



RIVER WARD CITY COUNCILLOR MARIA McRAE'S REPORT TO THE RIVERSIDE PARK COMMUNITY May 1, 2013

INVITATION: Public Consultation on the Proposed Special Events By-law

The Event Central Unit is hosting a Public Consultation on **Thursday, May 2, 2013 at 7:00PM** in The Chamber at Ben Franklin Place, 101 Centrepointe Drive, to review the Proposed Special Events By-law. The purpose of the consultation is to review the proposed by-law and to provide the opportunity for event organizers and stakeholders to provide feedback.

SEAT members will be in attendance to address any questions you may have.

Inquiry Regarding Municipal Construction Projects

At the City Council Meeting on Wednesday, April 24, 2013, I made the following inquiry:

Can City staff please provide City Council with a summary of the legal and procurement requirements with respect to municipal construction projects and the use of financial penalties and/or liquidated damages when such projects are late or not up to standards?

I look forward to receiving a thorough staff report and will keep you updated in this regard.

River Ward Airport Parkway Pedestrian/Cycling Bridge – The Next Project Milestone

Work on the new pedestrian/cycling bridge is moving forward, with the bulk of construction currently taking place off site. The next project milestone is the installation of the anchorage assembly piece. The fabrication of this welded piece is intricate and welding is being done in a controlled environment.

Once the anchorage assembly piece is brought to the site, the contractor will install it to the top of the main tower and then pour the upper tower. Following the tower pour, the contractor will pour the main deck and the deck walls, and install the suspension cables. The job will be completed with the installation of railings and bridge lighting, and then the contractor will finish final landscaping.

I continue to closely monitor progress on this project to ensure that this connection is built safely and to the highest quality standards. Thank you for your patience and consideration during construction.

Looking for Your Input on the Wildlife Strategy

The proposed wildlife strategy aims to prevent and resolve human-wildlife conflicts by taking a balanced and humane approach to wildlife management and includes recommendations for education, outreach, planning and management. The proposed strategy was developed in response to an increasing need for consistent and effective responses to human-wildlife conflicts in all areas of the city. Ottawa has a unique wildlife challenge due to its large size and its diverse landscape of urban and rural settlements, farmlands and high-quality natural habitats.

For more information, or to comment on the proposed wildlife strategy, please visit ottawa.ca or email wildlifestrategy@ottawa.ca.

Fielding Drive Public School is Hoping for a New Play Structure

The Fielding Drive Public School Council has worked hard to raise funds to install a new play structure. The old structure on the school grounds was no longer safe and had to be removed. I know from experience that a new play structure will engage the imaginations and playful spirits of both students at Fielding Drive Public School, as well as children who reside in the neighbourhood. This recreational infrastructure will promote healthy active living, improve fitness, and foster a great community spirit.

I am pleased to support the Fielding School Public School Council as they are currently in the process of applying for funding through the Community Partnership Minor Capital Program with the City of Ottawa.

Invitation to Participate in a Formal Study Regarding Infill Development

I have worked closely with the Deputy City Manager of Planning and Infrastructure to ensure that our Ward is included in an upcoming formal study regarding infill. I am pleased to invite you to participate in this process and invite you to provide your feedback regarding the challenges and opportunities related to the height, massing and setback of infill housing. The study will also look at opportunities for discreet intensification on larger, R1 lots.

As of April 24, 2013 a feedback form is available at ottawa.ca/infill and I encourage you to provide your feedback by **May 17, 2013**. Once this feedback is received, the City's Zoning Consistency Team will organize site visits to conduct individual analysis. Workshops will be organized with different communities and the architectural community. The Team intends to prepare recommendations for the Planning Committee and City Council for December 2013.

I anticipate that the first public workshop will be held in June 2013 and I will provide you with more information as it becomes available.

Was Your Lawn or Curb Damaged by Snow Removal?

The City's Roads Maintenance team is repairing residential lawns and curbs that were damaged during snow removal operations this winter.

If your lawn or curb needs attention, please call 3-1-1 to report the damage. A member of our Roads Maintenance team will investigate your property and outline an inventory of all repairs, which staff will be repairing throughout May and June of this year.

Calling All Seniors: Call Us!

Our Annual Strawberry Social for River Ward Seniors is just around the corner. Please call my office at **613-580-2486** to make sure that we have your current contact information. I look forward to seeing you in June!

