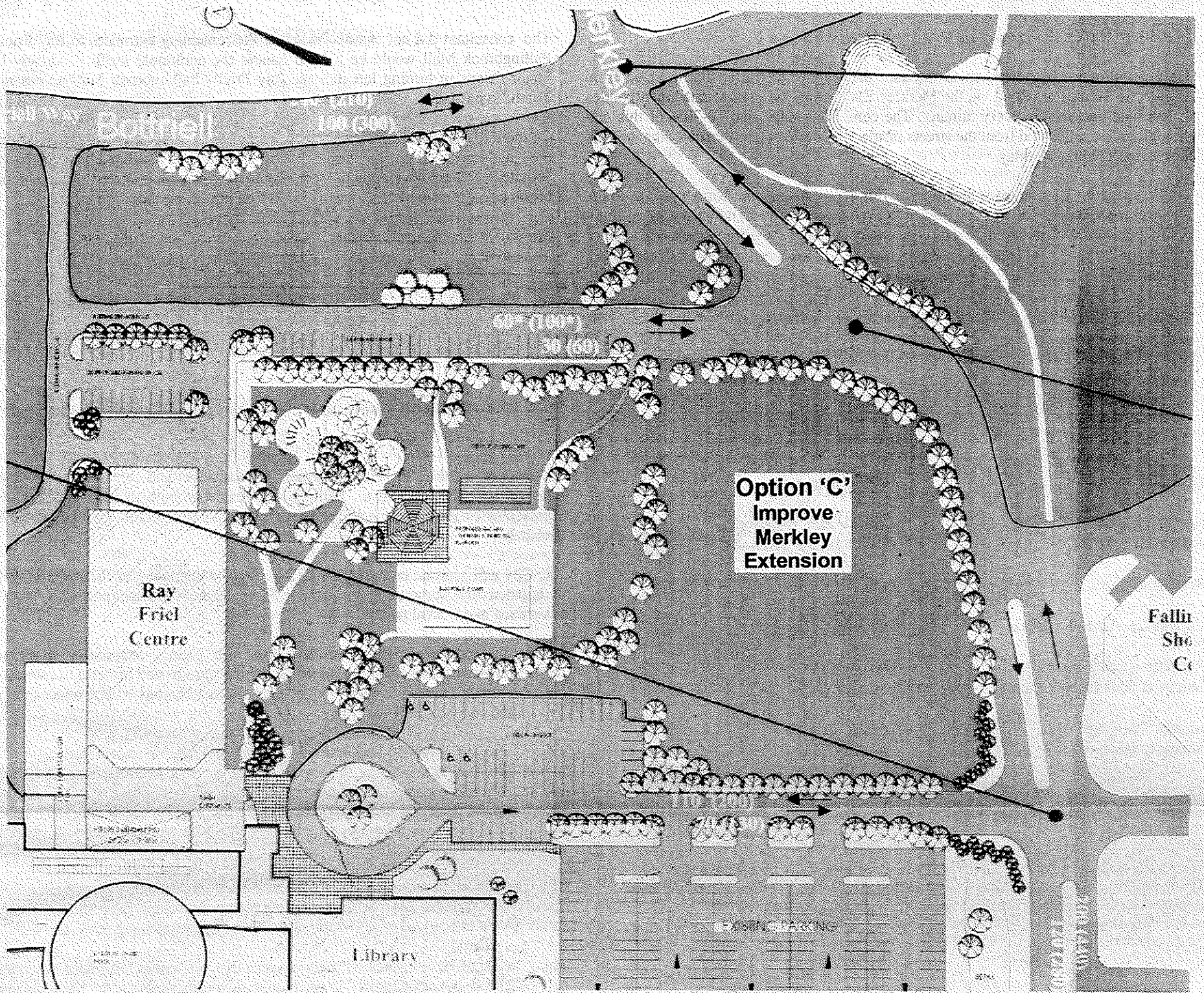
Councillor Herb Kreling stresses that none of these proposals will be acted upon until they are examined by the new City of Ottawa, and until public opinion has been solicited. Recent developments whereby the Province has agreed to assume only 50% of the city's transition costs may also have an impact on these proposals.

