



*How do residents feel about major events in our neighbourhoods?*

## **Our Say**

A Report on the Survey  
On Special Events on LeBreton Flats  
November 18-December 17, 2025

Mobility Committee  
Dalhousie Community Association

Report prepared March 31, 2026

## Areas for Action and the Strategies Citizens Recommend

### 1. Public Transit and Active Transportation

- Increase LRT frequency and keep stations fully operational during events
- Improve crowd control around LRT stations
- Bundle transit with event tickets and/or directly subsidize public transport.
- Expand park-and-ride options
- Promote walking and cycling – open the multi-use pathways at LeBreton Flats, and ensure safer pedestrian routes.
- Discourage driving in residential neighbourhoods.

### 2. Traffic, Parking and Resident Access

- Improve parking enforcement
- Implement a resident parking pass system
- Develop clearer traffic flow plans and provide better accommodations for delivery services and taxis.
- Provide access for residents, while restricting general access to residential streets.
- Stop crowd control measures that result in the “kettling” of local residents.  
(Kettling: “confinement by police of a group of demonstrators or protesters in a small area, as a method of crowd control.” Oxford)

### 3. Communication and Advance Notice

- Provide more advance notice of road closures, security measures and traffic changes.
- Provide advance notice of rehearsals and set-up periods. (Canada Day celebrations in 2025 were set up and rehearsed ten days *before* July 1.)
- Event organizers: Consult with residents!

### 4. Noise Management

- Enforce decibel limits consistently
- Orient speakers *away* from residential areas
- Limit rehearsal periods and event hours
- Close events earlier in the evening
- Reduce the frequency or clustering of successive events.
- Relocate some events away from established residential areas.

### 5. Sanitation and Clean-up

- Focus on the residential areas adjacent LeBreton Flats.
- Increase the number of public toilets
- Provide more garbage and recycling bins
- Patrol surrounding streets for litter during and after events
- Improve post-event cleanup in adjacent neighbourhoods
- Address public urination and waste issues.

## Table of Contents

Areas for Action and the Strategies Citizens Recommend .....	1
Introduction and Key Findings .....	5
Response to the Survey .....	7
Survey Methodology .....	7
Limitations to the Survey.....	8
Survey Results .....	9
Responses to question 1: “Where do you live?.....	6
Responses to question 2: “How did you hear about the plan to manage traffic on Canada Day and Bluesfest?” .....	7
Responses to question 3: “How would you rate the overall management of special events on LeBreton Flats?” .....	8
Responses to question 4: “How would you rate the overall management of special events at LeBreton Flats in 2025 compared to previous years?” .....	9
Responses to question 5: “How satisfied are you with the city’s response to concerns regarding special events at LeBreton Flats?” .....	10
Responses to question 6: “What were the most important issues during Canada Day and Bluesfest?” .....	11
Responses to question 7: “Are you aware of Ottawa’s Special Events By-law? If so, does it have a role to play in managing events on LeBreton Flats?”.....	12
Responses to question 8: “Do you have suggestions for improvements for future events at LeBreton Flats? If so, what are they?” .....	13
Responses to question 9: “Do you feel you are informed about the proposal to create a major events centre (aka the Sens arena) on LeBreton Flats, and, in particular, its potential impact on traffic in our neighbourhoods? .....	14
Responses to question 10: “What role could the Dalhousie Community Association play in improving special events management on LeBreton Flats?” .....	15
Discussion .....	15
General Analysis .....	17
Conclusions and Recommendations for the DCA .....	18
Appendix 1 – Survey questions and their possible responses.....	19
Appendix 2 – All Responses (unedited) to question 8: “Do you have suggestions for improvements for future events at LeBreton Flats? If so, what are they?” .....	21
Appendix 3 – An AI Summary of Responses to question 8.....	28
Appendix 4 – All Responses (unedited) to question 10: “What role could the Dalhousie Community Association play in improving special events management at LeBreton Flats?” .....	32
Appendix 5 – An AI Summary of Responses to question 10.....	35

## Introduction

In November and December of 2025, the Dalhousie Community Association (DCA) undertook a survey of residents in its catchment area – Little Italy, Chinatown and LeBreton Flats – to ask for opinions on special events management at LeBreton Flats.

Over the years, the DCA has heard a great deal from local residents about the disruption caused by Canada Day celebrations, Ottawa Bluesfest, and other festivals and concerts staged at LeBreton Flats Park.

This survey was conducted to measure public understanding and awareness of the management of special events on LeBreton Flats, to identify the most important issues for residents, and, to learn from residents about how to respond to these issues.

The survey was also undertaken as a tool for DCA advocacy for improvements to special event management on LeBreton Flats, including for the new special events centre (where the Ottawa Senators will play in a new 16,000 seat arena) and entertainment district which will be developed on LeBreton Flats over the next decade.

This advocacy will be directed toward the many agencies involved in event management on LeBreton Flats, including those of the City of Ottawa (Ottawa Police Services, OC Transpo), federal government, the National Capital Commission, and promoters of events like Ottawa Bluesfest, the Nostalgia Music Festival and the Latin Sparks Festival

---

## Key Findings:

- ◆ Overall management of special events on LeBreton Flats is rated by most residents as “average,” and by many as “good” or “excellent.” Twenty-two per cent of respondents felt that management had improved in 2025. However, a significant minority of respondents felt they were not well informed.
- ◆ Information about special events on LeBreton Flats is lacking and what information is available is fragmented. When respondents felt they were informed about special events, they were more satisfied with the management of these special events
- ◆ Primary issues may be categorized either as related to mobility, or to public safety, including public health issues such as sanitation and waste collection.
- ◆ A major event centre entertainment district, and thousands more residents are coming to LeBreton Flats. The need for a special event management strategy that includes local residents, is urgent.
- ◆ A significant number of respondents see a role for the DCA in special events management on LeBreton Flats, largely as an advocate for the community.

## **Response to the Survey**

A total of 116 completed surveys were submitted by local residents with 84 surveys completed in full (all questions answered) and 32 surveys partially completed (only some questions answered). The majority of respondents to the survey (72 per cent) identified as living between Somerset Street west and Albert Street, or on Lebreton Flats.

Satisfaction levels with special events management varied, with many respondents rating event management as “Average” or “About the same” as previous years. Dissatisfaction was common among those closest to the principal event site, Lebreton Flats Park, at Booth and Wellington Streets. These residents pointed to blocked access to their residences, noise, and lack of communication about event management.

Key issues identified across neighbourhoods included parking congestion, traffic disruptions, excessive noise, garbage accumulation, inadequate public toilets, and poor crowd control. These concerns were especially acute among residents on the Flats.

Suggestions for improvements to special events management included better transit options, stricter parking enforcement, more public amenities, and greater consideration for residents’ quality of life during these events.

Awareness of Ottawa’s Special Event By-law was low, though many who were aware of the by-law believed it could play a major role in improving event management.

Most respondents felt uninformed about the proposed Ottawa Senators arena and its potential impact on traffic and livability in the area.

Expectations for the DCA were consistent among respondents who expressed concrete views on the subject. Residents want the DCA to advocate on their behalf for improved communication, and to ensure that local voices are heard in planning and decision-making.

## **Survey Methodology**

In October of 2025, a 10-question survey was created using a free version of the online survey software [Logicform](https://app.logicform.io/) (<https://app.logicform.io/>). Other software was considered, for the survey, such as Survey Monkey, but Logicform provides at no cost the capacity to collect both quantitative and qualitative data. It also offers analytical tools using artificial intelligence.

Survey questions were developed by the DCA’s Mobility Committee, who administered the survey. The survey was launched on November 18, 2025. The committee stopped accepting responses on December 19, 2025.

The survey was promoted primarily through the membership list of the Dalhousie Community Association, and on the DCA’s website, [ottawadalhousie.ca](http://ottawadalhousie.ca).

No demographic information was collected apart from requesting the general location of the respondent’s residence (question 1).

The questions and potential answers are presented in Appendix 1. There were two long-form questions (questions 8 and 10) and the answers to these are presented in Appendix 2 and 3., respectively. Respondents were required to answer multiple choice questions (questions 1-7 and question 9) in order to be considered having completed the survey, but not the long-form questions (questions 8 and 10). For the multiple-choice questions, the responses were cross-referenced with the information provided by each respondent to question 1, which asked in which of four sections in the DCA’s catchment area they lived.

### **Limitations of the survey**

The members of the DCA's Mobility Committee had little experience in the administration of surveys, and as the survey results were analyzed, a number of weaknesses became apparent. These included the formulation of the questions themselves, and the options for responses that were provided for each question. The questions could have been more direct, and the options for responses more consistent, from question to question. Some potentially useful questions, such as "Are you a member of the DCA?" were not asked.

Another limitation was the promotion of the survey. A proposal to publicize the survey more broadly throughout the DCA's catchment area, largely through postering, was not acted on. No consideration was given to administering the survey by other means, such as by telephone. With no budget for the survey, there was no paid advertising to solicit responses.

Despite the limited promotion, the reaction to the release of the survey was immediate and substantial – most of the completed surveys were received within the first few days of its release – and the number of completed surveys has been sufficient to give us confidence in its representativeness.

### **Survey Results**

The responses to each of the ten survey questions are provided in the following pages. For the quantitative questions, the results are shown in the form of a chart, with additional observations noted in point form.

The results of cross-referencing the responses to question 1 with each of questions 2-7 and 9 are also provided in point form.

## Responses to question 1: "Where do you live?"

Total responses: 116.

