



COUNCILLOR/CONSEILLER RILEY BROCKINGTON



Riverside Park Community Association Meeting November 9, 2022

Dear friends and neighbours of Riverside Park,

Thank-you Riverside Park!

I am truly humbled for the opportunity to serve you and River Ward residents for another term of office. Thank-you for your on-going trust and confidence.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

729 Ridgewood Avenue - Brigil Developments

Following the latest (revised) submission by Brigil in August 2022, the City and developer continue to review the details of the proposal. It is likely Brigil will appear before the Urban Design Review Panel to receive constructive feedback as part of a peer review. No date has been set for the application to be heard at the Planning Committee.

3071 Riverside Drive (Canoe Bay)

The real estate broker for Canoe Bay, JLL, is assessing a number of offers to purchase the site, that came in by the September 15 deadline.

AROUND RIVER WARD

Mooney's Bay Hill

In December 2021, a young girl was killed at the base of Mooney's Bay Hill when she and her siblings crashed their toboggan in to three posts (waste station) that had been installed during the 2021 park season.

Mooney's Bay Hill has been an unsanctioned hill by the City of Ottawa since 2017. Signage has been in place at the summit of the hill warning tobogganers of the risk of tobogganing. In addition to signage, the City built a berm along the northern edge of the slope, abutting the Terry Fox Athletic Centre fence line, to slow in-coming tobogganers, trees are wrapped in protective padding and some hay bales are used. I met with Parks and Recreation staff on January 4 for the first time to discuss the accident, what the City did right away to address safety issues and the plan forward. It was decided that at my request, the City

would hire an independent specialist to come on-site to assess the Hill and immediate grounds for risks and safety issues. The independent expert recommended that the city permanently shutter the hill to tobogganers due to the safety risks; I do not believe it is realistic for the City of Ottawa to close the hill permanently. People have come to the Hill for decades and will continue to come.

In addition to the independent risk assessment report, City staff worked with the Coroner's Office who also provided a set of recommendations and the City completed their own assessment of the Hill.

In an October 2022 back and forth with City staff, more information on their thinking was provided:

"Because staff specifically requested that an assessment be completed to determine whether any part of the hill could be made reasonably safe for sledding, the consultant identified that slope A, landing towards the fence line of the Terry Fox Athletic facility could be modified into a bunny hill. The consultant makes it clear that significant ongoing maintenance measures would be required to make the risk of this acceptable and to prevent collisions with the fence and cross country skiers.

Despite providing this option, the consultant identified concerns with opening this section of hill, including the strong possibility that sledders may try to access other parts of the hill as there is historical evidence that sledders disregard signage and cautions provided by the city. Additionally, the consultant identifies the requirement for regular inspections of the sledding pathway to take place to verify the additional ground treatments and protective measures are well maintained. This would require on-going additions of sand and woodchips throughout the winter, with extra attention required after each snowfall and freeze/thaw events. The Consultant concludes this area of his report with "We are not confident that the rewards of this small "bunny hill" would warrant the increased risk and costs to the City....".

Staff reviewed the consultant's cautioned option and identified the following risks:

1. Residents attend Mooney's Bay Hill for thrill seeking sledding purposes. People have viewed this as a destination for sledding because the hill is big, the slopes are steep and significant speed can be achieved. The establishment of a small bunny hill would not provide the experience residents are seeking and would likely lead to attempts to alter the site as we experienced in the past. We also considered that the responsibility at this site cannot be viewed singularly as providing a safer path to sled, but also to preventing sledding at the many remaining slopes of the hill.
2. The level of maintenance and oversight identified as required by the Consultant would be difficult and impractical to achieve. The time between snowfall and the ability of staff to attend to the site to add sand and woodchips will vary, resulting in potentially unsafe conditions for time periods ranging from a few hours to up to several days should weather impacts occur on the weekend. Additionally, historical

evidence indicates that there is a strong possibility that hay bags/bales will be moved by residents in order access their preferred sledding pathways.