OC Transpo – Spring 2013 Schedule Changes

The new spring schedules and service improvements started Sunday, April 21, 2013. Service change highlights include:

- New spring schedules and service improvements
- O-Train expansion project
- The final roll-out of double-decker buses
- Rack & Roll returns

To find out more information, please visit octranspo.com.

O-Train Service Expansion Project

Construction on the O-Train Service Expansion Project has officially begun. This \$59-million project will see the addition of two passing tracks and upgrades to the current signal system, O-Train stations and the Walkley Train Yard. General lifecycle maintenance at the Carleton University Pedestrian Underpass, the Sawmill Creek Bridges and the Dow's Lake tunnel will also be done during this time to limit the inconvenience.

To allow for the work, the O-Train will be temporarily shut down from April 27 to September 2, 2013, during this time OC Transpo Route 107 will run parallel to the O-Train route between South Keys and LeBreton Stations. Further details regarding Route 107 can be found on octranspo.com

Regular O-Train service will resume on September 3, 2013. This expansion of the O-Train service will see service levels improve in 2014 once training, testing, and commissioning of the new trains is completed.

Vacant Buildings – Strengthening Enforcement

The City is improving the maintenance of vacant buildings by proactively enforcing existing regulations and by strengthening those regulations as well as potentially introducing new ones.

Preventing deterioration by requiring higher standards of maintenance of vacant lands and buildings, considering a by-law requiring annual permits for vacant buildings, and renewing the feasibility of requiring that a fire safety plan be in place will help keep vacant lots under control and safe for residents.

2013 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship in Ottawa

Congratulations to the Canadian World Women's Ice Hockey team for their spectacular effort and team spirit in this year's IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship that took place in Ottawa this year. This team of talented women are wonderful role models for all Canadian athletes. Please join me in congratulating Team Canada!

Ottawa Senators in 2013 Playoffs

Good Luck to the Ottawa Senators as they take on the Montreal Canadiens in the first round of the 2013 NHL Playoffs. This is the first time that these two teams have met in the playoffs in the modern era of the NHL. Go Sens Go!!!

Attention Youth: Develop Leadership Skills and Make a Difference

Youth between the ages of 10 and 15 are invited to apply to the Junior Park Mentorship Program. This program offers an opportunity for youth to become involved in the operation of their neighbourhood wading pool. Youth work to enhance programming in their community, while developing leadership skills. This is a great experience for future staff recruitment.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Junior Park Programmer, please complete an application form by visiting your neighbourhood community centre or by calling the Seasonal Recreation Office at (613) 580-2590. Applications are accepted throughout the summer, but it is recommended that an application be submitted as soon as possible to ensure the most rewarding experience.

Calling All Green Thumbs: City Compost Great for Gardens

Compost can be used to help gardens, lawns, and indoor plants grow and flourish. You can purchase city compost at the Trail Waste Facility, located at 4475 Trail Road, off Moodie Drive, south of Fallowfield Road. Prices for car pickup for the compost start at \$10.50 per load (under 250kg). The compost is sold until November, while quantities last.

Prenatal Classes & Programs

The City offers a variety of options for prenatal education to meet the needs of Ottawa residents. All classes & programs that the city offers are facilitated by a Public Health Nurse. Residents can take advantage of online prenatal classes, in person prenatal classes and Pregnancy Circles for expectant mothers.

To find out more about the classes & programs offered, please call the Ottawa Public Health Information Line at 613-580-6744 or visit ottawa.ca.

Ontario Renovates Program – Helping Low Income Seniors and Persons with Disabilities

The Ontario Renovates Program launched April 2, 2013. The program provides grants and forgivable loans to low income seniors who own their home and households where one or more persons with disabilities requires home repairs and/or accessibility modifications to support independent living.

This program is also available to qualifying landlords to modify their existing units or buildings to make them more accessible for tenants who are seniors or for persons with disabilities.

To find out more information or to request an application, please call 3-1-1 or visit ottawa.ca/en/ontario-renovates-program.

Safer Roads Ottawa Program

May Initiatives

The Ottawa Police Service's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) will focus on **Motorcycle Safety** and **Red Light Running** as part of its ongoing commitment to keeping Ottawa's roads safe.

March Results

The Ottawa Police Service's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) focused on school bus/school zone safety and unsafe lane change violations during the month of March, resulting in 168 charges being laid against motorists: 4 for school bus/school zone safety and 164 for unsafe lane change violations.