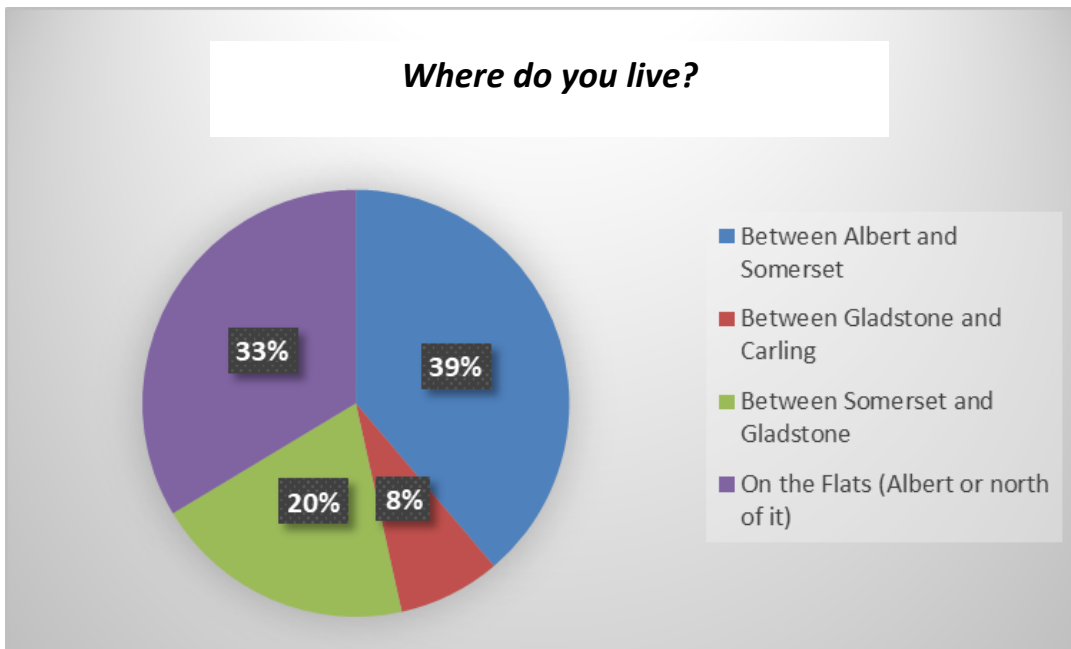


Figure 1

The Dalhousie Community Association catchment area lies generally between the Ottawa River to the north, and Carling Avenue to the south. On the east it is defined by Bronson Avenue, and on the west by the O-Train Line 2.

For the survey, this area was viewed in four sections: residents on LeBreton Flats north of Albert Street, residents situated between Albert Street south to Somerset Street West, residents between Somerset Street West and Gladstone Avenue, and residents between Gladstone Street and Carling Avenue.

- The vast majority of respondents (72%) reside north of Somerset Street, closest to LeBreton Flats Park, the festival site. (Figure 1).
- The largest single group of respondents (39%) live between Somerset and Albert streets.
- Responses were fewer the farther respondents lived from LeBreton Flats Park.
- The large number of responses from people who live on LeBreton Flats was not expected, because they are not strongly represented within the DCA membership. It is like that the survey was shared through existing social networks, such as those associated with the condominium corporations.
- Residents living between Albert and Somerset streets have been the most vocal in raising their concerns about special events on LeBreton Flats, and this is reflected in their responsiveness to the survey.

**Responses to question 2: “How did you hear about the plan to manage traffic on Canada Day and Bluesfest?”**

Total responses: 84

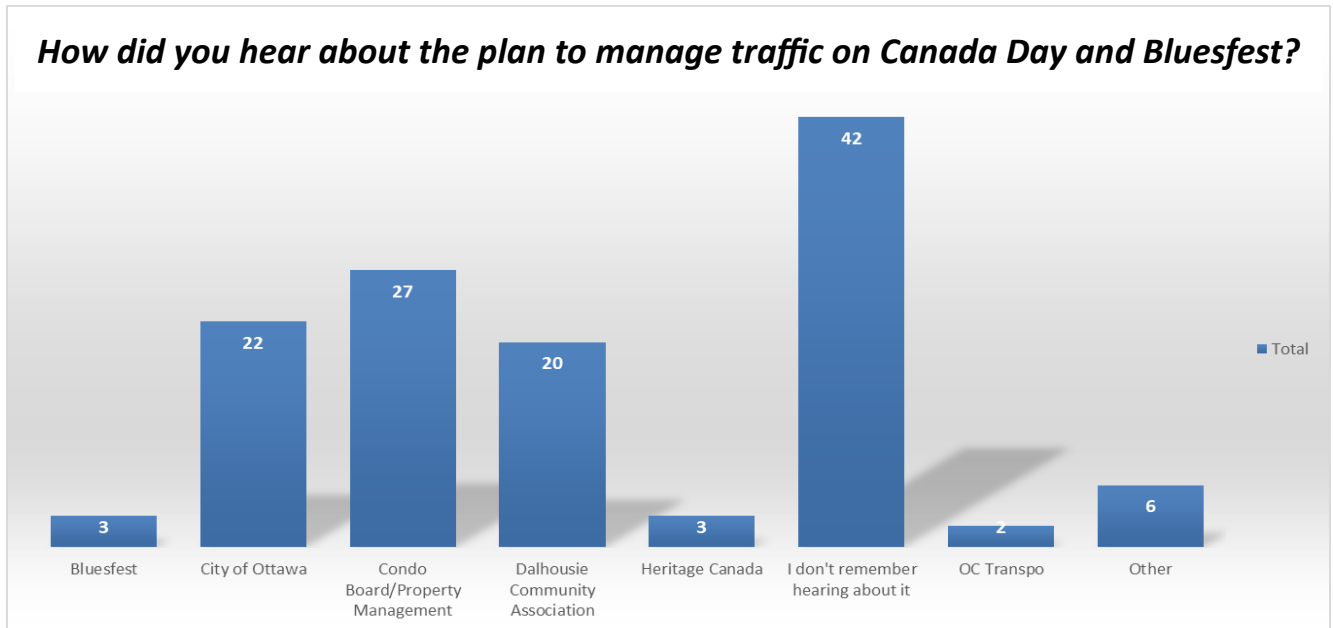


Figure 2

Eighty-four residents completed this question in the survey, which allowed multiple responses. Figure 2 presents the totals for the number of times an information source was selected. “Other” includes the Ottawa Citizen and the CBC as sources, as well as word-of-mouth and social media.

Since Canada Day celebrations were relocated from Parliament Hill to LeBreton Flats Park on July 1, 2022, the federal Department of Canadian Heritage has been the principal public agency managing crowd control and traffic during the festival, and the primary [source of information](#) about street closures, and how to come and go from the festival. Measures taken during Canada Day are extended into the following week when Ottawa Bluesfest takes over LeBreton Flats Park

- Half the respondents – 42 of 84 – selected “I don’t remember hearing about it” in response to this question.
- Heritage Canada distributes information to residents on LeBreton Flats through the three condo corporations who operate there. In 2025, for the first time, information was provided to residents living south of Albert Street, through the DCA.
- The City of Ottawa was selected by 22 per cent of respondents as their source of information about the plan to manage traffic during the festivals.

**Responses to question 3: “How would you rate the overall management of special events on LeBreton Flats?”**

Total responses: 108

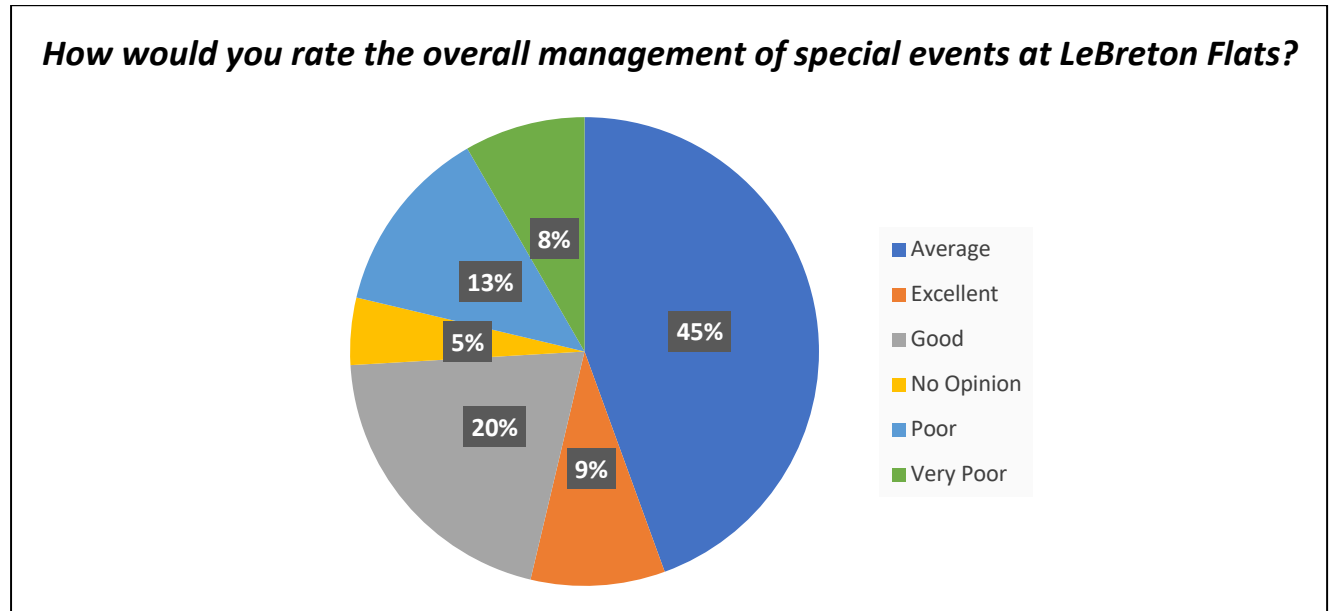


Figure 3

- Forty-five per cent of respondents rated the management of special events as “Average,” while another nine per cent rated it “Excellent” and 20 per cent as “Good.” (Total: 74 per cent)
- Twenty-one per cent of respondents rated special event management on LeBreton Flats as “Poor” or “Very Poor.”
- Negative responses (22) came largely from residents who live near LeBreton Flats Park, either on LeBreton Flats (8) or between Albert and Somerset streets (9). (17 of 22 responses, or 77 per cent)
- Nevertheless, the majority of respondents in both these sections rated the management as “Average” (43 per cent), “Good” (18 per cent), or “Excellent” (11 per cent).