Based on the internal and external reviews of this location, staff conclude that the hill should continue to be closed for sledding purposes. Because signage has not been effective in deterring sledders year after year, staff propose to maintain the closed status for the upcoming winter and to erect temporary but durable fencing at the end of November to prevent access to the hill as recommended by the consultant. The fencing would be removed in March/April, depending on weather conditions so the hill can be made available for spring/summer/fall activities including hiking, cross country running and cross fit training.

We recognize that this decision will be disappointing for some residents. Staff have explored options to make this hill reasonably safe for sledding for many years and several measures were implemented including the construction of the berm leading towards the Terry Fox Fence line and the addition of signage and context on Ottawa.ca. Despite these measures, injuries were on-going and staff continued to receive complaints from residents who were impacted by the collision risk resulting from activities taking place at the bottom of the hill. Beginning in November the city will also be activating a robust public education campaign relating to sledding hill safety and general sledding information. We will be promoting our 60 + approved hills and we are optimistic that providing this information through various media and print channels will provide residents with options for sledding that they were not previously aware of. You will recall that the Coroner placed significant emphasis on directing the public to safe alternatives.

Without significant landscape modifications to the hill to reduce its height, to remove trees and park amenities and to reduce its slopes, we do not believe the hill can be made safe for sledding this winter or included as a sanctioned site. Our experience at this site, despite the installation of incremental signage and protective measures to mitigate risk, is that significant residual risk of accidents will remain irrespective of available mitigating measures. Based on the two external reports and our own analysis, staff are not in support of a motion to reopen all or a portion of the hill for sledding.”

Mooney’s Bay Pavilion Update

Recently, I circled back to the Park Planner, Burl Walker, who has been tapped to lead the renewal project for the Pavilion.

I asked him to provide an update on where this project stands, who is in charge of the project and how regular updates will be provided:

Burl Walker:

“Asset Management Service and Infrastructure Services will be responsible for management of the Mooney’s Bay Beach Pavilion Replacement project through the feasibility study, design, construction and close-out phases including the management of the consultants and the general contractor. Infrastructure Services prepares monthly Project Status Reports for each Ward Councillor for the municipal capital projects within their ward. Schedule is one of the items that is included in the status reports. The reporting is done during all phases of a project. When the Mooney’s Bay Beach Pavilion Replacement project reaches the planning phase it will be added to the monthly status reports for Ward 16. Feasibility studies are not included in the monthly status reports as they are typically completed during the initiation phase of the project by Asset Management Service. When a consultant is procured to undertake the feasibility study for this project, the City will request that the consultant include a schedule in their proposal. We can share the consultant’s schedule with you once the project is at this stage.

With respect to the playground located to the south of the Beach Pavilion building, we received the following comments through the public consultation held in 2018:

[Consider] play structure near building (geared towards younger children)

Maintain smaller playground near pavilion

We are proposing to retain this playground area. The lifecycle renewal of the playground would be outside the scope of the proposed feasibility study, though. If the proposed footprint for the new Beach Pavilion impacts the playground, we would consider options for where the playground would be relocated to as part of the feasibility study. Asset Management Service is responsible for reviewing the condition of the playground equipment and determining when it will be scheduled for lifecycle replacement. They are currently in the process of reviewing the condition of the outdoor amenities at Mooney’s Bay Park and then will update their lifecycle replacement forecast including the results of this assessment. Depending on the timing for the lifecycle replacement of the playground, there could be an opportunity to bundle the design and construction of the playground replacement with the future design and construction phases of the Beach Pavilion Replacement project. Otherwise, the playground replacement would be designed and constructed as a separate project once approved by Council during the budget process.

The parking lot expansion, fire route and passenger pick-up and drop-off area are proposed to be included in the scope of work for the feasibility study. Servicing issues are also proposed to be addressed as part of the feasibility study including the water service from Riverside Drive.

We are planning to review the proposed washroom building by the Canada 150 playground from a business case perspective first. After this, we will be able to advise if it will be included in the scope of work for the feasibility study.”

Road Resurfacing Operations Postponed

Due to the July strike and contractors being overly ambitious on projects they bid on and could actually accomplish, the City's Infrastructure Renewal Department last week placed all remaining road resurfacing projects on hold until 2023. The following streets in River Ward are impacted:

- Banff Ave
- Edgecliffe
- Hunt Club, east bound
- McCarthy
- Meadowlands (Ortona to Prince of Wales)
- Trent

Seasonal Traffic Calming

Yellow flex stakes, crosswalk signage in the roadway and the six concrete planters on Walkley Road will all be relocated this month.

