

# All Saints' Anglican Church (Sandy Hill)

317 Chapel Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7Z2  
(613) 234-1686

## **Building experts and community stakeholders suggest new vision for Sandy Hill landmark**

(Ottawa, November 12, 2011) — At the invitation of congregation members at All Saints Sandy Hill—located at the corner of Laurier and Chapel Streets—more than a dozen city planners, architects, heritage specialists and architecture students joined representatives of Sandy Hill and community organizations for a two-day “charrette” this weekend. The goal was to come up with alternative visions of future uses for the church building and its associated property. It has been met.

The dynamic ideas for property re-use and partnership add rich new ways All Saints might build its role as a vital hub, enriching our community and continuing our worship and ministry in Sandy Hill. “The ideas put forward by these experienced professionals will help church members to appreciate what is feasible as we continue to shape our congregation’s path into the future,” adds church spokesperson Dr. Vera Etches.

So why a charrette? The congregation has reached a tipping point. While there is no outstanding debt, millions of dollars of capital expenses will be required over the next 20 years to support the existing infrastructure. Donations from its 60 regular generous supporters, and rental fees from the organizations that fill and use the building every day of the week, ensure worship services continue and the building stays open, but they will not rewire the halls, repoint the windows or reshingle the roofs.

Charrette facilitator Jim Lynes said: “I never cease to be amazed at the creativity and wisdom that flows out of the charrette process. The mix of professionals and stakeholders always produces a fascinating result.”

All Saints’ congregation is keen to preserve the vital elements of its heritage building and to extend the community-oriented vision that has been its hallmark for its century in Sandy Hill. “This congregation has an unwavering commitment to the neighbourhood,” says the Reverend Rhondda MacKay. “Our effort to support the vulnerable, isolated and spiritual seekers is rooted in what happens in the streets, homes and offices around us. And this congregation has a long and impressive history of initiatives which make a significant contribution to the community—for example the inception of the women’s shelter, now Cornerstone supportive housing for women, and a hospice, now the Hospice at Maycourt and for more than 30 years, providing a home for Bettye Hyde Cooperative Nursery School. I can see openness in this congregation to new ventures that enrich the community and extend our mission—whether social, spiritual, or commercial—on this site. It does require an openness to change.”

The charrette report, coming in December, will assist the parish in weighing its options. All Saints’ is committed to an open, consultative process in charting its course forward.

Contact:

Dr. Vera Etches

Rector’s Warden of All Saints Sandy Hill Anglican Church

613-558-8372