**Responses to question 4: “How would you rate the overall management of special events at LeBreton Flats in 2025 compared to previous years?”**

Total responses: 107

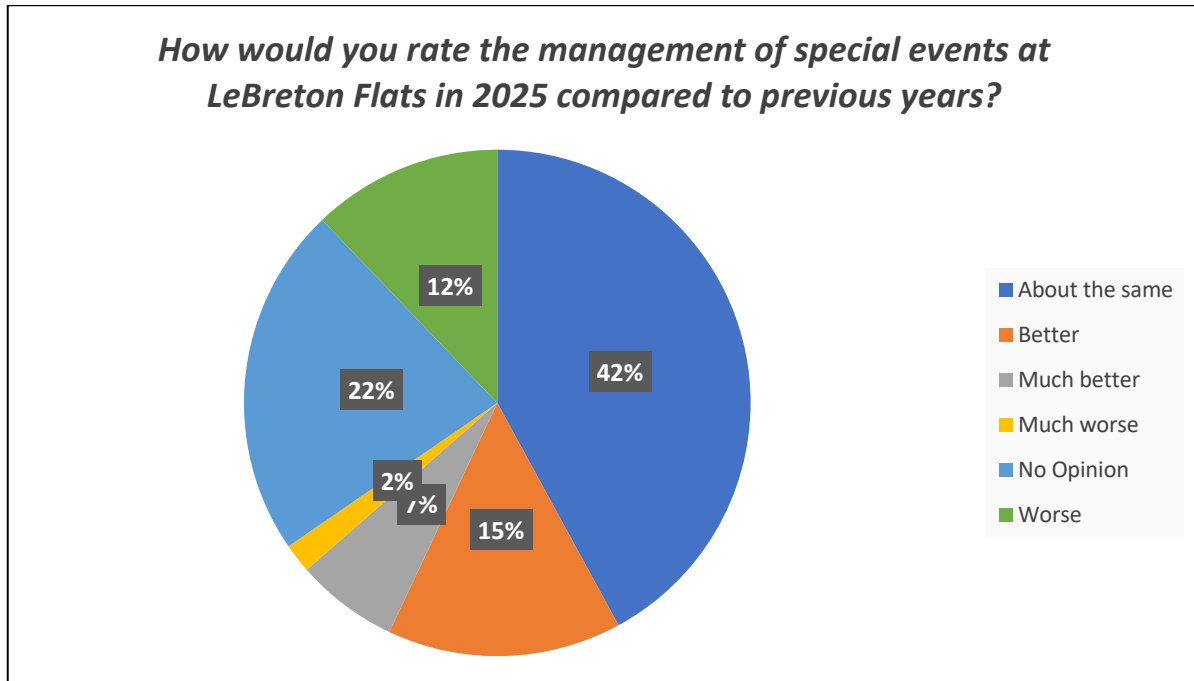


Figure 4

- Twenty-two per cent of respondents saw improvements in the management of special events in 2025, rating it “Better” (15 per cent) or “Much better” (seven per cent).
- Fourteen per cent rated management in 2025 as worse than in previous years.
- Most of the respondents to this question lived on or adjacent LeBreton Flats (72 per cent); 25 per cent of this group rated management as “Better” or “Much better” and 18 per cent “Worse” or “Much worse.”
- The large number who rated the overall management of special events as “Average” in their response to question 3 (45 per cent) carries over in the number of “About the same” responses to this question (42 per cent). This proportion of these “About the same” responses was similar in each of the four sections in which respondents lived.

**Responses to question 5: “How satisfied are you with the city’s response to concerns regarding special events at LeBreton Flats?”**

Total responses: 100

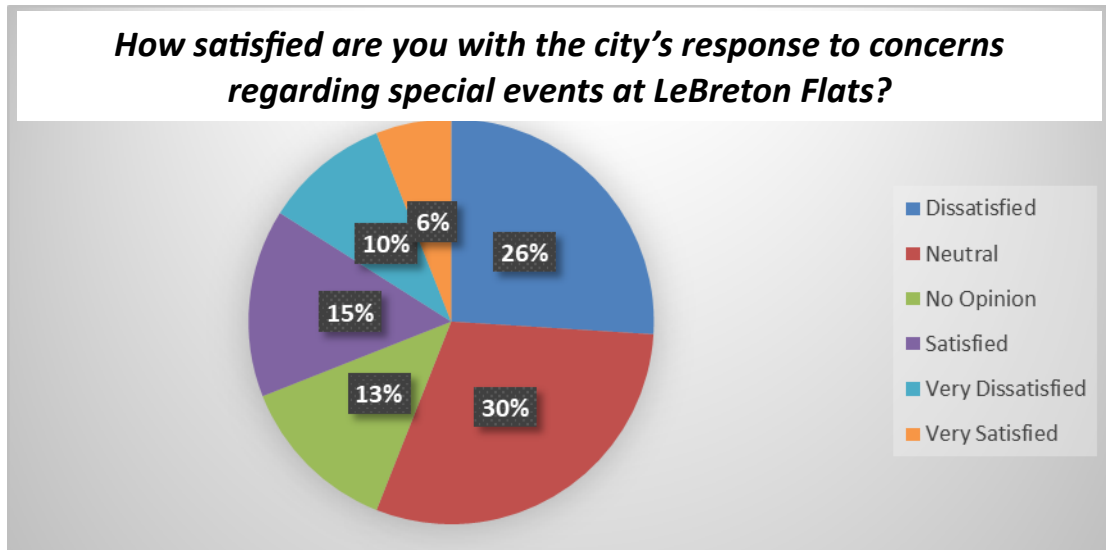


Figure 5

- Forty-three per cent of respondents were neutral or had no opinion when asked about the city’s response to residents’ concerns.
- However, more than a third (36 per cent) indicated they were “Dissatisfied” or “Very Dissatisfied” with the city’s response.
- Twenty-one per cent of respondents replied positively (“Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied”).
- Most of the responses to this question (73 per cent) were received from residents who live on LeBreton Flats (35 per cent) or between Albert and Somerset (38 per cent).
- The dissatisfaction rate was 37 per cent in these two sections.

## Responses to question 6: “What were the most important issues during Canada Day and Bluesfest?”

Total responses: 101

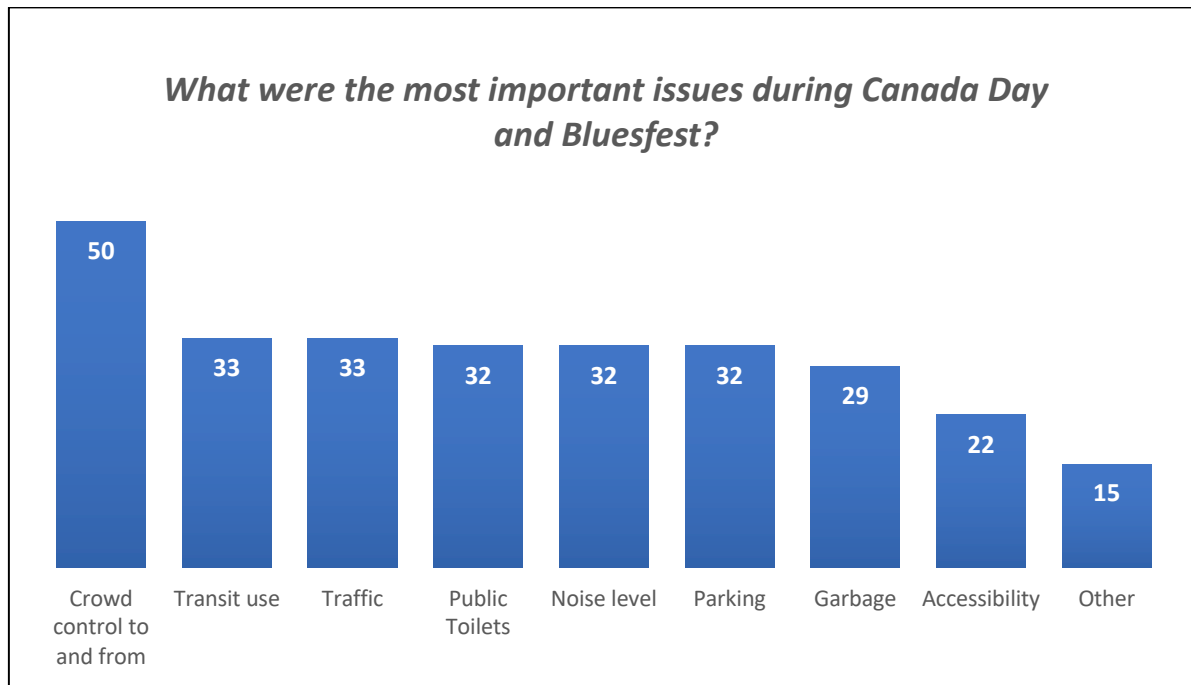


Figure 6

- Many of the respondents to this question identified multiple “important issues,” which are charted in Figure 6.
- The most important issue rated was “Crowd control,” as people moved to and from LeBreton Flats Park; 80 per cent of those who identified this as an important issue lived on LeBreton Flats or between Albert and Somerset streets.
- Respondents who lived between Albert and Somerset streets (46 respondents, or 39 per cent of the total respondents) selected 110 “important issues”: the three selected most frequently were “Crowd control” (18), “Parking” (17), and “Garbage” (15).
- For residents on LeBreton Flats, “Traffic” was selected most frequently (16) after “Crowd control” (18). “Noise” was the next most important issue selected by respondents in this section (12).
- Other notable issues by section were “Accessibility” both on LeBreton Flats and between Albert and Somerset (“accessibility” in this context refers to a resident’s access to their home), and “Public Toilets,” an issue selected by a percentage of respondents in each area that increased according to the distance from LeBreton Flats Park.
- The responses marked “Other” included eight responses related to access issues, either to their homes or to the festival site. Two responses criticized the security around Lett Street for not enforcing access. One response specifically identified public urination as an issue, another identified public drug use.