The flex stakes will be removed to assist with snow operations and will be reinstalled in the Spring 2023.

OFFICIAL PLAN

The province has approved the City's official plan on November 4, 2022 with thirty (30) modifications. The City of Ottawa's official plan is adopted pursuant to sections 17 and 26 of the Planning Act by By-law 2021-386. Notice of this decision was issued on November 4, 2022.

The adopted official plan was reviewed for consistency with provincial plans and policies, and have regard for matters of provincial interests as outlined in the Planning Act.

The thirty (30) modifications to the official plan have been made to address matters related the protection of provincial highways, wetland protection, monitoring of affordable housing and increasing housing supply.

The approval of the City of Ottawa's new official plan, as modified, outlines a comprehensive land use policy framework to guide growth and development within the city to the year 2046, including policies and schedules related to housing; planning for employment and infrastructure; environmental and agricultural protection; and public health and safety, among other matters. The new City of Ottawa Official Plan, as approved with modifications by the Minister, came into effect on November 4, 2022. The City of Ottawa is studying the modifications to its Official Plan and plans to address them shortly, including the 500 ha expansion of the urban boundary.

REMEMBRANCE DAY & VETERANS' WEEK

(From Veterans Canada)

Service, Courage and Sacrifice. At home, around the world and across generations.

Canadians have a long and proud tradition of military service. Today's Canadian Armed Forces members serving on land, at sea and in the air carry on the impressive legacy of those who came before them. From the major wars of the first half of the 20th century to fighting in Afghanistan, from overseas peacekeeping operations to helping during floods and forest fires in Canada – the contributions have been many.

Canada's military is a reflection of our country. People from a broad cross section of our diverse society have served in uniform over the years. Standing up for the rights of everyone – both around the world and here at home – is a reflection of the values we hold dear.

This Veterans' Week, how will you remember the generations of brave Canadians who have put their lives on the line in the cause of peace and freedom?

National War Memorial

The National War Memorial, also known as "The Response," is a cenotaph symbolizing the sacrifice of all Canadian Armed Forces personnel who have served Canada in the cause of peace and freedom.

After the First World War, 1914-1918, there was a strong feeling in Canada that a memorial should be built to recognize those who had served their country in that war.

The National War Memorial was officially unveiled by His Majesty King George VI on Sunday, May 21, 1939. In his address to an estimated 100,000 persons who gathered to witness the ceremony, King George spoke of the symbolism of the memorial and the sacrifice to which it was dedicated:

The memorial speaks to her world of Canada's heart. Its symbolism has been beautifully adapted to this great end. It has been well named "The Response." One sees at a glance the answer made by Canada when the world's peace was broken and freedom threatened in the fateful years of the Great War. It depicts the zeal with which this country entered the conflict.

1982 rededication

On May 29, 1982, the memorial was rededicated to include the dates of the Second World War 1939-1945 and the Korean War 1950-1953.

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

In 2000, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was added in front of the memorial. The tomb contains the remains of an unknown Canadian soldier from a war cemetery near Vimy Ridge, France.

2014 rededication

On November 11, 2014, the memorial was rededicated to include the dates of the South African War 1899-1902 and the mission in Afghanistan 2001-2014. The words "IN SERVICE TO CANADA AU SERVICE DU CANADA" were inscribed at the front and back of the memorial.

WREATHS FOR LOCAL SCHOOLS

My office has arranged for 18 wreaths to be delivered to local schools for their Veterans' Week activities and Remembrance Day ceremony. As I do every year, I will attend a Remembrance Day ceremony in a River Ward school.

OTTAWA PUBLIC HEALTH LAUNCHES ANNUAL INFLUENZA VACCINE CAMPAIGN

Ottawa Public Health is planning for a fall and winter season with higher than usual levels of influenza (flu) in the community and an increase of COVID-19 transmission. Ottawa Public Health is encouraging residents to book their annual flu vaccine as soon as possible.

