



## **RIVER WARD CITY COUNCILLOR MARIA McRAE'S REPORT TO THE RIVERSIDE PARK COMMUNITY AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION April 6, 2011**

### **General Vanier Protection Neighbourhood Watch**

Congratulations to the residents of Riverside Park who are involved in the newly formed General Vanier Protection (GVP) Neighbourhood Watch. I know that this group will work tirelessly to improve and enhance the safety of Riverside Park residents living in the General Vanier area.

### **2011 'Paint It Up!' Mural Program - REMINDER**

Following the success of the Paint It Up! program in 2010, the City of Ottawa's Public Works Department and Crime Prevention Ottawa (CPO) has launched the program for 2011.

The Paint It Up! program was established in the fall of 2009 as an enhancement to the City's Graffiti Management Strategy. The program promotes graffiti prevention and neighbourhood beautification through engaging community groups and at-risk youth in the development of murals in areas experiencing a high incidence of graffiti vandalism.

Applications for Paint It Up! funding are available at the CPO website or by calling 613-580-2424 ext. 22454. The deadline to apply is April 8, 2011.

### **Transit Route Optimization**

OC Transpo is undertaking a review of all transit routes in the city to optimize the transit system and made their recommendations to the City's Transit Commission on March 23, 2011.

Following the public consultations taking place between March 29, 2011 and April 6, 2011, the transit route changes will be finalized at the April 20, 2011 meeting of the Transit Commission.

I encourage you to provide feedback by April 7, 2011 through the OC Transpo website at [www.octranspo.com](http://www.octranspo.com) or by calling OC Transpo at 613-741-4390.

### **Spring Cleaning the Capital 2011**

This year's Spring Cleaning the Capital Campaign begins on April 15, 2011. Early Bird registration began on Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. I invite you to get involved to give our city a clean sweep this spring. With your help River Ward can be the cleanest ward in the City!

Cleanup Starter Kits for litter pickup and/or graffiti removal projects are available to all registered volunteers. Litter Pickup Starter Kits include disposable vinyl gloves, garbage bags and leaf-and-yard waste bags. Graffiti Removal Starter Kits include graffiti removal wipes, masks and gloves. All kits come with helpful project and safety information to guide your cleanup project. Upon request and while quantities last, we will include magnets and stickers in the kits.

It's easy to take part. All you have to do is select a cleanup location where litter or graffiti has accumulated over the winter months. Large or small, all cleanup projects are welcome! Once you have chosen your cleanup location, you can register online at [ottawa.ca/clean](http://ottawa.ca/clean) or by calling 3-1-1. The campaign runs from April 15<sup>th</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup> with early bird registration starting on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Register on or before April 14<sup>th</sup> for your chance to win early-bird prizes.

### **Solid Waste Service Level Review**

The City of Ottawa released the Solid Waste Service Level Review report on March 30, 2011 containing recommended changes to residential curb-side waste collection services that are expected to save taxpayers \$9 million annually.

I encourage you to provide your feedback on the service level review at [ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca), where a dedicated page has been created to collect public comments on the service level review recommendations.

This matter will be considered at the City's Environment Committee on April 11, 2011 and by City Council on April 13, 2011.

### **Community Environmental Projects Grant Program**

Does your community group have a great idea for an environmental project? Would your proposal improve the local environment and benefit the community? Here is your opportunity to start putting your plan into action. The City of Ottawa supports innovative environmental proposals to improve your local environment through the Community Environmental Projects Grant Program (CEPGP).

This Community Environment Fund is available for community-based initiatives and non-profit organizations interested in improving and preserving our Ottawa environment.

**The application deadline is 4 p.m., Friday, April 29, 2011.**

Take the opportunity to formulate your ideas, confirm any potential partnerships and submit an application. An online application form is available on [ottawa.ca/cepgp](http://ottawa.ca/cepgp), which also includes funding eligibility criteria and application process information.

For more information on CEPGP visit [ottawa.ca/cepgp](http://ottawa.ca/cepgp) or call 3-1-1.

## **Integrated Road Safety Program (IRSP)**

### **February Results**

The Ottawa Police Service charged **343** motorists for **unsafe lane changes** and for **driver distraction offences** as part of February's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP).

Despite a ban on cell phone use on Ontario's roads in place since September 2009, **hand held** communication devices still account for **174** of February's violations. An additional **124** were for **improper lane changes**, while **careless drivers** account for the remaining **45** tickets.

### **March Initiative**

Ottawa Police will be **weighing-in on heavy vehicles, unsafe vehicles** and **speeders** as part of the City's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) for March.

In 2009, 150 reportable collisions on Ottawa roadways involved unsafe vehicles – resulting in 31 injuries, three were life-threatening. Causes of these collisions included: defective brakes, steering, tires, lights, engine controls, trailer hitches, suspension, as well as obscured vision.

The focus of this initiative will also include heavy vehicle inspections. These inspections will be done to ensure compliance with weight restrictions, that loads are properly secured, and that heavy vehicles are not being driven on restricted load roadways. Properly maintained documentation, certificates and logs will also be verified.

Speeding is also a major cause of collisions on Ottawa roads. In 2009, speeding or driving too fast for road and weather conditions resulted in 3,454 reportable collisions. The toll of speed-related collisions was 15 deaths and 1,002 injuries – 43 were serious.

### **April Initiative**

Ottawa Police will be focusing on those who **fail to buckle up** or comply **with child car seat requirements** during April's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP). Red light runners will also be on April's radar.

Between 2005 and 2009, **24** people were killed, **47** suffered life-threatening injuries and another 228 were injured in Ottawa as a result of not wearing vehicle occupant restraints. Eighteen of those 24 fatalities were male.

In support of the annual province-wide "Spring Seatbelt Campaign," Ottawa Public Health nurses and Ottawa Police will be setting up roadside spot-checks during the month – ensuring vehicle occupants are wearing their seatbelts, and booster and child car seats are suitable and properly installed.

Running red lights also made a large impact in 2009 with **773** collisions reported. These collisions resulted in one death and **376** injuries (**18** of them life-threatening).