**Responses to question 7: “Are you aware of Ottawa’s Special Events By-law? If so, does it have a role to play in managing events on LeBreton Flats?”**

Total responses: 98

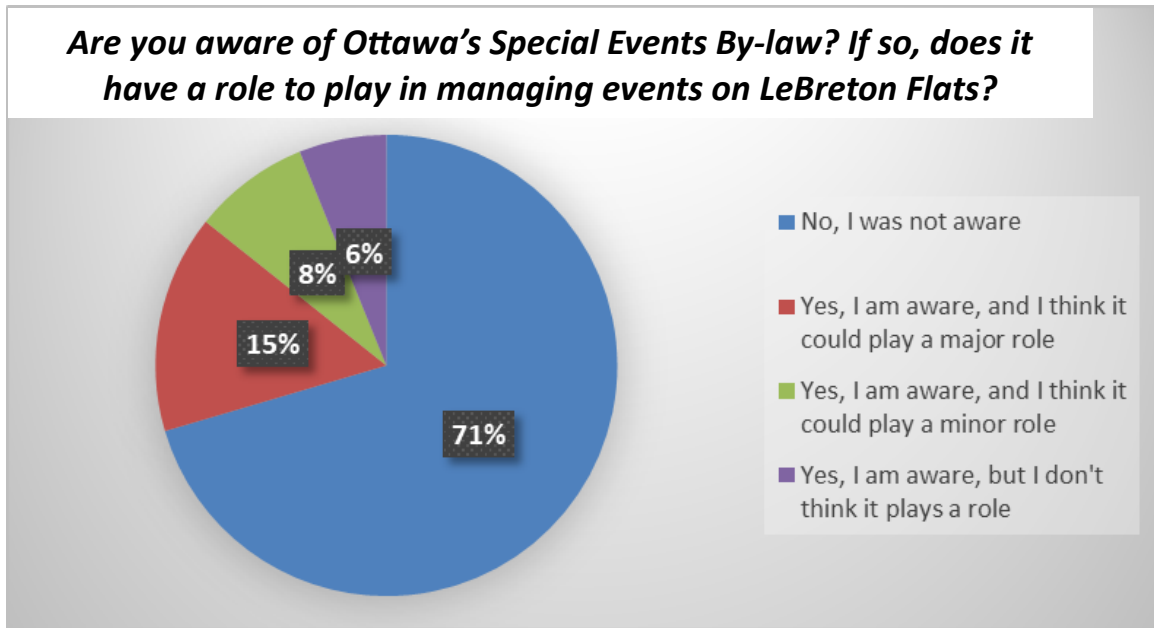


Figure 7

On May 28, 2025, Ottawa City Council [approved](#) two new special events by-laws, which came into force January 2, 2026.

- Awareness of the new special events bylaw was low, with 71 per cent of respondents selecting the response “No, I was not aware.”
- However, of those who were aware of the new by-laws (29 of 98 who responded to this question), the majority (79 per cent) believed that the by-laws do have a role to play in managing events at LeBreton Flats.
- Awareness of the by-laws was greatest among residents living between Albert and Somerset streets (35 per cent).

## **Responses to question 8: “Do you have suggestions for improvements for future events at LeBreton Flats? If so, what are they?”**

Total responses: 102

This was the first of two qualitative, or long-form questions included in the survey. Respondents were asked to make their suggestions without prompts or multiple-choice options. All responses have been collected in Appendix 2. Using an AI tool provided with the survey software, a summary of the long-form responses was prepared. This summary is included here as Appendix 3.

Responses indicated that residents broadly support events at LeBreton Flats but are seeking better transit integration, clearer communication, stronger noise and traffic management, improved sanitation, and guaranteed neighbourhood accessibility during major events. Many respondents felt the impacts of special events are tolerable because they occur infrequently and some noted that organizers have made improvements in recent years.

1. Public Transit and Active Transportation: Suggestions included increasing LRT frequency and keeping stations fully operational during events, improving crowd control around stations, and bundling transit with event tickets or directly subsidizing public transport. Other transportation suggestions included expanding park-and-ride options, promoting walking and cycling by keeping the multi-use pathways open at LeBreton Flats, and ensuring safer pedestrian routes. Measures to discourage driving in residential neighbourhoods were also suggested.

2. Traffic, Parking and Resident Access: Some respondents reported being blocked in or unable to access their homes. Suggestions included improving parking enforcement, implementing a resident parking pass system, developing clearer traffic flow plans and providing better accommodations for delivery services and taxis. Some responses suggested clearing access routes for residents, while others suggested restricting access to residential streets. The term “kettling” was used by one respondent to describe crowd control.

3. Communication and Advance Notice: Some respondents requested more advance notice of road closures, security measures and traffic changes. Others requested advance notice of rehearsals and set-up. (Canada Day celebrations in 2025 were set up and rehearsed ten days before Canada Day.) Direct consultation with residents by event organizers was also suggested.

4. Noise Management: “Noise”, particularly from music festivals, was widely cited as an area for improvement. Suggestions include enforcing decibel limits consistently, orienting speakers away from residential areas, limiting rehearsal periods and event hours, closing events earlier in the evening, and reducing the frequency or clustering of successive events. There were also requests to consider the relocation of certain events away from established residential areas.

5. Sanitation and Clean-up: Sanitation and clean-up responses were focused on residential areas. Respondents requested improvements to reduce neighbourhood impacts. These included increasing the number of public toilets, adding more garbage and recycling bins, patrolling surrounding streets for litter during and after events, improving post-event cleanup in adjacent neighbourhoods, and addressing public urination and waste issues.

6. Other: In addition to these themes, there were responses concerning safety and security, with requests for increased police presence and requirements to fund private security for adjacent buildings. Some suggestions also concerned site design and changing locations.

Responses to question 9: “Do you feel you are informed about the proposal to create a major events centre (aka the Sens arena) on LeBreton Flats, and, in particular, its potential impact on traffic in our neighbourhoods?”

Total responses: 93

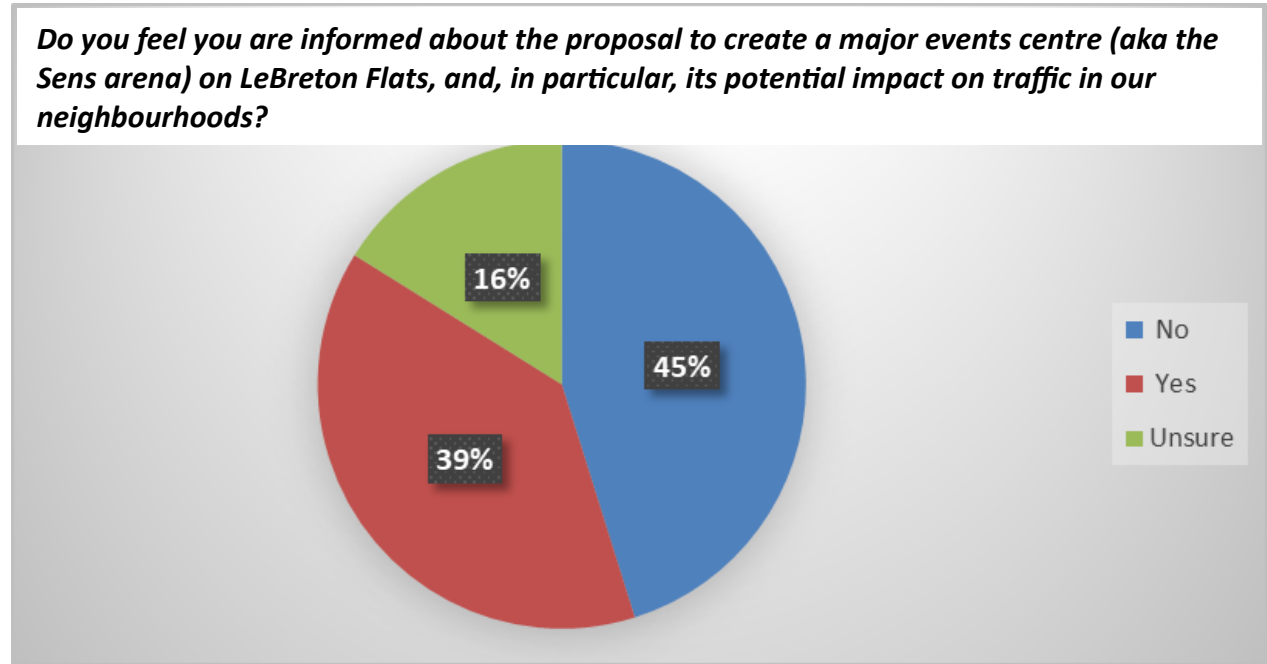


Figure 8

The major events centre on LeBreton Flats is planning 200 “event nights” per year. It’s expected to open in 2033.