Starting November 1, the general public will be eligible to receive their flu vaccine through their health care provider or local participating pharmacy. Vaccine availability may vary by provider.

Ottawa Public Health (OPH) will be offering flu vaccine clinics for children aged six months to two years old and their household members. Newcomers and individuals without OHIP who are unable to access a flu vaccine through a primary care provider or pharmacy can also book an appointment in OPH clinics. Starting October 31 at 10 am, individuals in these groups are encouraged to book an appointment at OPH flu vaccine clinics, with appointments available starting November 1. OPH clinics will be operating from Tuesday to Saturday at various locations across the city on a rotating basis. As a precaution, masks are required to be worn in OPH clinical settings at all times.

It is safe for individuals aged five and older to receive both the COVID-19 and flu vaccines at the same time. However, individuals aged six months to under five years who received the Moderna Spikevax or the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine should not receive another vaccine including the influenza vaccine on the same day or 14 days before or after. This is a precaution to help to determine if a potential side effect is due to the COVID-19 vaccine or another vaccine. If an individual becomes ill with any respiratory illness, they can receive the influenza vaccine as soon as they recover from infection.

COVID-19 Vaccines: UPDATE

Do you have questions about the new bivalent booster dose? Consider getting your booster ahead of what may be an active flu and respiratory illness season in our community if you are 18 and over. It is recommended to receive the Bivalent Booster at an interval of at least six months from your previous dose. For more information please click: [COVID-19 Vaccine - Ottawa Public Health](#).

Walk in vaccination clinic Hours – Hunt Club Riverside Park Community Centre - 3320 Paul Anka Dr

Thursday: 1 pm to 7 pm (Closed 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm)

Friday: 10 am to 4 pm: (Closed 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm)

CITY OF OTTAWA SERVICES

New Vacant Property By-law

The new [Vacant Property By-law](#) comes into effect Tuesday, November 1. Vacant lots and buildings that have been unoccupied for 120 consecutive days are required to have a vacant property permit, with limited exemptions. On Wednesday, June 8, City Council approved this new by-law and permit system to hold property owners accountable for managing their vacant properties.

In addition to obtaining a permit, the Vacant Property By-law requires owners to comply with regulations for identifying, managing and visiting their sites. The vacant property permit system is intended to increase accountability for the owners of vacant buildings and lands, prevent neglect and harmful community impacts that vacancies can cause, and encourage the redevelopment or repurposing of existing vacant properties.

Annual permits cost \$1,507 (\$1,450 for the permit plus a \$57 administrative fee). The fee revenue covers the cost of two new full-time City positions to enforce and administer the by-law. Permit exemptions can be made for snowbirds, travelling workers and vacation properties. Some vacant properties are also exempt from a permit for a maximum of two years on certain compassionate grounds, such as an owner who was in care or a property vacant due to a catastrophic event.

For more information on vacant properties and units, visit the [Vacant Properties page on ottawa.ca](#). For more information specific to the permit application, requirements and costs, visit the [Vacant Property and/or Vacant Land Permit webpage](#).

Ottawa Police Services Board Announces Hiring of Eric Stubbs as New Chief

On October 21, the Ottawa Police Services Board announced that it has selected Eric Stubbs as the new Chief of Police for the Ottawa Police Service (OPS). Eric Stubbs is currently an Assistant Commissioner with the RCMP where he holds the role of Criminal Operations Officer for the Province of British Columbia. He will begin his role as Chief of the OPS effective November 17, 2022.

The Board wishes to extend its sincere thanks to Interim Chief Steve Bell for his dedicated leadership over the last eight months. He has led the Ottawa Police Service through one of its most challenging moments during the convoy and was also at the helm during St. Patrick's Day, Rolling Thunder, the Derecho storm, Canada Day, and a number of other complex operational matters.

Collision Reporting Centres get modernized

The Ottawa Police Service (OPS) is pleased to announce that starting in November, users of Collision Reporting Centres (CRC) will benefit from new technology and a user-friendly reporting tool, thanks to a new partnership with Accident Support Services International Ltd. ([ASSI](#)).

The Highway Traffic Act requires that any collision with injuries and/or damages exceeding \$2,000 must be reported to the police. Drivers involved in a minor vehicle collision without injuries who do not require a police officer to respond, must attend a CRC to self-report their collision.