We would like to thank former Cumberland councillor Frank Dugal and new Ottawa councillor Phil McNeely for providing the reports and drawings.

Ray Friel Site To Get Splash Park?

A common theme in each of the Merkley Extension options is the addition of a splash park to the Ray Friel site. During its final year, the city of Cumberland engaged a firm to propose a design for the open field in front of the Ray Friel Center. The consultant proposed a "splash park", including 4 water cannons, 5 spray bollards, arches and sprays. It would not have any wading pools. The total cost is estimated at \$200,000. It is not clear if the new city of Ottawa is interested in implementing this plan. The concept plan also showed a possible basketball court, gazebo and bleachers.





CANADA DAY 2001

Planning has already started for this year's Canada Day celebration. You can expect to see many of the same fun attractions that we've had in the past, plus a few new additions. Everyone on the committee is crossing their fingers that this year will be rain free!

We can always use volunteers to help us out with planning for the day, as well as with the set-up and monitoring of activities on Canada Day. If you would like to help out with a few hours of your time, please call Brenda Spearman at 841-2050 and she will gladly add you to our list of volunteers!

First class celebrations right here at home!!!

Talent Search

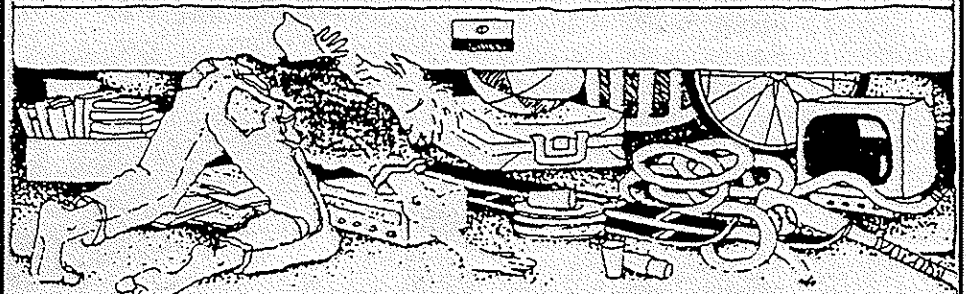
As part of Canada Day we are again seeking local talent to perform on the main stage. We're looking for singers, musicians, dancers, etc. This may be your chance to get some public exposure! Keep an eye open for notices in local newspapers and on our web site at www.fallingbrook.com. We will be looking for applications in the May timeframe.



Vente garage communautaire

Samedi, le 12 mai 2001

Pour participer, placez vos bric à brac devant votre maison, comme si vous faisiez une vente privée. Laissez-nous la tâche de faire les annonces publicitaires. Comme il y a toujours eu une grande participation à cet événement, notre 'vente' est devenue très populaire. Il y aura plusieurs acheteurs qui se promèneront durant toute la journée!



Community Garage Sale

Saturday, 12 May 2001

To participate, simply put your goods out for sale as if it was a private garage sale. We will advertise the event, and because of the large number of "garage sales" going on at the same time, there is always lots of traffic and plenty of customers!

**L'exécutif de l'Association communautaire
Fallingbrook pour l'année 2000-01**

**Fallingbrook Community Association
2000-01 Executive List**

L'Association communautaire Fallingbrook aimerait vous souhaiter la bienvenue dans notre communauté. Nous invitons toute personne intéressée à une de nos réunions. Les réunions ont habituellement lieu le troisième lundi du mois au centre Ray Friel.

The Fallingbrook Community Association would like to welcome you to the neighborhood. If you would like to attend one of our executive meetings, they are normally held the third Monday of the month at the Ray Friel Centre.