- Thirty-nine per cent of respondents felt they were informed about the proposal for a major events centre on LeBreton Flats, and its potential impact on traffic.
- Fifty-five per cent of respondents did not feel well informed or were unsure about the proposal for the special events centre and its impact on traffic.
- Those who felt the best informed live on LeBreton Flats (53 per cent of respondents in this area).
- Among those who felt they were not informed, the largest group, as a percentage of the total of the respondents in their area, live between Albert and Somerset streets (42 per cent).

## **Responses to question 10: “What role could the Dalhousie Community Association play in improving special events management on LeBreton Flats?”**

Fifty long-form (qualitative) responses were received to this question, as fewer than half the total respondents completed this section of the survey. However, these responses provide some of the most valuable information from the survey, because of what these responses tell us about the perception of the DCA and its role in the community. (All fifty responses are included here in Appendix 5.)

Twenty per cent of respondents (10) weren't sure about the DCA's role in general, as a community association. This suggests the DCA needs to do a better job at communicating its work.

For those who identified a role for the community association in special events management on LeBreton Flats, their responses can be broadly summarized under four themes:

### **1) advocacy and representation**

Suggestions for DCA advocacy included requests to represent resident concerns to the ward councillor, event organizers, city staff, implicated federal departments, and law enforcement agencies. There were also requests for the DCA to attend planning meetings for future infrastructure development in the community.

Many respondents included specific issues that they believe should be the focus of DCA advocacy.

### **2) communication and information sharing,**

It was suggested that the DCA provide updates on road closures, access restrictions, and transit changes. The use of further surveys was also encouraged.

### **3) community engagement**

Community engagement suggestions were similar, including facilitating participation in planning processes and direct consultation with residents.

### **4) coordination and liaison.**

Lastly, for coordination, it was suggested the DCA could be the local point of contact for concerns, being a liaison with event organizers, and supporting coordination of transportation and clean-up solutions.

## **Discussion**

Fifty long-form (qualitative) responses were received to this question, as fewer than half the total respondents completed this section of the survey. However, these responses provide some of the most valuable information from the survey, because of what these responses tell us about their perception of the Dalhousie Community Association and its role in the community. (All fifty responses are included here in Appendix 5.)

Respondents saw a potential role for the DCA in helping to improve special events management, and perhaps with respect to a broad variety of municipal decisions. Comments on this point included: “Be a local point of contact for residents with concerns”; “Keep a finger on the pulse of whatever is brewing and have a strong voice in supporting the views of residents”; “Take a leadership role engaging neighbors and advocating for us”; “Should be at the table at each discussion and perspectives and needs of the local community should be prioritized.” One respondent thought the DCA should have the ability to say no, while another made the point that the DCA shouldn't oppose everything.

Some respondents expressed skepticism about the DCA's ability to make a difference at the municipal level: “I don't think the city cares what residents think about anything”; “Vote for a smarter mayor”; “Private citizens are powerless in getting their voices heard by the City Councillor. It might be hoped that the

DCA might be able to make some headway in getting our concerns heard, and appropriate changes made to how the area is impacted.”

One respondent commented that the name of the community association is confusing: “You should change your name. Its confusing what area you represent. Dalhousie community association sounds like it should represent the market.”

Some comments can be organized according to the mandate of the different committees through which the DCA operates (<https://www.ottawadalhousie.ca/committees/>).

### **Mobility Committee**

Given the scope of the question, most of the comments related to the mobility committee were about special events, traffic, and parking.

Some respondents who live on or near LeBreton Flats find events to be a major disturbance. “I felt like a prisoner in my own condo. ... The role that the community association can play is to work with event organizers to minimize the impact on the life of LeBreton residents.” “Advocate with City of Ottawa Bylaw and other authorities to enforce organizers’ responsibilities to communicate events and provide for easy access to homes.”

Some respondents had specific suggestions for improving mobility such as traffic calming measures on Preston, cutting access to Albert off completely at Booth, and allowing left-hand turns on Wellington to Booth.

Some respondents want the committee to advocate for modes of transportation other than cars: “Advocating for and prioritizing public transit for all events, including the future Sens arena”; “Considering all modes of transportation with special consideration given for active modes of transportation especially biking and not solely relying on access to site via the LRT.”

### **Messaging Out Committee (Communications)**

Several respondents said they want the DCA to do a better job at communications. Comments included: keeping residents more informed, consulting with residents, surveys about what residents actually want, spreading the word about issues and impacts, “complete transparency,” more public engagement, better communication via social media.

### **Peaceable Neighbourhoods Committee**

The main goal of this committee is “keeping our community safe for everyone.” The following responses to question 10 could fall within the mandate of that committee: “We need to advocate for by-law and police to enforce our laws and arrest people who are using illegal drugs in public”; “Facilitate better protection for us in this neighborhood”; “Continue to advocate for continued safety measures and rapid clean-up after events.”

### **Plan Our Neighbourhood Committee**

The Plan Our Neighbourhood committee looks at the impacts of new development proposals on our neighbourhood, particularly proposed planning and zoning changes. Two respondents suggested holding events elsewhere than on LeBreton Flats, at least while waiting for the arena to be built.

### **Public Realm Committee**

Public Realm Committee “works to ensure that Dalhousie residents have a healthy environment and safe places to play for all ages.” One respondent wrote: “Support the stadium. Support more usable park space, including for dogs and offleash dogs. More garbage cans.”

## General Analysis

The majority of persons who chose to respond to the survey (72 per cent) live north of Somerset Street. Only nine 9 out of 116 (8 per cent) reside at the south end of the Dalhousie catchment area, between Gladstone and Carling. The closer one lives to LeBreton Flats Park, the greater the impact of the special events staged there.

However, proximity to LeBreton Flats Park was not an indicator of how informed respondents were. More than a third of the respondents living north of Somerset Street indicated that they did not hear about any plans to manage Canada Day or did not answer the question at all. Three quarters of the respondents north of Somerset Street were not aware of the Special Events By-law. All the answers expressing a lack of knowledge of the role of the DCA came from respondents north of Somerset Street.

The largest respondent group was residents living between Albert and Somerset streets. Their responses show mixed but generally neutral-to-negative views. Most refer to event management as “About the same” as previous years. Dissatisfaction is common with parking, garbage, noise, and traffic issues. Many in this group feel they are uninformed about the Special Events By-law and the plans for the proposed arena/major events centre. Better traffic control, restricted parking and more public toilets were major issues.

The next largest group of respondents reside north of Albert Street, or “on the Flats.” This group is most polarized, with some satisfied with current management and supportive of special events on LeBreton Flats and others extremely dissatisfied. Those respondents who received their information from their condo corporation’s board, rated management as “Excellent” or “Good” and praised crowd control. However, those who provided responses that indicated that they felt trapped or blocked during events (for example, being “locked out” of their homes) rated management as “Poor” or “Very Poor.” Strong complaints about noise, accessibility, being blocked from homes, urination on property, garbage, and security failures were lodged by this group.

Residents between Somerset and Gladstone streets tended to be more negative overall, rating management as “Poor” or “Average.” Dissatisfaction centres on traffic, crowd control, noise, and public toilets, while several responses mentioned feeling uninformed about event plans. Respondents wanted free or improved transit, better communication, and reduced parking impacts.

Only nine people from between Gladstone Street and Carling Avenue completed the survey, but these responses were more neutral or positive. They indicated that event management was “Average” or “Good.” However, they did suggest more public toilets, transit improvements and better garbage management.

The DCA was seen favourably in terms of playing an advocacy role, as well as a disseminator of information, with most concrete responses encouraging further advocacy and with the DCA being the third most commonly listed source of information about special event management on LeBreton Flats. Interestingly, those who heard about special events management plans from the DCA tended to view overall management more positively.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations for the DCA**

Despite the limitations noted in the discussion of the survey methodology, it has been a worthwhile undertaking.

- The responses provide a very complete catalogue of the issues that residents believe must be addressed by those responsible for special event management at LeBreton Flats Park.
- The respondents suggest numerous strategies event managers can use to address these issues.
- The survey provides the DCA with feedback not only on its potential role with respect to the management of special events at LeBreton Flats Park, but on its role in the community in general.

The DCA should consider the following recommendations:

1. Prepare and implement a communications strategy for the publication and distribution of this report.
2. Adopt a more aggressive advocacy role on behalf of the community and lobby those responsible for the management of special events on LeBreton Flats for appropriate changes in 2026.
3. Continue and improve the support provided in 2025 with agency communications of their plans for special event management on LeBreton Flats.
4. Undertake a membership campaign that promotes the DCA's potential advocacy role in special events management, with a goal of achieving a membership that provides 'representation by population' in each of the four surveys.
5. Monitor the activities that will lead to construction of a major events centre, to ensure that plans and development applications address the issues identified by respondents to this survey.

## **Appendix 1 – Survey questions and their possible responses**

1. Where do you live?

- On the Flats (Albert or north of it)
- Between Albert and Somerset
- Between Somerset and Gladstone
- Between Gladstone and Carling

2. How did you hear about the plan to manage traffic on Canada Day and Bluesfest?

- Heritage Canada
- City of Ottawa
- Bluesfest
- Condo Board/Property Management
- Ottawa Police Service
- Dalhousie Community Association
- OC Transpo
- I don't remember hearing about it
- Other (please specify)

3. How would you rate the overall management of special events at LeBreton Flats?

- Very Poor
- Poor
- Average
- Good
- Excellent
- No opinion

4. How would you rate the management of special events at LeBreton Flats in 2025 compared to previous years?

- Much worse
- Worse
- About the same
- Better
- Much better
- No opinion

5. How satisfied are you with the city's response to concerns regarding special events at LeBreton Flats?

- Very Dissatisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Neutral
- Satisfied
- Very Satisfied
- No opinion

6. What were the most important issues during Canada Day and Bluesfest?

- Parking
- Crowd control to and from
- Garbage
- Noise level
- Transit use
- Accessibility
- Traffic
- Public Toilets
- Other (please specify)

7. Are you aware of Ottawa's Special Event By-law (<https://ottawa.ca/en/living-ottawa/laws-licences-and-permits/laws/laws-z/special-events-public-and-private-property-law-no-2013-232>)? If so, does it have a role to play in managing events on LeBreton Flats?

