



## RIVER WARD CITY COUNCILLOR MARIA McRAE'S REPORT TO THE RIVERSIDE PARK COMMUNITY March 5, 2014

### **Bayview Public School (3071 Riverside Drive) – Redevelopment Status Update**

You may recall, that, in 2007, the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board declared the property at 3071 Riverside Drive (former Bayview Public School) surplus to the Board's needs and circulated the first right of refusal to acquire the property to the City under Regulation 445/06 of the *Education Act*. At the time, I worked closely with City staff and the community to facilitate the City's purchase of the land to protect and maintain public recreational green space for community use.

Subsequent to the City acquiring the land, I held a Community Visioning Workshop on May 19, 2009 and a Public Open House on September 10, 2009, whereby residents were invited to provide feedback on local community needs and uses for the property.

Staff crafted a draft redevelopment concept plan that broadly reflected community input received at the two visioning sessions in 2009. The results of those visioning sessions were reported to City Council and the draft concept plan was approved by City Council on December 9, 2009 (ACS2009-CMR-REP-0053).

From those visioning sessions, the following principles are identified and addressed in the concept plan:

- Low-density residential uses (one to two storey single detached, semi-detached and townhouses) in pockets abutting existing development in the north and south ends of the site and medium-density residential uses (three to six storey townhouses, stacked units, and mid-rise condominium apartment dwellings) and/or institutional use (e.g. retirement home) in a pocket on the interior of the site overlooking the sports field and abutting the existing institutional uses to the east (school) and south (church);
- A buffer area between the existing development and future uses to be established as a condition of the sale of the residual lands. The buffer will consist of fencing and/or landscaping features incorporated as part of the future development and may be rezoned as such; and
- Sustainable Development Measures incorporated into building designs

***Bayview Public School (3071 Riverside Drive) – Redevelopment Status Update (continued)***

On December 9, 2009, Council also directed staff to advertise the development portion of the parcel for sale subject to the above noted development conditions (ACS2009-CMR-REP-0053). Approximately 0.79 hectares of the site will be retained by the City to preserve the existing sports field and a field house will be constructed to support programming on that field.

As previously mentioned, at the March 2014 Finance and Economic Development Committee staff will recommend to transfer this property to the City owned Ottawa Community Lands Development Corporation. The OCLDC will manage the disposal of the land and guide the redevelopment of this parcel, including the preservation of the buffer zone and recreational green space. The agenda for this meeting, including the staff recommendation, can be found at Ottawa.ca.

I have met with the City Manager and staff from the Mayor's office to discuss my expectations that the OCLDC ensure that the redevelopment of this property is done in accordance with the Council approved concept plan. To that end, I also passed a motion with the help from the City Manager and Mayor's office which states that the OCLDC must follow the development concept approved by Council. The City Manager expects that the OCLDC will place this property for sale in 2015.

**River Ward Speed Boards – Exclusive Use for Our Ward**

As you know, community safety, including traffic safety, is a top priority of mine. In response to community concerns about speeding, speed boards are available for exclusive deployment throughout our Ward.

While some of the speeding "hot spots" are known to me and the Ottawa Police Service, if you would like City Traffic engineering staff to assess your street for use of the speed board, please give my office a call. I have made arrangements for deployment of the speed boards year round.

I have asked City staff to install new brackets for the speed boards in our Ward. Last month two boards were installed in Riverside Park. One board was on Riverside Drive between Marilyn Avenue and Revelstoke Drive and the other on Southmore Drive East between Welland Street and Linton Road. This month a board will be installed on Springland Drive between Mooney's Bay Place and Flannery Drive.

**Thank You for Attending Planning 101**

Thank you to everyone who attended the Planning 101 information session that took place last Thursday. I was pleased to see the commitment that River Ward residents demonstrated by coming to this course.

A special thank you to John Smit who taught the course. We are fortunate to have such wonderful colleagues who want to pass along their knowledge to us.

### **Airport Parkway Pedestrian/Cycling Bridge – February 2014 Update**

As you may recall, late last year, I requested a Third-Party Independent Review of the bridge to examine the City's processes and procedures with respect to the management of this project. My request was agreed to by the City Manager and during a December 2013 project update received by City Council, staff advised that the "scope of this Review includes identifying measures aimed at preventing similar problems from occurring in the future."