President/Président	Zybina Richards	837-7623
Vice President/Vice-Président	VACANT	
Past President/Ancien Président	Ron Hamelin	834-1760
Treasurer/Trésorier	Don Pottier	834-9650
Secretary/Secrétaire	Brenda Spearman	841-2050
Neighbourhood Watch/ Surveillance du quartier	Coordinator required. Coordinateur demandé.	
Rinks/Patinoires	Lynn Hamelin	834-1760
Canada Day/Fête du Canada	David Villeneuve	837-0336
Recreation and Badminton Club/ Loisirs et Club de badminton	George Blake	837-1695
Members at Large/ Membres général	Debbie Parent Paul Pelletier Marc Cappelli	830-5433 824-9992 834-6636
Newsletter/Bulletin communautaire	Don Pottier Jocelyne Holmes	834-9650 837-1691

The *Fallingbrook Newsletter* is published by the Fallingbrook Community Association. The newsletter is printed four times per year and is distributed free of charge to all households in the Fallingbrook neighborhood. Articles and letters submitted for inclusion in the *Fallingbrook Newsletter* reflect the opinion of the author, and not necessarily that of the Editors or of the Fallingbrook Community Association. The Editors reserve the right to edit or reject any articles or letters submitted for publishing.

Le bulletin de Fallingbrook est publié par l'Association communautaire de Fallingbrook. Ce bulletin est imprimé quatre fois par année et est distribué à chaque résidence de Fallingbrook. Les articles et lettres soumis ne reflètent nécessairement pas les opinions des rédacteurs ou de l'Association, mais plutôt l'opinion de l'auteur. Les rédacteurs se réservent le droit de corriger ou rejeter les articles et lettres soumis pour publication.

COUNCILLORS UPDATE



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On January 1, 2001, the eleven former municipalities and region were amalgamated into the new City of Ottawa. Fallingbrook residents north of Charlemagne/Valin are represented by Herb Kreling and residents in south Fallingbrook are represented by Phil McNeely.

The City will soon be embarking on the public consultations for the 2001 budget. It is anticipated that community meetings will be held in March and April and will be advertised in our local papers.

During the past two months we have met with various community, business, and recreation associations to obtain information on programs and projects of interest in our neighbourhood. Dialogue with residents and our associations will be ongoing to ensure that initiatives proceed.

OC Transpo is currently undertaking the annual Transplan consultations. A recent public information session at the Ray Friel Centre was well attended and comments focused on bus capacity and the park and ride lot. In order to accommodate the growing population and increased ridership we are seeking additional service from the transit company. We also hope to resolve the park and ride capacity problem by providing more parking area.

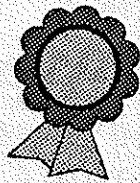
The Innes Road environmental assessment process is scheduled for completion within the next few months. During the upcoming budget process, it is our intention to secure funds for the design and construction of the Innes Road widening project.

Many residents have expressed their concern that we require an additional arena and sports fields in our community. In addition to the needs analysis that has been provided by the sports groups, the recreation department is also compiling an assessment of our facilities. We recognize that, as a growing community, the recreational infrastructure is every bit as important as other infrastructure demands.

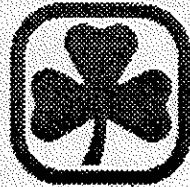
As always, your comments are welcomed. If we can be of assistance, please contact us.

**Fallingbrook
Volunteer Awards Night**

The Fallingbrook Volunteer Awards Night is scheduled for Saturday, April 21st. This is a special evening to show appreciation for the contributions of our many dedicated volunteers. If you know of someone who has made a truly dedicated contribution to our community, please submit their name for consideration for an award. For more information you can check out our web site at www.fallingbrook.com, or you can contact Paul Pelletier at 824-9992 or Zybina Richards at 837-7623. The deadline for nominations is March 31st.



DELICIOUS
Girl Guide Sandwich Cookies
On Sale April 21st!



Girl Guides
of Canada
Guides
du Canada

\$3 / box

**Fallingbrook Community
Association
Annual General Meeting**

Our Annual General Meeting will be held in May. Details on the date, time and location will be posted shortly on our web site at www.fallingbrook.com.

We need community-minded people to help fill key positions on the Association's Board of Directors. If you would like to discuss how you could make a contribution to your community, don't hesitate to contact Zybina Richards at 837-7623 or Don Pottier at 834-9650. We would really like to hear from you!