- No, I was not aware
- Yes, I am aware, but I don't think it plays a role
- Yes, I am aware, and I think it could play a minor role
- Yes, I am aware, and I think it could play a major role

8. What improvements would you suggest for future events at LeBreton Flats?

See Appendix 2 for all responses.

9. Do you feel you are informed about the proposal to create a major events centre (aka the Sens arena) on LeBreton Flats, and, in particular, its potential impact on traffic in our neighbourhoods?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

10. What role could the Dalhousie Community Association play in improving special events management at LeBreton Flats?

See Appendix 3 for all responses.

**Appendix 2 – All Responses (unedited) to question 8: “Do you have suggestions for improvements for future events at LeBreton Flats? If so, what are they?”**

- 1) Better public transit, clean public washrooms, better solutions for waste.
- 2) Enforce noise level limits, it seems the organizers / performers try to get away with excessive noise until a complaint is made and only then is it addressed., if at all. I get the impression that the organizers of events, Bluesfest in particular are not concerned at all by residents of the area and that their view is pretty much suck it up people, it is only a short period ( and they're making a lot of money so is the city)
- 3) Continue to promote and encourage active transportation (people walking or cycling from adjacent neighbourhoods) or public transportation (ie LRT and buses).
- 4) For active transportation, this includes crowd control measures for public safety and closing more roads and providing valet bicycle parking.
- 5) For public transportation, this includes crowd control around and LRT stations along with wayfinding.
- 6) From observation, crowd control around LRT worked very well at Bluesfest and Canada Day.
- 7) Letting pedestrians (and cyclists) use the booth street overpass instead of making everyone walk around the long way would increase accessibility. (Re Canada Day - it's generally open for Bluesfest)
- 8) Make public transit into the most attractive option, ie free and frequent.
- 9) Free transit on event days, paid by organizers. Very restricted new parking. Find out who's responsible for what. Question 5 seems to point finger only at City but there are other players, OPS, NCC, Heritage Canada and all the promoters.
- 10) Ban parking north of queensway.
- 11) Transit included in tickets.
- 12) No parking facilities at new arena.
- 13) We need to arrest public drug users.
- 14) Honestly, its only a few days/weeks a year so I think the relatively short inconvenience is relatively minor. i can see that it also brings in business for our struggling Chinatown/ Little Italy small businesses. As such, I strongly feel its a big net benefit overall for the DCA community. .
- 15) Continue to promote public transit, have park and ride options to reduce demand for parking, ensure there is underground parking available in new facilities being built and good/secure bike lock ups
- 16) This past festival season, a couple of us neighbours here on Elm St. have encountered vehicles that have deliberately boxed in our driveways - preventing us from entering or exiting. Bylaw took 20 minutes to get to my place when I was completely blocked off from my obvious driveway. I was livid! There was no place to on-street park in the meantime either. I would have given the culprit a serious tongue-lashing had I waited with the Bylaw Officer for the tow truck. I was FURIOUS! I am a vulnerable disabled senior citizen. So, the sweet Bylaw Officer could see I was pretty worked up - especially given the vehicle was Quebec-plated on top of it all. I had to go to McDonalds to calm my nerves - and Bylaw called me when I was cleared to return home. Before the tow company arrived, the @sshole showed up and had the nerve to say he had not noticed my driveway. (Idiot piece of sh!t.) So, he got off with a simple parking

violation ticket as he hopped into his vehicle and was on his merry way back to La belle province. His car should have been IMPOUNDED!! People like that need to be taught a firm lesson.

- 17) Anything to continue to encourage public transit would be helpful. The streets are often clogged with car traffic during special events which can prevent local people from going about their daily activities. I have observed cars blocking driveways and long traffic lines preventing the timely arrival of busses. I don't know how to encourage the crowds not to litter (or worse) in the surrounding neighborhoods, but perhaps city staff can send a litter crew around the china town area after big events.
- 18) It feels like these inconveniences are currently tolerable because of the limited times they occur in the year (mainly BluesFest and Canada day). I would have much more concern for livability if these became regular occurrences, say, with the arrival of a massive hockey area.
- 19) Increased public toilets, more parking enforcement.
- 20) Make it as hard as possible for people to drive to the event. There is plenty of transit. Cars constantly drive around our neighborhood, often dangerously, looking for parking.
- 21) I think significant improvements have been made, compared to ie 2012, those early years
- 22) Charge more for parking.
- 23) Increase and improve public transit to really incentivize use during events. It shouldn't be clogging up all of our streets with the train so close.
- 24) Better and earlier communication with the residents who have to carry the impact of these events because of where they live or work. Perhaps even consultation and soliciting their ideas of what might work better.
- 25) spread out events across the City, rather than always going to Lebreton Flats for most events, and occasionally Lansdowne. Lebreton Flats residents, particularly Lett Street, are blocked into their community by major events. This traffic issue must be resolved. There is no open egress from this area during events. 2) Noise level must be reduced by at least requiring that speakers for events be positioned focusing away from the Lebreton Flats community, specifically Lett Street; 3) Garbage cans must be placed at each access point and street within approximately 500 meters of the event, and event management patrol garbage removal; 4) Residents must be given appropriate warning of traffic changes in the area. The event permit given to events, such as Bluesfest, indicates 10 days notice. This is not happening. Bluesfest notice was provided less than 24 hours before the event started. Vehicle passes must be delivered in advance by the event management, not provided by email with expectation that residents find a way to print these themselves, especially given the lack of notice.
- 26) Always make transit a mandatory element of each ticket.
- 27) More garbages and recycling.
- 28) More than one exit and entrance to the event
- 29) It's really only Bluesfest that's a problem. The attendees are intoxicated, rowdy and extremely disrespectful to the neighbourhood and residents. Public toilets is a perennial issue. I rarely think police are the solution, but in this case, having the event pay for police in the area during the festival might stop people from behaving so poorly.
- 30) Neighbourhoods that are directly adjacent to the events should have restricted vehicle access to members of the community. It was very, very frustrated the number of ubers and out-of-

neighbourhood cars parking and creating traffic on residential streets like Primrose, Rochester, Elm, etc. These streets are not designed as parking areas for large events, and often cars from elsewhere were parking in the wrong spot, and disrupting where children play and pedestrians walk.

- 31) The O-Train is a deal breaker.
- 32) Keep all train stations open.
- 33) I'm not sure at the moment
- 34) no
- 35) If Bluesfest is any indication of how street parking will be during events at the future arena, we need a parking/traffic flow plan
- 36) N/a
- 37) Things were great last summer
- 38) Recognize that it impacts the neighbourhood and plan for it. Embrace the activity.
- 39) More cleanup
- 40) Not sure but it was difficult to get in for Canada Day
- 41) Increase LRT frequency, every 3 mins to get more ppl moving quicker.
- 42) Keep the public notified, prior to events ect. not after.
- 43) The strategy of kettling 1000's of people within a maze of fences radiating out all the way to downtown is absurd. As a user, you have no idea how to navigate these networks that funnel you into narrow corridors that often lead you away from your destination. Whether you are arriving or leaving the site, you often have no idea where this maze will take you and it is not only very disorienting but makes me feel unsafe. I love Chinatown and yet I've been forced to follow these corridors to downtown in the opposite direction of where I need to go. I have never been to another event in any other city where this strategy is employed to this degree which from a user's perspective feels truly insane. Another concern is the perceived needless closure of some bridges such as the William Commanda bridge. This in conjunction with the closure of other downtown bridges severs the city in two and makes it incredibly challenging for locals to cross the river without having to go on exceptionally long detours.
- 44) No
- 45) When there are events near Landsdown, many streets are blocked off to outside traffic and parking. Even though LeBreton Flats is on the LRT route, this is not done in our neighbourhood leading to excessive traffic and high speeds on the block where children play. In particular, Walnut Court is a dead end cul-de-sac and the traffic of people looking for parking is unacceptable. Primrose should be closed to outside traffic during events.
- 46) Free parking at Carleton University, South Keys, St-Laurent, and elsewhere to limit cars coming into the city and favour public transit
- 47) Start holding Canada Day at the parliament or elsewhere. People live here and we are stuck in our condos during the events. It's too much noise, garbage, people lingering after the events drinking, urinating on our property on Lett and garbage everywhere.
- 48) Multiple entry points, more reliable transit to the event locations
- 49) Residents in vehicles need to have better access to their buildings from Albert and Wellington.

