



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

Congratulations to the 2014-2015 Riverside Park Community and Recreation Association board of directors who were nominated at last month's annual general meeting. I wish you all the best throughout your time on the board.

## **YOU ARE INVITED TO SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENTS**

This fall, parks in Riverside Park are receiving new play equipment and celebrations are in order! On Saturday, November 8, 2014, you and your family, friends and neighbours are cordially invited to join me in celebrating these improvements at Official Sod Turning and Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies.

Following the ceremonies, please enjoy some light refreshments. Event details are as follows:

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2014

**ARNOTT PARK: Official Sod Turning Ceremony Celebrating the Beginning of Construction of the New Play Structure**

**Time:** noon to 1:00 p.m. – *Sod turning at 12:15 p.m.*

**Place:** Arnott Park - 691 Hartman Crescent  
*Feel free to bring your shovel for the official photo*

**PAGET PARK: Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Celebrating the Official Opening of the New Climbing Structure  
Joined by Mayor Jim Watson**

**Time:** 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. – *Ribbon cutting at 1:15 p.m.*

**Place:** Paget Park – please use Hobson Road entrance

I look forward to seeing you, your family and your neighbours!

### **Lest We Forget: Veterans' Week – November 5 to 11, 2014**

Canadians owe our freedom and quality of life to our Veterans. We are grateful to members of the Canadian Forces who have served and to those who are currently serving our great country. Veterans' Week allows us to reflect about our Veterans and to pay thanks to those persons who made the ultimate sacrifice. There are many commemorative ceremonies and events taking place across Ottawa and Canada during this week.

River Ward is home to many Veterans and their families and to the Royal Canadian Legion – Strathcona Branch “595”. I am honoured to participate in the Strathcona Branch's Remembrance Day Parade and Ceremony again this year, where I will be laying a wreath on behalf of our Ward.

Thank you to all of our Veterans and their families. We are forever grateful and will continue keeping you in our thoughts and prayers.

### **Veterans Ride for Free During Veterans' Week**

War veterans wearing their medals or uniform will be able to ride for free with their companions on OC Transpo, Para Transpo and STO during National Veterans' Week from November 5 to November 11, 2014. OC Transpo and Para Transpo will operate a regular schedule on Remembrance Day, Tuesday, November 11. Some delays and detours may take place during parades and ceremonies.

OC Transpo will observe two minutes of silence on Remembrance Day at 11 am. At this time, buses will pull over to the side of the road (where it is safe to do so). The *Last Post and Reveille* will be played over the radios of OC Transpo buses. OC Transpo operators may also wear red on Tuesday, November 11 in support of our troops.

### **Maria McRae's Annual Autumn Tea for River Ward Seniors – A Memorable Gathering**

Thanks to everyone who attended my Annual Autumn Tea. On October 31, 2014, many seniors gathered at the Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre to enjoy refreshments and entertainment by Dominic D'Arcy - The Singing Policeman! Thank you to all seniors who have participated in these events throughout my time on Council. I have made many lasting memories and friendships that I will cherish forever.

I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of all our volunteers and celebrity servers who generously donated their time throughout the years to make these events successful. Thank you for your support.

### **Airport Parkway Culvert Upgrades**

Last year, repairs were required to stabilize the Airport Parkway culvert. After a review of the overall culvert, staff determined that further repairs were needed. A new culvert is currently being installed along the Airport Parkway, South of Walkley Road.

Construction along the Airport Parkway may result in some traffic impacts and commuters should plan for additional travel time. Please contact my office if you have any questions.

### **Renewal of the Mooney's Bay Park Bridges**

The beautiful bridges in Mooney's Bay Park were in need of repair and my office worked closely with Infrastructure Services staff to identify a plan to get the job done. We determined that it was fiscally prudent to begin repairs to the functional bridge that extends over the stretch of water first and to renew the remaining three bridges in due course.

You may have recently noticed that the railings and deck were removed from the first bridge. Construction will begin immediately following National Capital Commission approval of the work materials, and is anticipated to be completed by the end of November, barring any unforeseen circumstances.

Special thanks to Carolyn Percy-Searle for working with my office to get this work started.

### **Tragedy in Ottawa - Condolences from River Ward**

On Wednesday, October 22, 2014, tragedy struck Canada's Capital. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Corporal Nathan Cirillo, who lost his life while guarding the National War Memorial. I am also sending best wishes for a speedy recovery to those who were injured.

Thank you to our first responders who work tirelessly each and every day to keep us safe. I would like to acknowledge Sergeant-At-Arms, Kevin Vickers, for his bravery and quick thinking in the midst of this tragedy. To all members of the Canadian Forces, I offer my condolences in light of the tremendous losses that took place. Thank you for your continued service and dedication to our great country.

