



## COUNCILLOR/CONSEILLER RILEY BROCKINGTON



### Riverside Park Community Association Meeting December 7, 2022

**Dear friends and neighbours of Riverside Park,**

On November 15, the newly elected City Council was sworn in to office to serve the people of Ottawa over the next four years. I am very hopeful that this Council will work collaboratively, professionally and focused on the main priorities of Ottawa residents.

December is always a busy month with Hanukkah (December 18-26), Christmas (December 25) and Kwanzaa (December 26-January 1).

I wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable month and hope you get some time to relax and focus on some of the festive opportunities coming up. Please join me on December 22, for a community dinner I am hosting at the Hunt Club Riverside Park Community Centre at 5pm. Contact my office to reserve your seat.

The City budget for 2023 will also take stage centre stage in the new year. I continue to collate and review all comments received during the election campaign and am already developing plans to address more substantive issues as part of the Budget process.

I look forward to a great year ahead and working with you and other River Ward residents to make our ward an even better place to call home. I would also like to inform you of the River Ward team that serve you: Courtney McRury (Office Manager), Andrew Sutton (Ward Relations – east of the river) and Mary Young (Ward Relations – west of the river).

Stay safe, stay well.

Sincerely,  
Riley

### **RIVER WARD EVENTS**

On Dec 22 (5 pm) I am hosting a special River Ward Holiday Dinner and I invite you to join us! Enjoy the wonderful Holiday feast catered by Grill Master Restaurant & Catering, served by local celebrity servers, and entertained by our musical guest, Johnny Vegas. We are also collecting non-perishable food items to be donated to The Ottawa Food Bank. If you are able to, non-perishable item donations are encouraged\*. Limited Seating - Please RSVP: [courtney.mcrury@ottawa.ca](mailto:courtney.mcrury@ottawa.ca)

\*If you are unable to make it to the event, but would like to donate non-perishable items, our Ward office at the Hunt Club Riverside Park Community Centre will be accepting donations during business hours, from December 1 - 21.

CITY COUNCILLOR RILEY BROCKINGTON PRESENTS...

# RIVER WARD HOLIDAY DINNER DECEMBER 22 AT 5PM

- Celebrity Servers
- Entertainer Johnny Vegas
- Traditional Christmas Dinner
- Food Drive Donation Drop Off

HUNT CLUB RIVERSIDE PARK  
COMMUNITY CENTRE  
3320 PAUL ANKA DR

**LIMITED  
SEATING** →  
**PLEASE RSVP AT**  
COURTNEY.MCRURY@OTTAWA.CA

WWW.RILEYBROCKINGTON.CA  
RILEY.BROCKINGTON@OTTAWA.CA  
613-580-2486



## **PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS**

### **Airport Parkway Widening Project and Walkley Road Modifications (Proposed)**

City Council and the Province of Ontario approved the Airport Parkway (Brookfield Road to Ottawa Macdonald-Cartier International Airport) and Lester Road Widening (Airport Parkway to Bank Street) Environmental Assessment (EA) Study in 2017. The City has now commenced the preliminary and detailed design process for Phase 1 of the overall project. The overall purpose of this project is to undertake public consultations and develop a final design leading to construction. The public consultation for the Airport Parkway Widening (Phase 1) of the project was held on November 23. Part of that project includes modifications to Walkley Road. My Office, the City of Ottawa and its consultant, Parsons, held a virtual public information session last night (December 6, 2022). This project is in its final design

phase, likely to take another year and the public comment period is open until December 23, 2022.

To review the recent presentations, please visit this website: <https://ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/public-engagement/projects/airport-parkway-widening-phase-1-brookfield-road-hunt-club-road>

You are welcome to send your comments to me on this major project. We will need to continue to converse on this matter as it has significant ramifications within Riverside Park.

## **AROUND RIVER WARD**

### **Bank Street Watermain Renewal and Road Redesign**

The renewal of Bank Street from Riverside Drive (westbound) to Ledbury Avenue is currently under design and will include full reconstruction of the four-lane roadway with new sidewalks and curbs, raised cycle tracks, streetscaping improvements, the replacement of underground infrastructure, and the rehabilitation of the Sawmill Creek culvert. The work will be broken down into three phases with the design work being completed in 2023. This is a multi year project, with construction set to begin in 2023 on phase 1 and being funded by Development Charges. The section in River Ward is not expected until at least 2026.