- 50) Limit the decibel level so that only the crowd immediately around the performance stages can hear. Limit the number of days for rehearsals and the decibel levels. Stop all events by no later than 21h00 every night.
- 51) Easier to circulate for residents.
- 52) It is great seeing more activity near this post of town
- 53) Esp with accessibility via Pimisi station
- 54) More pedestrian friendly streets during major events
- 55) Ensuring public transit is prioritized; less reliance on taxis/uber
- 56) Preventing events from locking up Le Breton Flats residents in our little "island", with both Booth and Wellington closed. It is inconsiderate to expect such a large number of people to put their lives on hold during those events!
- 57) Overall, I think things are very well managed and much better in 2025 as compared to 2022 and previous. However, when security measures are put in place the security needs to follow those measures as they often don't bother doing the security checks they're supposed to.
- 58) No
- 59) No
- 60) Hope the music festival holds other place. During the Blufest and other concerts, the music is very loud and noisy.
- 61) Public transit should not be limited during the day. Defeats the whole purpose of having a line directly at pimisi
- 62) Please expand the transit stations at pimisi and Bayview. Neither are large enough to handle special events
- 63) Better traffic management.....especially at lebreton Flats buildings on Lett street.
- 64) Please please PLEASE stop shutting down the bike paths around Pimisi! My family uses those to get around in our day to day lives; it's really difficult when they're shut down, especially if they're shut down way in advance of events.
- 65) Better control around areas closed to residents only(buildings on lett). There were challenges with Canada Day last year around resident access but also non-residents forcing their way past security staff.
- 66) Please ensure Fleet Street remains accessible for residents of 250 and 300 Lett street.
- 67) You need to make more entrances
- 68) while I'm not personally bothered by these events, I think other area residents could be more encouraged to "tolerate" the inconveniences by being offered free or largely discounted access to the paid events. if that's already an option, then I'm not aware of it, and others may not be either
- 69) Clear communication with front-line staff and ensuring they're aware that people live here and need to be able to go home (especially, again, over two hours after the ceremonies had wrapped).
- 70) Develop the site on the Le Breton Flats to the Northeast, near the Bayview OC Transpo Station, instead of destroying all the grass in front of the War Museum, where the events are currently being held.

- 71) When you gather a lot of people, many of whom are drinking, together in one spot, they don't tend to show the best of humanity. I live at 250 Lett St. The most I hope for is that people aren't littering or going to the bathroom on the property, or breaking into units on the 1st floor. In that sense, if it isn't already happening, I do think the City should be contributing funds to the condo corps for 200, 250, and 300 Lett, so that they can hire private security to help insulate the property from these sorts of things.
- 72) make sure the residents can get in and out of the area
- 73) Better parking pass organization for people who live on the flats
- 74) Greater promotion on Park and Rides and parking lots downtown - encourage people to park and take the LRT to LeBreton Flats
- 75) Don't make the LeBreton Flats host several successive events .specially during summer time. It is quite hard for residents to suffer the complications of bringing the car in and out of the resident bulidngs. Successive concerts concerts in short period is too much to bear for people living in that area. Can you find another venue for that?
- 76) Take neighbors into account. Many (most) of us hate bluesfest due to the noise but crowd control is better (more garbage cans and portable toilets). For Canada day we can't enjoy the events at the flats without a large detour. Not worth it.
- 77) For those that do not own cars and need to leave the building via taxi/uber or order groceries/food etc. the drivers are often unable to get to the area. Those living here with cars are able to get in and out with passes but those without cars have to either walk long distances or take transit to elsewhere in the city to order a car which poses an accessibility issue
- 78) No
- 79) This past year was better because I think that for Bluesfest Pimisi station was open, this reduced the amount of foot traffic. It needs to be open on Canada Day. A major problem for Bluesfest is the uber pick ups and drop offs though, it just makes Elm, Spruce and Primrose a nightmare. If there was a way to limit these streets to local traffic only so that they are not packed with pick ups that would be really helpful. Also, not all Bluesfest acts respect the noise levels, this needs to be enforced. There were one or two last year who totally cranked up the volume beyond any other act. It wasn't ok.
- 80) Ensure crowd control measures near LRT stations do not block paths any more or for any longer than possible
- 81) Better communication in advance. NCC/City/feds should stop blocking off bike paths with little notice ahead of events.
- 82) I wish these events could be moved away from residential areas. The noise and general upheaval makes living here in the summer quite uncomfortable. Some issue, either drink, drugs, uncivil behaviour always occurs during this unhappy period.
- 83) Keep the multi-use pathways open. Closing these for 2 months of the summer is salt in the wound to locals who depend on those pathways to stay healthy and maintain their pets' health.
- 84) Keep the drunks out of the residential neighbourhoods. Install a great deal more more public toilets so people stop pissing and defecating on our properties, and also assaulting people in the neighbourhood.

- 85) More police presence and detainment of aggressive, drunk people.
- 86) More trash and recycling receptacles.
- 87) More communication with patrons that aggression towards those in the neighbourhood will not be tolerated. Ban patrons who act aggressively.
- 88) For Bluesfest, maybe move it somewhere else more suitable? Or at least get rid of the country nights that attract high amounts of alcohol use and disrespect. If you insist on keeping Bluesfest here maybe comp the local residents or do something to compensate for the imposition to the neighbourhood. Bluesfest also should assume much more responsibility for the behaviour of its intoxicated patrons after they leave the festival.
- 89) Overall, I am very happy with the events and how they are managed. I was very happy with how quickly the events were cleaned up. Staff were always friendly and helpful. Ottawa Police Service did an excellent job of managing access to the Flats in a safe and respectful way. A few more garbage cans would be a good idea.
- 90) Better communication is all I ask, further in advance. I've been through multiple events where the organizers provided barebones instructions only a few days on advance to our condo board, without any posting of it somewhere centrally accessible where I could subscribe for communication.
- 91) When the instructions are received, they are vaguely written and often without any maps, as well as not giving clear timelines when to expect either closures or slowdowns. For example, instructions should be clear like "Wellington westbound closed between Booth and Lett from 11am to 5pm" rather than vaguely written "restrictions on Wellington st during the day".
- 92) Additionally, law enforcement are over zealous with being stopped and demanding identification despite the dissemination of passes to vehicles, because "anyone could fake that", which is an absurd level of scrutiny and doesn't account for legitimate circumstances such as family staying at my unit while I'm away who don't have ID, or, what happened to me, I was visiting the building to get my keys to move-in the day of Canada Day. Obviously I was just moving in, I didn't have ID with my address on it.
- 93) So if passes are distributed by organizers, then instructions need to be given to law enforcement just to wave them through. I don't want to stand in-line to get home because a cop thinks he needs to scrutinize my ID in the off chance someone has copied that exact year's pass. Conversely, if pass duplication is a serious concern, then generate some uniquely assigned passes if that's such an issue (which it isn't)
- 94) Enforce by-laws.
- 95) Improved communication about management, before the event (e.g. build-up & rehearsals, during the event, and tear down). Opportunity for residents to have a say regarding issues, and action where necessary. Better foot traffic control
- 96) Full use of lrt
- 97) More transit. Bike parking.
- 98) N/A
- 99) Clearer communication to residents about the timing of events - more advanced notice, a consolidated schedule or calendar of events. They are currently listed on a variety of different websites and, if shared, are often with little notice. Noise reduction, especially for Bluesfest, which is extremely loud and sometimes continues later than scheduled.

- 100) Community members with on-street parking passes need to be guaranteed continued access to the neighborhood. It is unreasonable to ask us to leave the area or find alternative parking during events like Canada Day. In the context of a new event space, this will become increasingly important.
- 101) I think events are important to this part of the city. Perhaps letter notices to notify residents of events would be ideal to help people prepare and plan around these times.
- 102) Keep up the good work! We need more cool things in this city!

## Appendix 3: An AI Summary of Responses to question 8

### Summary of Long-Form Written Responses

#### 1. Access, Traffic, and Resident Mobility

This is the **single strongest and most emotionally charged theme**.

##### Key concerns:

- **Residents being blocked from returning home**, especially on **Lett Street**, Fleet Street, and around Pimisi Station.
- **Road closures without adequate detour signage or communication.**
- **Emergency access issues**, including:
  - Residents with emergencies (e.g., pet emergencies) being blocked.
  - Security staff not being informed that *people actually live* on the Flats.
- **Taxis, Ubers, and non-local cars clogging neighbourhood streets** (Primrose, Elm, Spruce, Rochester).
- **Over-aggressive or inconsistent police/traffic screening**, demanding ID even when passes were issued.
- Requests to **close side streets to outsiders** during events.

##### Common suggested solutions:

- Local-only access zones (similar to Lansdowne event controls).
- Better-designed access passes, delivered earlier and with clear maps.
- Multiple entry/exit points to reduce bottlenecks.

#### 2. Noise

This theme appears **very frequently**, especially among Flats residents.

##### Issues noted:

- **High volume** during Bluesfest and certain acts exceeding permitted decibel levels.
- Sound carrying directly to residential towers, especially at Lett Street.
- Concerns about **excessive rehearsals** adding noise days before/after events.
- Requests to:
  - Orient speakers away from residential buildings.
  - Enforce decibel limits more strictly.
  - End events by **9:00 PM** (at least on weekdays).

#### 3. Crowd Behaviour, Safety, and Cleanliness

Residents consistently describe:

- **Public urination and defecation** on private property.
- **Intoxicated festival-goers** being disruptive.
- **Garbage accumulation**, particularly late at night.
- Security not preventing non-residents from entering restricted areas.

##### Proposed improvements:

- Many more **portable toilets**, especially on residential streets.
- More **post-event cleanup crews**.
- Increased **police presence**, especially for Bluesfest.

- Private security funded by event organizers for Lett Street buildings.

#### 4. Public Toilets

A major and repeated theme.

##### Consistent message:

There are **not nearly enough toilets**, and their locations are not obvious.

##### Impacts:

- Littered streets
- Residents cleaning up other's waste
- Strong dissatisfaction during Bluesfest and Canada Day

##### Suggested remedies:

- Install toilets at **all access points**
- Maintain them more frequently
- Place them along key walking routes (Preston, Albert, around Pimisi)

#### 5. Transit: LRT, Buses, and Crowds

This theme appears in both **positive and negative** comments.

##### Complaints:

- Closing **Pimisi Station** on Canada Day caused significant inconvenience.
- “Kettling” pedestrians into constrained fenced routes felt:
  - confusing,
  - disorienting,
  - unsafe,
  - frustrating for locals who simply needed to get home.
- Riders stuck in long queues post-event.

##### Positives:

- Several respondents *praised* crowd control around LRT during Bluesfest 2025.