In addition, the report noted that "the Review will not assess the overall structural adequacy of the design by Genivar, or subsequent designs, as that task will be done separately as needed and in coordination with the pursuit of legal action as against Genivar and others." City Council directed the City Clerk and Solicitor to pursue recovery of the City's costs and damages from any and all parties responsible for them. In response, the City Clerk and Solicitor has confirmed that his office is diligently pursuing City Council's direction.

Tuesday's meeting of the Finance and Economic Development Committee included the Third-Party Independent Review Report of the Airport Parkway Pedestrian/Cycling Bridge from Mr. Ron DeVries, SEG Management Consultants Inc. The agenda for this meeting can be found on [Ottawa.ca](http://Ottawa.ca).

Mr. DeVries has clearly and robustly identified what went wrong with this project and has provided his advice as to what the City should do to improve its processes and procedures with regards to project management and procurement. He provides a list of nine distinct areas where the City can and should improve its processes and procedures.

I met with the Mayor, the City Manager and the City Solicitor to discuss the findings of this report and the City Manager has promised to put in place the recommended changes and any other measures to ensure that the serious issues raised in this report are not repeated again. This includes changes to the City's processes, procedures, practices, policies and personnel. I have discussed the progress of the bridge with the Manager of this project, who confirmed that the construction of the Airport Parkway Pedestrian/Cycling Bridge is proceeding, and will be completed before the end of this year.

I will keep updating you about this project and I want to assure you that I will continue advocating to make certain that this project is built safely and to the highest quality standards.

## **Getting Greener**

The City's first Environment Committee meeting of 2014 took place on February 18, 2014 and I had the distinct pleasure of beginning the meeting by providing a snapshot of environmental initiatives taking place in the City. I am happy to provide a brief overview of my remarks. Many projects undertaken by City Council in the last three years are transforming Ottawa. They are making our city more liveable and have made a significant positive impact on our environment. But none of these accomplishments are achievable without the support of our community. Thank you for your role in keeping Canada's Capital clean, green and healthy.

## ***Solid Waste – Extending the Life of Our Landfill, Saving Taxpayer Dollars***

Two years ago, the City implemented weekly green bin collection and bi-weekly residual garbage collection. For the first time in Ottawa's history, the curbside diversion rate is above 50% at 51.9%. The total amount of organics collected, last year, (including household organics and leaf and yard waste) increased from 67,000 tonnes to 83,000, which is a 24% increase since 2012. We have diverted close to 43,000 tonnes of material from the landfill, which is equivalent to 4,300 full sized garbage trucks!

Reaching this milestone is an outstanding achievement. Most importantly, Ottawa residents must be congratulated for doing their part in bi-weekly garbage collection, saving taxpayers \$10 million per year, extending the life of our landfill from 2027 to 2045 and thereby avoiding the immense cost of a new landfill of at least \$250 million.

## ***Vigorously Protecting Our Tree Canopy***

In 2013, the City continued its fight against the Emerald Ash Borer by inoculating trees, planting new trees (2 to 1 ratio) and beginning a new biological control program to vigorously attack this pest. Across the city, we planted 133,565 trees and we will continue this trend in 2014.

## ***Reducing Emissions and Costs***

The City is continuing to invest in technologies to help reduce our emissions and reduce costs. For example, our Green Fleet is comprised of hybrid vehicles, electric Zambonis and 1 electric vehicle. By investing in technologies such as the Green Fleet, we have reduced our fuel consumption by thousands of litres in 2013 and reduced our GHG emissions by 179 tonnes.

## ***Water – Simply the Very Best***

Ottawa has the best water in the world and we are committed to keeping it that way. In 2013, the City received another perfect inspection record for our drinking water quality. We advanced projects in the Ottawa River Action Plan and remain strongly committed to ensuring that we protect the Ottawa River for future generations to enjoy. The City will continue to work with our Federal and Provincial partners to protect our gem.

I look forward to working with my City Council colleagues and our community to continue making sure that Ottawa remains clean and green. If you would like to read my full remarks that I made at the Environment Committee, please visit [MariaMcRae.ca](http://MariaMcRae.ca) or call my office.