Our city and country came together during a time of chaos. Canada is the best country in the world – we are indeed the "*True North strong and free*". By standing united, we will get through this difficult time.

Let us keep the brave members of the Canadian Forces and their families in our thoughts and prayers.

### **New Benches Coming to the Sawmill Creek Pedestrian/Cycling Pathway!**

In a response to community requests, I have ordered three benches to be installed along the Sawmill Creek Pedestrian/Cycling Pathway. These commemorative benches will serve as beautiful resting areas along our new pathway and will bring community enjoyment for years to come. Thank you to our seniors who suggested this wonderful idea!

### **Autumn Tree Planting**

The City's autumn tree planting program began and runs until the end of November 2014. This includes tree planting in parks, at City facilities, and along streets throughout Ottawa.

When a tree planting takes place close to a private residence, a notification letter is sent to homeowners in advance of the planting. Residents can expect to see utility locate flags and paint on the ground prior to the planting in the area.

### **Airport Parkway Pedestrian/Cycling Bridge Update – November 5, 2014**

The construction of the Airport Parkway Pedestrian/Cycling Bridge is ongoing and the project is anticipated to be completed by the end of the year. All cables were installed and tensioned, and are now supporting the deck. The temporary support and the traffic barriers were removed and the paving of the pathway under the bridge is completed. On November 4, 2014, the inspection and energizing of the LED electrical system took place. I was on site yesterday evening during the testing and I was thrilled to see the beautiful bridge lit up.

Ongoing work includes the installation of the railings, and electrical and lighting work. The next steps include the welding of the bearings, damper installation, installation of the expansion joints, and the complete coating and wearing surface touch ups.

During this phase of construction there will be intermittent lane reduction and off-peak closures on the Airport Parkway. Whenever possible, work will be done overnight to minimize the impact on travelers, however, motorists and transit riders travelling to and from the MacDonal-Cartier International Airport should plan additional travel time.

### **Snow Go and Snow Go Assist: Providing Winter Weather Assistance**

Winters in Ottawa can bring heavy snow and freezing rain which can make it difficult to keep private driveways and walkways clean and safe.

The *Snow Go Program* is a matching service that helps seniors and persons with disabilities find reliable and affordable snow removal services to clear snow from private driveways and walkways. The *Snow Go Assist Program* provides financial assistance to eligible low-income seniors or persons with disabilities to assist with their snow removal costs.

If you are interested in either of these programs, please call my office.

### **Overnight Parking Restrictions – Be in the Know About Snow**

The City's snow-clearing teams work diligently, around the clock to keep our roads and sidewalks safe and clear for motorists, public transit & emergency services vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists.

Winter overnight parking regulations are in effect from **November 15 to April 1**. No parking is permitted on City streets from 1 a.m. to 7 a.m. when **7 cm or more** is forecast by Environment Canada in the Ottawa area. Vehicles that remain parked on the street during an overnight parking restriction may be ticketed.

Planned snow removal may be planned during the day or night even when no snowfall is forecast. Temporary no parking snow removal signs are placed in snow banks prior to a planned removal.

Please visit [ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca) or call my office for more information. You can also sign up for Winter Parking e-Alerts to receive e-mail notification about overnight parking bans.

# INVITATION

I am pleased to invite you to join me in participating in these upcoming activities:

## **2015 Victoria Day Fireworks – Volunteer and Sponsor Information Session**

Please join me and the Riverside Park Community and Recreation Association to learn more about how you can participate in the 2015 Victoria Day Fireworks event taking place in beautiful Mooney's Bay Park in May 2015. Event organizers are looking for volunteers and sponsors.

**Date:** Monday, November 17, 2014  
**Time:** 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre  
3320 Paul Anka Drive

If you are interested in volunteering or sponsoring this event but cannot make the information session, please send an e-mail to [fireworks@riversidepark.ca](mailto:fireworks@riversidepark.ca).

You can also find more information about this family-fun event by visiting [www.riversidepark.ca](http://www.riversidepark.ca) or @riversideparkcra on Facebook or by following @riversideparkcr on Twitter.

## **Celebrating River Ward Library Innovations**

Later this fall, please join me and Councillor Jan Harder, Ottawa Public Library Board Chair, in celebrating our innovative River Ward library services at the Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre. We will celebrate with light refreshments and a fun community gathering.

Event details are as follows:

**Date:** Thursday, November 27, 2014  
**Time:** 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.  
**Place:** Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre  
3320 Paul Anka Drive

I look forward to seeing you and family, friends and neighbours at these upcoming events.