The current CRC model was evaluated by the OPS during a Customer Service Review Project, where both the Service and external participants determined that the current system was inefficient and expensive. A key recommendation that emerged from that Project was to partner with ASSI, a third-party CRC, to help the Service realize the modernization of services, improve efficiencies, reduce demands on patrol, and balance associated staffing and budgetary pressures.

Ottawa Residents will be accessing streamlined stand-alone kiosks in the lobby of each of the three police stations where OPS CRCs are currently located – 3343 St. Joseph Boulevard, 474 Elgin Street, and 211 Huntmar Drive. The kiosks will be staffed by ASSI agents. The ASSI CRC program will reduce wait-times, be more cost-effective, and improve efficiencies in customer service by providing a modernized and streamlined response to the reporting of collisions. It will also bring significant staffing efficiencies within our Front Desk Services.

PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

E-Scoter Pilot Program

The 2022 E-scooter program is coming to an end and the City wants your feedback! Whether you have used the shared e-scooters or not, please fill out the below survey and send us your feedback.

[Survey](#)

Airport Parkway Widening- Brookfield to Hunt Club

The City of Ottawa will be hosting a public information session on phase 1 of widening the Airport Parkway on November 23. You are invited to attend a virtual public information session at 6:30 pm using Zoom. If you wish to participate, please use the following link to register:

www.tinyurl.com/AirportPkwY

Walkley Road Project

The City of Ottawa and my office will conduct a public information session (Town Hall) on the Walkley Road Modification project, on December 6 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. You are invited to attend this virtual public information session starting at 6:30 pm using zoom. If you wish to participate, please use the following link to register:

www.tinyurl.com/Walkley

Coyotes in River Ward

As many residents are aware, coyote sightings and coyote interactions with both humans and pets are elevated in 2022 compared to any other year. In fact, bold attacks on family pets have taken place and a number of residents are concerned for their safety.

In September, a Wildlife Specialist spent three weeks assessing recent human-coyote interaction data as well as walked local habitats to better understand why the interactions this year are so high. He recommended live trapping two coyotes in particular and that started in early October. After 10 days, no coyotes had been trapped and operations ceased for one week. Trapping activities resumed last week and three coyotes were captured and removed on November 4.

At the October 5 City Council meeting, Council endorsed my motion to create a coyote management strategy, which does not exist in Ottawa and would be based on strategies that exist in other Ontario municipalities and will draw on the expertise of wildlife groups and other levels of government. City staff have already pledged to host a consultation session on the new strategy in River Ward in 2023.

Finally, an extensive public education campaign on co-existing with coyotes needs to be undertaken, sharing the Dos and Don'ts. Feeding coyotes, intentionally or even unintentionally is an issue in our ward that must be addressed.

RIVER WARD WINTER EVENTS

Electronic Waste Depot Featuring - Junk That Funk

Saturday, November 12 2022 10:00am - 4:00pm

Junk That Funk will be collecting E-Waste in the parking lot behind the Metro grocery store at 3310 McCarthy Road. Enter through the Paul Anka Drive Entrance. If you can come a bit later in the day, we recommend doing so to avoid long wait times and traffic.

E-Waste materials accepted: televisions, desktop computers and terminals, monitors, laptop computers, desktop printers, fax machines, disk drives, CD-ROM drives, keyboards and mice, amplifiers, stereos, speakers, receivers, cameras, digital cameras, copiers, fax machines, scanners, pagers, radios, telephones, cellphones, answering machines, VCR and DVD players.

River Ward Christmas Dinner

My Office is hosting a free Christmas Dinner on December 22, catered by Grill Master. Please join us for a delicious holiday feast of Turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, seasonal vegetables and coffee or tea. Vegetarian option Available! Please bring non perishable food item donations for the Ottawa-Foodbank.

Where: Hunt Club Riverside Park Community Centre

Address: 3320 Paul Anka Dr.

Date: December 22 5:00 pm

To reserve your spot, please RSVP By December 16 to: Courtney.McRury@ottawa.ca

Riley Brockington
November 9, 2022