## **Sochi 2014: Best Wishes to Our Canadian Paralympians – March 7 to 16, 2014**

The 2014 Sochi Paralympic Games start this Friday and I would like to wish the best of luck to all our Canadian athletes, coaches and support staff!

Go Canada Go!

### **REMINDER: March Break Camps Offer Adventures in Your Neighbourhood**

A quick reminder that school is out from March 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> for the March Break and during this week the City is offering a range of fun-filled activities. Select from over 100 action-packed camps in sports, arts, swimming and more. Register for your neighbourhood adventure online at [ottawa.ca/recreation](http://ottawa.ca/recreation), by phone at 613-580-2588 or you can visit a recreation facility or Client Service Centre.

### **OC Transpo Revised Schedule for March Break**

As a friendly reminder, OC Transpo will operate on a reduced weekday schedule during the March Break (March 10 to 14, 2014) when schools are closed.

Bus arrival times may be adjusted slightly compared to the usual weekday schedule, and during rush hour most routes will have one or two fewer trips. All school routes numbered in the 600s and special school trips on regular routes will not operate. The O-Train schedule will be unchanged.

Holiday schedules are available at [www.octranspo.com](http://www.octranspo.com). Automated schedule information is also available 24 hours a day by calling 613-560-1000 or texting 560560 plus your 4-digit bus stop number.

For more information and travel planning assistance, please call OC Transpo at 613-741-4390 or visit [www.octranspo.com](http://www.octranspo.com).

### **It's Time to Register for Spring and Summer Recreation Programs**

Registration for swimming, aquafitness and all other classes including summer camps has begun. The *Recreation eGuide* and *Mon cyberguide francophone desloisirs* are now online at [ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca). High volumes of online registrants are expected throughout the first week of registration, particularly the first evening, which could result in a longer registration experience than usual.

Information about classes is available online only. Residents who do not have access to the Internet at home or at work are encouraged to visit City recreation facilities or libraries with public Internet access, or visit any Client Service Centre or recreation centre where customer service staff can help with registration. Residents can also register by touchtone phone at 613-580-2588.

**Please note:** The swimming pool at the Goulbourn Recreation Complex will remain closed until further notice. The City will inform residents when a new opening date is confirmed.

## **Safer Roads Ottawa Program**

### ***March and April 2014 Initiatives***

The City of Ottawa and the Ottawa Police Service's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) will focus on **distracted driving, unsafe lane changes, school zone safety and cycling safety** for the month of March and April as part of the Safer Roads Program.

#### *Distracted Driving*

Between 2008 and 2012, there were 20,660 collisions involving distracted drivers resulting in 5,875 injuries and 20 fatalities.

#### *Unsafe Lane Changes*

Between 2008 and 2012, there were 5,561 collisions involving motorists who unsafely changed lanes. These collisions resulted in 626 injuries and two fatalities.

#### *School Zone Safety*

Between 2008 and 2012, there were 35 collisions involving school buses or in school zones resulting in seven injuries.

#### *Cycling Safety*

Between 2008 and 2012, there were 1544 collisions involving cyclists with 1238 injuries and 13 fatalities.

### ***February 2014 Initiatives***

The City of Ottawa and the Ottawa Police Service's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) will focus on **vehicle occupant restraints (including child car seats) and red light running** during the month of February as part of the Safer Roads Program.

*The Safer Roads Ottawa Program is a leading community partnership between Ottawa Fire Services, Ottawa Paramedic Service, Ottawa Police Service, Ottawa Public Health and the Public Works Department committed to preventing or eliminating road deaths and serious injuries for all people in the City of Ottawa, through culture change, community engagement, and development of a sustainable safe transportation environment.*

*Also participating in the Safer Roads Ottawa Program are the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Sureté du Québec, Department of National Defence's Military Police and Gatineau Police Service to improve road safety for all residents of the national capital region.*

## **Your Strong Voice at City Hall**

As always, I appreciate hearing from you and encourage you to keep in touch with me as it allows me to serve you better. It is an honour and a privilege being your strong voice at City Hall.