**Making “A Mentally Healthy Workplace” a 2014-2018 Term of Council Priority**

At Ottawa City Council on Wednesday, October 8, 2014, I was honoured to receive unanimous support of my motion, seconded by Councillor Allan Hubley, directing City staff to provide the 2014-2018 term of City Council with a roadmap for improving workplace mental health at the City of Ottawa for their consideration as a Term of Council priority.

At the same meeting, City Council declared October 5 to 11, 2014 Mental Illness Awareness Week in the City of Ottawa.

**Mover: Councillor Maria McRae**

**Seconded: Councillor Allan Hubley**

WHEREAS City Council has adopted an Equity and Inclusion lens that asks, among other things, that the City consider mental health issues when looking at the programs and services it provides; and

WHEREAS Members of Council believe that mental health and the psychological safety of all City of Ottawa employees to be as important as other aspects of health and safety; and

WHEREAS it has been estimated that each week approximately half a million Canadians do not go to work due to mental illness and the Canadian economy spends more than \$51 billion a year in lost productivity due to workplace mental illness; and

WHEREAS a mentally healthy workplace helps keep workers safe, engaged and productive and investing in a mentally healthy workplace contributes to effective cost management of absenteeism, grievances, disability, retraining, and turnover, and improved productivity, retention, recruitment, and engagement; and

WHEREAS all Members of Ottawa City Council are committed to supporting a mentally healthy workplace through appropriate policies, programs and services and to ensuring that City of Ottawa employees living with mental illness and their families receive appropriate access to care and support; and

WHEREAS all Members of Ottawa City Council want to reduce the stigma related to mental illness in the workplace and to create a work environment where those living with mental illness feel comfortable and supported when seeking help, treatment, and support for recovery; and

WHEREAS all members of Ottawa City Council recognize that there is more that they can do to help ensure that all City of Ottawa employees can enjoy good mental health at work;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That Ottawa City Council direct City staff to provide the 2014-2018 term of City Council with a roadmap for improving workplace mental health at the City of Ottawa for their consideration as a Term of Council priority, including as follows:

- That the roadmap be developed in consultation with the City’s unions and using resources available from organizations such as the Mental Health Commission of Canada; and
- That the roadmap make recommendations for an integrated approach to make “*A Mentally Healthy Workplace*” a 2014-2018 Term of Council priority based on sources such as the National Standard for Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Council declare October 5 to 11, 2014 Mental Illness Awareness Week in the City of Ottawa.

## **Protect Yourself and Your Loved Ones this Flu Season**

Ottawa Public Health and area hospitals want to remind you to protect yourself and your loved ones and to take appropriate steps to ease symptoms if you get sick this flu season.

### ***Prevention***

It is not too late to get the flu vaccine. You can get the flu vaccine at OPH clinics, your doctor's office, some local pharmacies and many walk-in clinics in the city.

Ottawa Public Health would also like to remind you of these key tips to avoid getting and transmitting the flu virus:

- Wash your hands with soap and water, or use hand sanitizer.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with your arm, not your hand.
- Avoid crowds, public gathering and stay at home if you are sick.
- Do not visit hospitalized patients if you are experiencing flu-like symptoms.

Individuals who have flu-like symptoms – a fever, a cough, severe headache and/or chills are advised to:

- Rest.
- Drink lots of fluids.
- Take basic pain or fever relievers.
- Take a warm bath.
- Gargle with a glass of warm water or suck on hard candy or lozenges.
- Avoid alcohol and tobacco.

### **Contact your health care provider if symptoms are severe and do not improve after a few days**

You should call your health care provider immediately if you experience flu symptoms, especially if you:

- Are pregnant.
- Have a chronic health problem that requires regular medical attention.
- Are elderly or frail.
- Have an illness or are receiving treatments – for example, for diabetes, cancer, or HIV/AIDS – that might affect your immune system.
- Have a child under three months of age who has a fever over 38° C or 100.4° F.

There are many ways to get non-emergency medical care. Trained professionals from Telehealth Ontario and the Ottawa Public Health Information line can answer your questions by phone, and family doctors, nurses and other health care providers can provide care.

A City flu shot clinic close to River Ward is taking place at the Jim Durrell Recreation Centre located at 1264 Walkley Road on **Monday November 24, 2014** from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. You can also obtain the flu vaccine in Riverside Park at Mooney's Bay Pharmacy, located at 743 Ridgewood Avenue or at Remedy's Rx o/o Remedy Holding Inc., located at 3635 Rivergate Way.

To find out the latest public health information, please visit [ottawa.ca/flu](http://ottawa.ca/flu) or contact the Ottawa Public Health Information Line at 613-580-6744 (TTY: 613-580-9656). To reach Telehealth Ontario, call 1-866-797-0000.