##### Suggestions:

- Keep **Pimisi open for all events**.
- Increase LRT frequency (e.g., every 3 minutes).
- Provide **Park & Ride** incentives.
- Prevent LRT paths and bike paths from being unnecessarily closed.

#### 6. Communication Problems

One of the most consistent pain points.

##### Issues:

- Residents reported receiving **less than 24 hours’ notice** before major restrictions.
- Communications from multiple agencies (City, NCC, Bluesfest, Heritage Canada, condo boards) are:
  - inconsistent,
  - incomplete,
  - confusing,
  - lacking maps or timings.

##### Desired improvements:

- **A central, authoritative event notice system.**
- Clear email bulletins with:
  - maps,
  - exact times of closures,
  - expected impacts,
  - access procedures.
- Communication **10 days in advance**, as permits require.

## 7. Parking Issues

Recurring issues include:

- Driveways blocked by out-of-town vehicles.
- No enforcement when cars park illegally on local streets.
- Residents unable to find parking near their homes.

### **Suggested improvements:**

- Ban parking north of the Queensway.
- Include transit costs in event tickets.
- Add extremely strict “local-only” on-street parking during events.

## 8. Event Location and Frequency

Some residents expressed fatigue with:

- **Too many events being concentrated** on LeBreton Flats.
- Successive concerts causing multi-week disruption.

A few suggested:

- Relocating some events to **Parliament Hill** or **other Ottawa venues**.
- Not hosting multi-week festivals in a dense residential zone.

However, others felt:

- Events bring vibrancy and support for Chinatown/Little Italy businesses.
- Event management in 2025 was an improvement over previous years.

## 9. Suggestions for Improvements

These recurring themes appeared across many responses:

### **Top common solutions:**

1. **Better transit access** (frequent, free, open stations).
2. **Stronger enforcement** (parking, noise, public disorder).
3. **Better communication** (maps, advance notice, clarity).
4. **More public toilets & garbage management.**
5. **Protect resident access** (traffic passes, local-only zones).
6. **Safer pedestrian routing** (less kettling, more logical paths).
7. **More consultation with residents** during planning.

## 10. Role of the Dalhousie Community Association (DCA)

Residents see several potential roles for the DCA:

### Top suggestions:

- Advocate with the City/NCC for better resident consideration.
- Central hub for communication and updates before events.
- Collect resident complaints and relay them effectively.
- Help shape plans for the future **major events centre (Sens arena)**.
- Provide tools like form letters to help residents contact officials.

Some were unsure of DCA's mandate; a few felt DCA should take a more visible leadership role.

### Overall Sentiment Summary

- **Strong frustration** from residents directly on the Flats (Lett/Fleet/Albert corridor).
- **Moderate dissatisfaction** from adjacent neighbourhoods (Somerset–Gladstone, Albert–Somerset).
- **Mixed feelings:** many value the vibrancy events bring, but feel the burden falls disproportionately on residents.

**Improved operations in 2025** relative to earlier years, but **communication and resident access remain major weak points**.

**Appendix 4 – All Responses (unedited) to question 10: “What role could the Dalhousie Community Association play in improving special events management at LeBreton Flats?”**

- 1) Unsure as I don't know what influence or power if any DCA actually has apart from informing its members/residents.
- 2) Better management of traffic, parking bans, restricting parking on side streets, better monitoring of parking restrictions. On Spruce Street it's basically a parking lot no matter what time of year due to too many gyms in on a small street. This situation is increased substantially during events
- 3) Keep a finger on the pulse of whatever is brewing and have a strong voice in supporting the views of residents.
- 4) Let Ed and the Mobility Committee work on it.
- 5) We need to advocate for by-law and police to enforce our laws and arrest people who are using illegal drugs in public.
- 6) Advocacy, awareness, promoting Local business
- 7) We need to cut access to Albert St. completely off at Booth - period. This will force drivers onto the parkway, Albert, Bronson, and Preston.
- 8) - Be a local point of contact for residents with concerns
- 9) The DCA could provide feedback on events without completely rejecting the premise of living in a city: thoughtful feedback without just opposing everything everywhere always.
- 10) Facilitate better protection for us in this neighborhood
- 11) Heritage Canada takes care of Canada Day; Bluesfest team for Bluesfest, city of ottawa for vehicular traffic and foot control, by-law enforcement, and coordination with police and emergency personnel, condo boards on Lett St. receive information and vehicular passes, and collectively pay for their own private security. What does the DCA offer?.
- 12) Keep everyone informed and advocate for quality projects.
- 13) Continue to advocate for us on our need to be informed and to be considered in the planning of these!
- 14) Private citizens are powerless in getting their voices heard by the City Councillor. It might be hoped that the DCA might be able to make some headway in getting our concerns heard, and appropriate changes made to how the area is impacted.
- 15) Should be at the table at each discussion and perspectives and needs of the local community should be prioritized
- 16) Not sure
- 17) The DCA can pass feedback on to the City and press the City to ensure factors such as parking and other impacts on the local community are being addressed.
- 18) Spreading the word about issues and impacts
- 19) You should change your name. Its confusing what area you represent. Dalhousie community association sounds like it should represent the market. Where Dalhousie road it.
- 20) Liasing with the city to represent the residents of Dalhousie with concerns about how these events at the flats will impact our neighborhood
- 21) Not sure
- 22) No idea what their mandate is.

- 23) Keeping the residence more informed, complete transparency.
- 24) More public engagement. Considering all modes of transportation with special consideration given for active modes of transportation especially biking and not solely relying on access to site via the LRT. Better communication via social media.
- 25) Better communication in the neighbourhood and surveys etc about what residents actually want.
- 26) Better outreach and communication
- 27) They need to start asking what the residents want or what's important to us.
- 28) Advocate, protest, push for change to a better quality of life during these events.
- 29) Advocating for and prioritizing public transit for all events, including the future Sens arena
- 30) The events are a major disturbance for people living on the Flats. I felt like a prisoner in my own condo, and had a lot of difficulty navigating the closed roads while dealing with a pet emergency. Similarly, family and friends cannot visit because there is no way to arrive/park. The role that the community association can play is to work with event organizers to minimize the impact on the life of Le Breton residents. Thank you in advance for your efforts.
- 31) I can't say as I don't really know the role of the association.
- 32) Plan to hold music festival in other places.
- 33) Vote for a smarter mayor
- 34) not sure, but thanks for the efforts in improving quality of life for the neighborhood
- 35) Overall Canada Day and Bluesfest are adequately managed. The big thing frankly is inconsistency from year to year. I appreciate your collecting this data and hope it will be shared, beyond that I haven't got any specific recommendations for DCA.
- 36) As I suggested previously, we could create a more permanent site layout (for a few years) while we wait for the Senators' arena to be built. At each event, everything is set up, repaired, and destroyed, and part of the summer is spent restoring the premises. This would certainly generate savings for all events and allow us to increase their number.
- 37) consult with residents
- 38) I am very concerned about the potential traffic impacts in the surrounding areas if a major event space is built. The City and its Federal partners must consult early with the community on transportation plans.
- 39) They should have been actively monitoring the planned events and should have a say to say no specially that successive concerts happening all in one summer in the same venue. They have to think of the residents also.
- 40) Take a leadership role engaging neighbors and advocating for us.
- 41) I'm not sure!
- 42) Be very proactive on plans for the Flats, especially the arena
- 43) Absolutely no idea. I don't think the city cares what residents think about anything.
- 44) Unsure what y'all are doing at the moment as I'm new to the DCA. All I can say is advocate for us locals who are too poor or disabled to attend the events but still have to deal with the fallout.
- 45) Continue to advocate for continued safety measures and rapid clean-up after events.
- 46) Advocate with City of Ottawa Bylaw and other authorities to enforce organizers responsibilities to communicate events and provide for easy access to homes. With the extreme restrictions on traffic

that already exist in the area (ie no left turns on Booth), we shouldn't be so restricted in getting and leaving home, and if we are then at least we need clear instructions with maps and exact timelines and specific road identifications ("Wellington westbound closed between Booth and Lett from 11am to 5pm" rather than vaguely written "restrictions on Wellington st during the day")

- 47) Advocating on behalf of citizens for improvements to coordination and communication. Allow left turns from Wellington to Booth.
- 48) Support the stadium. Support more usable park space, including for dogs and offleash dogs. More garbage cans.
- 49) Traffic calming on Preston (from Albert to Somerset) should be explored. At present, people already drive too quickly/rev engines. Large trucks also cause high levels of noise. In the context of a new events space, with higher foot traffic, the traffic calming/sight line measures proposed by the NCC for Scott/Albert should also be considered for Preston to protect pedestrians, cyclists, and homes in the neighborhood.
- 50) Better notification to residents, but other than that it's an important and good part of creating safe and accessible spaces for people to interact.

## **Appendix 5: An AI Summary of Responses to question 10.**

### **Key Themes and Concerns**

The following themes emerged from the survey responses:

- **Advocacy and Representation:** Emphasis on DCA advocating for residents with the City and event organizers.
- **Communication and Transparency:** Calls for timely and clear information about events and impacts.
- **Traffic and Parking Management:** Concerns about congestion and illegal parking, especially on Spruce Street.
- **Law Enforcement and Safety:** Requests for stronger by-law enforcement and police presence.
- **Resident Consultation:** Desire for more public engagement and inclusion in planning.
- **Uncertainty About DCA's Role:** Some respondents were unclear about the DCA's mandate and influence.

### **Conclusion**

Overall, respondents expressed a strong desire for the DCA to play a proactive and visible role in managing the impacts of special events at LeBreton Flats. There is a clear call for advocacy, better communication, and meaningful consultation with residents to ensure community needs are prioritized.