### **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 (Hunt Club to Paul Anka)
- Meadowlands (Ortona to Prince of Wales)
- Trent, plus addition of a new speed bump

### **Coyotes in our Community**

Trapping efforts ceased on November 4 with the capture of three coyotes. They were removed and regrettably euthanized as they were deemed habituated to humans.

A coyote has been seen in the neighbourhood with a snare around its hind leg. City staff are looking for the coyote and are trying to assist. Unsanctioned neck snares have been installed in the Hydro One corridor and Woods. Some online, social media content is blaming the City and NCC for installing them, but this is not from either party, it is from a rogue agent. City Council unanimously agreed with my motion to create a coyote management strategy and consultations are expected in early 2023. I hope to host a session in the south end of River Ward.

## **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **729 Ridgewood Dr – 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. The city awaits their (likely) third submission. No date has been set for the Planning Committee.

### **770 Brookfield Road – The Revalie**

Construction is now slated to commence on Phase 2 of the development in February/March 2023.

Phase 1 is now at 100% capacity and there is a waiting list for prospective tenants.

Retailers have been signed and others appear to be in final negotiations. Food services, grocery and professional service retailers are likely to be part of the retail mix. My office has assisted The Revalie by sharing population and Festival attendance numbers with them, as part of inquiries from retailers.

### **3930 – 3960 Riverside Dr (St Mary's) – Taggart**

Taggart Developments is progressing on a functional design for their project located at Riverside Dr and Hunt Club. The development will comprise a total of 700 units (600 apartment units across 4 towers and a combination of 100 townhomes / single homes). The development will comprise a number of area improvements including traffic calming, MUP extensions and parkland improvements. Construction of the project will be done in phases, with the goal of beginning in 2024-2025.

Anticipated planning committee date of spring 2023 is expected. I plan to host a public information session in winter 2023.

## **CITY OF OTTAWA**

### **City Appointments – Committees and Boards**

Today, City Council confirmed the Committee Chair and Committee memberships for all members of Council. My Council assignments are as follows:

Chair: Emergency Preparedness & Protective Services Committee

Member: Planning & Housing Committee, Environment Committee, FEDCO, Transit Commission

City representative: Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Board of Directors

## **Final report of Ottawa Light Rail Transit Public Inquiry**

Commissioner, the Honourable Justice William Hourigan, released the final report of the OLRT Public Inquiry on November 30, 2022.

The Ottawa LRT Public Inquiry found there were persistent failures in leadership, partnership and communications in the construction and maintenance of the Ottawa LRT.

In releasing the report, Commissioner Hourigan said both the City of Ottawa and the private consortium, Rideau Transit Group (RTG), lost sight of the public interest during the project. “It was unconscionable that RTG and its main sub-contractor knowingly gave the City inaccurate information about when they would finish building the LRT.” He also found that City Council was not told that the testing criteria for the LRT was lowered to allow it to pass its final testing phase. “This conduct irreparably compromised the legal oversight ability of Council and raises serious concerns about whether the City of Ottawa can properly complete significant infrastructure projects.”

The Commissioner found there were many reasons Ottawa residents did not get the reliable transit system they deserved, including that:

- The City chose unproven technology for the trains that strained the limits of what an LRT system could do.
- RTG did not coordinate the work of its sub-contractors and failed to ensure the integration of the various systems and components.
- An adversarial relationship developed between the City and RTG.
- The City rushed the LRT system into service before it was ready.
- RTG and its subcontractors did not provide adequate maintenance.

The Public Inquiry made 103 recommendations to fix the problems with the Ottawa LRT and ensure they don't reoccur on other major infrastructure projects. Commissioner Hourigan recommended that an independent monitor keep Ottawa City Council or the Transit Commission informed about on-going corrective measures. And he said governments and public procurement agencies should examine whether to use a public-private partnership (P3) or another model when building complex infrastructure projects.

Other recommendations include:

- Collaboration and the public interest should be at the heart of the relationship between the public entity and private-sector partners.
- Systems integration must be prioritized from the design phase through to construction and manufacturing.
- Safety requirements should be designed and built in from the outset, to avoid expensive, retroactive changes. An independent safety auditor should be engaged early in the construction of complex infrastructure projects.