### **City is Recruiting Residents to Serve on Committees and Boards**

Residents of Ottawa who are 18 years and over are invited to put their expertise and knowledge to work by becoming a volunteer member on one of the City's committees or boards addressing issues such as health, public safety, arts, transit, environment, heritage, language, community and more.

Interested residents are required to fill out an application form or submit a résumé and cover letter indicating the committee or board on which they would like to serve. Your application needs to include an outline of qualifications, specific skills, interests and background, and how they are relevant to the committee/board.

All applications must be submitted by Thursday, November 27 at 4:30 p.m. For more information, please visit [Ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca).

### **Mandatory Carbon Monoxide Alarms Protect Everyone**

The City of Ottawa wants to remind all residents that, just like smoke alarms, working carbon monoxide (CO) alarms are now mandatory for all homes in Ontario.

On October 14, 2014, the Province of Ontario announced that the Ontario Fire Code now makes it mandatory to have CO alarms in most residential properties. Any residential property with a gas-fired appliance or attached garage must have an alarm. These must be installed near all sleeping areas in residential homes and in the service rooms, and adjacent sleeping areas in multi-residential units.

It also declared the first week of November as Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week. Owners of properties with six or fewer residences have six months to comply and those with more than six residential units have one year to comply.

Often called the silent killer, carbon monoxide is an invisible, odourless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel are potential sources of carbon monoxide. Vehicles or generators running in an attached garage can also produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide.

Like smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms should be tested at least once a month and replaced according to the manufacturer's instructions. When you change your clocks this weekend, also change the batteries in all your household alarms and emergency kits.

If the audible trouble signal sounds on your alarm:

- Check for low batteries. If the battery is low, replace it.
- If it still sounds, or you suspect CO in your home, have everyone in the home exit to the outdoors and then call 9-1-1.
- Remain at the fresh air location until emergency personnel arrive to assist you.

Find out more on carbon monoxide safety at <http://ottawa.ca/fire>

### **OC Transpo Operators Honoured for Safe Driving**

On October 6, 2014, the City of Ottawa honoured 45 OC Transpo bus operators in recognition of their distinguished safe-driving records and their commitment to providing safe and reliable service to customers. The annual OC Transpo Safe Driving Awards recognizes drivers who reached career milestones in safe driving from 20 to 40 years or more.

OC Transpo operators provide more than 100 million passenger trips every year while facing challenges like traffic congestion, inclement weather, road construction and a variety of emergency situations. OC Transpo is dedicated to customer service and to getting residents and visitors to their destinations safely. Thank you to all our OC Transpo operators!

### **2014 Environmental Excellence Awards – Honouring Excellence in Our Workplace and Community**

On September 16, 2014, I had the privilege of announcing the 2014 Environmental Excellence Awards during a special presentation at the Environment Committee. The awards have two categories, initiatives that minimize environmental impacts across the wider community and those that reduce the City's corporate environmental footprint.

Winning the community category was the Ring and Post Bicycle Rack Program Team. This group of City employees repurposed on-street parking meter posts into bike racks when the meters were removed in 2010. The project increased bike parking while diverting materials from the waste stream.

The internal category winner committed upgrades to the claims and insurance software, RiskMaster Accelerator. The upgrade is a significant step towards a paperless system for the City's Legal Services Branch and Claims Unit.

A lifetime achievement award was presented to Paul McCann of the Public Works department. Throughout his 30 year career, Paul displayed personal commitment to environmental excellence in all of the projects he has been involved with, including the Cleaning the Capital program, litter and graffiti programs, Adopt-A-Park/Roadway and the Green Bin program.

Congratulations to all the nominees and winners. Thank you for your hard work and for your dedication to the environment!

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

To address community concerns about speeding, I have ensured that speed boards are available for exclusive deployment throughout all neighbourhoods in our Ward, year-round. As you may have noticed, the boards display the motorist's speed. The boards also capture speed data for further review by City Traffic engineers and the Police. The Police use this data when considering proactive enforcement on a street.

## **Safer Roads Ottawa Program**

### ***November 2014 Initiatives***

The City of Ottawa and the Ottawa Police Service's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) will focus on **red light running and unsafe lane changes** during the month of November, as part of its ongoing commitment to keeping Ottawa's roads safe.

### **September 2014 Initiatives**

STEP focused on **school bus/school zone safety and vehicle occupant restraints** during the month of September. The results of the September initiatives will be made available in coming weeks.

### **October 2014 Initiatives**

STEP focused on **distracted driving and stop sign violations** during the month of October. The results of the October initiatives will be made available in coming weeks.

*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.