



**RIVER WARD CITY COUNCILLOR MARIA McRAE'S REPORT TO
THE RIVERSIDE PARK COMMUNITY
June 1, 2011**

**City Councillor Maria McRae's
Annual Strawberry Social for River Ward Seniors**

Date: Friday, June 24, 2011

Time: 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Place: Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre
3320 Paul Anka Drive (at McCarthy Road)

Entertainment provided by Mike Fahey
Refreshments and Snacks
Door Prizes
Seniors Information Booth

Please call 613-580-2486 to reserve your ticket(s).
Space is limited.

General Vanier Protection Neighbourhood Watch

The newly formed General Vanier Protection Neighbourhood Watch group is hosting their Neighbourhood Watch Inaugural BBQ on June 2. Event details are as follows:

Date: Thursday, June 2, 2011

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
5:30 p.m. Sign Unveiling

Location: General Vanier School
1025 Harkness Avenue

I hope to see you there.

Councillor Maria McRae's Annual Community Safety and Crime Prevention Meeting

Thank you to Bill Smith for attending my Community Safety and Crime Prevention meeting on behalf of the RPCRA. These annual meetings provide residents and community organizations with the opportunity to discuss community safety issues with numerous organizations that work to make our city a safe place to live, work and play.

Festivals in Riverside Park

The following will take place in Mooney's Bay Park this year:

MEC Paddle Fest (May 28, 2011)
Enbridge Canoe for Kids (June 4, 2011)
Ottawa Dragon Boat Race (June 18, 2011)
HOPE Volleyball (July 16, 2011)
National Capital Triathlon (July 30, 2011)
Ottawa Kids Triathlon (July, 2011)
Canadian Triathlon (September 3, 2011)
Winners Walk of Hope (September 11, 2011)
Carleton University Fall Orientation (September, 2011)
Ottawa Mission "Big Pull" (September, 2011)

City Grass Cutting – Delays Due to Weather

The city of Ottawa experienced significant rainfall during April and May of this year. The oversaturated conditions of our green space and sports fields make grass cutting operations challenging for city staff. City staff are currently behind schedule on the suburban/urban road side boulevards, vacant properties and passive park area grass cutting operations. Crews continue to work additional hours to ensure that city properties are properly maintained. I appreciate your patience and understanding.

Half Price Parking for Motorcycles and Scooters Resumes

On Friday, May 20, 2011, the City of Ottawa resumed its half price motorcycle and scooter parking at:

- The ByWard Market Parking Garage, 70 Clarence Street; and,
- Ottawa City Hall Parking Garage, 110 Laurier Avenue West.

Since 2009, the City has offered half price motorcycle and scooter parking in the ByWard Market parking garage. The ByWard Market parkade has a separate entrance with a dedicated Pay and Display machine and 12 motorcycle/scooter-sized parking spaces. Spaces are also available at the City Hall parking garage although they are not configured specifically for motorcycles and scooters.

In addition to this, there is half price parking available year-round for motorcycles and scooters at all on-street and off-street Pay and Display machines. Motorcycle and scooter enthusiasts can take advantage of half price parking by pressing the grey motorcycle button to activate this feature.

The convenient, half priced parking is intended to encourage use of smaller, fuel-efficient forms of transportation.

Give Away Weekends

The City of Ottawa is holding two city-wide “Garbage Give Away Weekends” in 2011. The Give Away Weekends this year are **June 4 and 5, 2011** and **October 22 and 23, 2011**. Council approved this plan to allow residents to give away objects they no longer want by simply placing them at the end of their driveway.

Here are some guidelines for setting out treasures:

- Place items at the curb
- Place stickers or signs on items with the word “FREE”
- At the end of each day, bring any uncollected gems back to your home

The intent of the program is to help residents reuse household items that otherwise might end up in local landfills. The City of Ottawa is calling on community groups and residents to participate in Give Away Weekend, and help discover the hidden treasures in your neighbourhood, community, and city. It’s another way to RETHINK GARBAGE and protect our most precious treasure – our environment.

Integrated Road Safety Program (IRSP)

June Initiative

Impaired driving and **cycling safety** are the focus for the City's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) in June. The monthly enforcement campaign is part of the City's Integrated Road Safety Program (IRSP).

To bolster the enforcement on impaired driving, the IRSP is teaming up with the CAA North & East Ontario to deliver additional R.I.D.E. checkpoints in June. In 2009, Ottawa experienced 381 impaired driving-related collisions – injuring 175 people (22 seriously) and killing nine. Eighty four percent of the impaired drivers were male and 32 percent were between the ages of 16 and 24.

During spring and summer, cycling safety should be on the forefront on the minds of both cyclists and motorists. Like pedestrians, cyclists are vulnerable road users.

In fact, two cyclists lost their lives and 240 were injured – 16 seriously – in traffic collisions on Ottawa roadways in 2009.

Next month's cycling safety initiative will target drivers who violate cyclists' rights, and cyclists who disobey the rules of the road. It will include both education and enforcement. Sharing the road and respect is essential to ensure our roadways remain safe for all users.

Tips for Drivers to Increase the Safety of Cyclists

- Treat bicycles as you would any other vehicle on the road. Cyclists generally ride in the right-most through traffic lane, about one metre from the curb or parked cars.
- When passing a cyclist, leave a safe distance between your car and the bicycle. Give extra passing distance during slippery road conditions.
- Pass at a moderate speed and give plenty of space on quiet roads. Cyclists may be startled by fast-approaching vehicles.
- Shoulder check and signal all lane changes and turns.
- Check for bicycles in your side view mirror before opening your car doors.

Tips for Cyclists to Increase Their Safety

- Shoulder check and signal all lane changes, turns and stops.
- Do not cycle on sidewalks. Motorists do not expect cyclists to enter the roadway from the sidewalk.
- Recognize and be careful of the blind spots around cars, trucks and buses.
- Exercise caution when crossing intersections.
- Always wear a helmet.
- Be bright at night. Use a headlight, taillight, reflectors and light-coloured or retro-reflective clothing so drivers can see you.