- Reliability and safety issues must be honestly identified and communicated to project partners and the public. The province should give legal protection to whistleblowers who bring forward concerns about major infrastructure projects.
- Trial testing requirements should be detailed in the relevant contracts and used as the basis for any performance scoring.
- There should be timely and proper responses to problems related to maintenance and operations by all parties once they arise. The safety and needs of the public should be prioritized.
- Prior to public opening, there should be an extensive running of the entire system under conditions designed to mirror those of public service.

The full report of the Ottawa LRT Public Inquiry, along with additional information, can be found at [OttawaLRTPublicInquiry.ca](https://ottawalrtpublicinquiry.ca).

City Council expects to receive a report from City staff on Commissioner Hourigan's Report and develop plans immediately to implement the recommendations.

### **Mooney's Bay Hill - Tobogganing**

I moved a Motion at City Council on December 7 that sought Council support to direct City staff to partially reopen the north-facing side of Mooney's Bay Hill for tobogganing this coming winter. The exact wording of the motion reads as follows:

**THEREFORE BE IS RESOLVED that the Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services (RCFS) Department be directed to re-open, as reasonably safe for tobogganing, a reduced portion of the north facing side of Mooney's Bay Hill for the 2022-2023 winter season and physically block off all other sides of the hill, including the north-west and west facing sides for tobogganing,**

**Be it further resolved that RCFS develop options to physically modify the north-facing side of the hill that would result in a portion of Mooney's Bay Hill being reinstated as a sanctioned tobogganing site,**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an update with possible recommendations be presented to the appropriate standing committee by Q4 2023.**

The entire Hill was closed last winter season, following the death of 11 year old Josee Abi Assal at the base of the west-facing slope of the Hill. An independent review of the Hill in January 2022 concluded that there are risks on-site for those who partake in tobogganing and City staff made the decision to close the Hill.

On a vote of 11-12, City Council rejected Part 1 of the motion to re-open the north-facing side of the Hill and unanimously approved Parts 2 & 3 of the above motion.

### **Vacant Unit Tax**

An important Vacant Unit Tax (VUT) notice has arrived in homeowners' mailboxes or inboxes



over the next week for each property they own. It provides information such as the roll number and access code and identifies the next steps in the process to file the required occupancy status declaration for the 2022 calendar year.

Declarations must be filed between January and March 16, 2023. Property owners must provide some basic information on the occupancy of their property, including if it is their principal residence.

It will only take a few minutes to file the online declaration at [ottawa.ca/vut](http://ottawa.ca/vut). To access the declaration form, you must input your roll number and access code which will be mailed in the coming days or can be found on the latest tax bill. My ServiceOttawa account holders can sign into their account and complete the declaration without needing to insert their roll number or access code.

If you have a property that was vacant for 184 or more days in 2022, you may indicate whether any of the following exemptions apply:

- Death of a registered owner
- Property owner was in a hospital or long-term care facility
- Arm's length sale of the property
- Specific court orders prohibiting occupancy, sale, or rental of the property
- Extended renovations or construction
- Was used as a cottage rental with a valid permit for at least 100 days

If the property was vacant and does not qualify for an exemption, it may be subject to a one per cent charge of the property's current assessed value on the final 2023 property tax bill.

Declarations are subject to audit to confirm their authenticity.

Homeowners will be required to file a declaration every year, between January and mid-March.

The City has declaration options for those who require accessibility-related supports or for those who do not have computer or internet access. More information will be provided in January. Vacant Unit Tax revenues will help fund affordable housing initiatives, in accordance with the City's Ten-Year Affordable Housing and Homeless Plan, which commits capital funding for the construction of up to 500 new affordable units annually.

Visit [ottawa.ca/vut](http://ottawa.ca/vut) for more information.

I am the only member of the current city council who voted against this scheme.

### **Jim Durrell Arena – Temporary Men's Shelter**

The City of Ottawa intends to use the Jim Durrell Arena (1265 Walkley Road) as a men's shelter from mid-December to March. The number of homeless people in Ottawa is up 9% since pre-COVID and the arena will not be in use this winter due to malfunctioning cooling rods that help sustain a frozen rink surface, the City is repurposing the arena. The arena was used for this purpose for a short period during COVID. Since extensive repairs are expected to commence in the early Spring 2023, the shelter will disband at that time.

## **WINTER OPERATIONS**

## **Winter Weather Parking Bans**

Between November 15 and April 1, the City may declare a Winter Weather Parking Ban for inclement weather including freezing rain or when Environment Canada forecasts 7 cm or more of snow in the Ottawa area. This includes any forecast for a range of snow more than 7 cm, such as 5 to 10 cm. The Winter Weather Parking Ban will be called to support clearing operations and will continue until the City issues notice that it has been lifted.

When a winter weather parking ban is called, the City issues a special advisory to the local media and posts it on [ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca).

With the exception of significant weather events, our Roads and Parking Services team will be aiming to:

- Make the Winter Weather Parking Ban call by 9 am for an overnight parking ban – overnight parking bans will be from 7 pm to 7 am.
- Make the Winter Weather Parking Ban call by 3:30 pm for a daytime parking ban – daytime parking bans will be from 10 am to 7 pm.

Vehicles without a residential parking permit that are parked on the street during a parking ban may be ticketed and towed.

## **Impact on residential parking permit holders**

If you have a residential parking permit, your vehicle is exempt from winter weather parking bans. Removing your vehicle from the street helps City crews clear the street faster.

## **Clearing Snow from your Property**

- Do not push snow and ice on the street, sidewalk or park.
- Keep fire hydrants free of snow.
- Use wood, plastic or fibreglass driveway markers, which should be no larger than a hockey stick.
- Open catch basins or drains in front of your property when the weather becomes mild.
- Catch basins are identified by a yellow “T” bar painted on the roadway.

A snow windrow is a pile of snow that accumulates at the end of driveways and on the sides of streets during plowing. It is the responsibility of the home owner to remove their own driveway windrows.

## **Snow fences**

Snow fences reduce the build-up of drifting snow and ice on roads, and improve visibility for motorists. The City installs wood-slat snow fences or partners with local farmers for corn or tree fences.



# What to expect during a winter storm



Minimum depth of snow before we deploy		End of snowfall – time needed to clear snow
At accumulation	Major roads – Highway 174 and Transitway	
2.5 cm	Downtown core, winter cycling network	4 hours
5 cm	Secondary roads	6 hours
5 cm	Most sidewalks	16 hours
7 cm +	Most residential roads	10 hours
	Bus Stops	24 hours


2019/20

\*\*\* A significant snow or ice event may require service adjustments \*\*\*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Art Lending of Ottawa (ALO)

Art Lending of Ottawa (ALO) invites all art lovers to its Art Show on Saturday December 10 , at the RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Drive from 10am to 4pm.

ALO is a not-for-profit artists' cooperative established in 1970 in the National Capital with a very unique mission: to make high quality art affordable for more people. To achieve this, it offers artwork not only for sale, but also for rental. For a small fee, our clients can create beautiful change in their own space with new original art every three months if they wish. All of our artists are from the Ottawa area. Visit [www.artlendingofottawa.ca](http://www.artlendingofottawa.ca) for more information

### Ottawa Wildflower Seed Library

Join Ottawa South Eco Action Network (OSEAN) on December 10 from 1-3pm at the Hunt Club Riverside Park Community Centre as they partner with the Ottawa Wildflower Seed Library again this year to bring free native seeds to neighbours in River Ward. Ottawa Wildflower Seed Library volunteers will be on hand to help you choose free native seeds that will work for your space and your goals to help build habitat and food for our local

pollinators. Seed availability and more information: <https://wildflowerseedlibrary.ca>. Visit the [OSEAN website](#) to learn about green tips and eco projects happening in our community.

### **A Christmas Ceilidh for Fiona Relief**

Join Atlantic Voices and musical guests for an evening of seasonal tunes with an East Coast flavour and help support our Atlantic Canadian friends who were hit so hard by Hurricane Fiona this fall.

Tuesday, December 13, 7:30 pm, at Riverside United Church, 3191 Riverside Drive. Admission by donation at the door (suggested donation \$15). All proceeds after concert expenses go directly to support the Red Cross's Hurricane Fiona in Canada Appeal.

Capacity is limited, so please visit our Eventbrite page to reserve your ticket: <http://tickets.atlanticvoices.ca>

**Happy Hanukkah – December 18-26**

**Merry Christmas – December 25**

**Happy Kwanzaa – December 26 to January 1**

**Riley Brockington  
December 7, 2022**