



**RIVER WARD CITY COUNCILLOR MARIA McRAE'S REPORT TO
THE RIVERSIDE PARK COMMUNITY
December 7, 2011**

**Councillor Maria McRae's Annual Christmas Lights
Tour for River Ward Seniors**

Date: Friday, December 9, 2011

Board Bus: 6:50 p.m.

Departure: 7:00 p.m. sharp

Christmas Treats and Carols: 9:15 p.m.

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

Accessible by bus routes 87 and 146

**Registration for this event is now closed. Please call
613-580-2486 to be placed on the waiting list for tickets.**

Paget Park

The Ottawa Police Service and City staff from a variety of departments have responded to several complaints regarding inappropriate behaviour and activities in Paget Park. With the assistance of the Brookfield High School principal, the student responsible for a recent event was identified and subsequently disciplined. The student expressed remorse for his actions and is banned from Paget Park until the beginning of the 2012 school year. Both the school and the City are sending out a message that this type of behaviour is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

City Park staff have also repaired the damaged fence separating Paget Park and Brookfield High School.

Riverside Park Nursery School Potluck Dinner

Last Friday, December 2nd, Paulette Young was presented with the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Early Childhood Education at the Riverside Park Nursery School Potluck dinner. The award presentation was accompanied by a slideshow presentation and a "Celebrity Roast" of Paulette. The event was a success and was well received by all in attendance. I'd like to once again extend my congratulations to Paulette on her achievement.

Zoning Application for St. Patrick's Home

A Zoning By-law Amendment application was received for 2865 Riverside Drive (St. Patrick's Home). The proposed Zoning By-law Amendment is to permit retail uses to allow for a distribution pharmacy to be built within the basement of the new facility on the site. A full information package, including a comment sheet, will be distributed in the upcoming weeks.

Ridgewood Drive Bus Shelter

OC Transpo will install a temporary bus shelter at bus stop 7405 on the south side of Ridgewood Avenue at Riverside Drive this week. Residents asked for a shelter at stop 7405 servicing route 87 Baseline in preparation for the winter.

Heron Road Bridge Rehabilitation

Construction on the north side of the Heron Road Bridge began on April 11, 2011 and is now complete. Traffic on both sides of the bridge was recently restored to pre-construction conditions for the 2011/2012 winter season; however, there will be minor finishing work done on the bridge periodically throughout the winter. Construction on the south side of the bridge will begin in the spring of 2012.

Bronson Avenue Renewal Project

The City of Ottawa is undertaking a detail design of Bronson Avenue. The project will involve the replacement of aging underground infrastructure, reconstruction of the roadway, improvements to pedestrian corridors and revitalization of the street through landscaping initiatives. On November 24, 2011, the City hosted a Public Open House to share design plans and discuss the project in a casual environment. I will ensure that your feedback is received by staff.

City Council Approves 2012 Budget

On November 30, 2011, City Council approved the budget for 2012. Budget 2012 will allow the City to proceed with much needed city-building infrastructure projects. Ottawa on the Move will see roadwork and bridge repair, sidewalk upgrades, sewer and culvert improvements and cycling infrastructure investment across the length and breadth of Ottawa. The plan will advance the work by many years and help prepare the City to host Canada's sesquicentennial.

Planning 101 Seminar

On Tuesday November 29 at the Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre, John Smit, Manager of Development Review in the Urban Services Branch, delivered a seminar outlining the city structure, planning, and growth management department, municipal planning, development/planning applications, and the development review process. The session was well attended and received.

Mercer Survey Says Ottawa is Among the Best Cities in the World

Ottawa has placed among the Top 15 Cities in the world for quality of life out of a field of 221 in the most recent 2011 Mercer Quality of Living survey. The annual report looks at living conditions in 221 cities worldwide and ranks them against New York as a base city on 39 items in 10 categories such as socio-cultural environment, health services, public transport, the economy, politics, education, housing and recreation. Ottawa was lauded for its high-tech sector, federal agencies, foreign embassies, and having the most highly educated workforce in the country. While a high quality of life is often associated with a high cost of living, as in most cities on the list, Ottawa defied that trend, being crowned this year as the least expensive Canadian city in which to live.

False House Calls Prompt Warning From City

The City of Ottawa has today received reports of unknown salespeople approaching the homes of residents and identifying themselves as City employees. They claim the city requires access to the home to perform water quality tests. The City does not currently have staff or anyone representing the City going door-to-door making such calls or checking for material build-up on water meters. Any visits by City staff that may require access to homes or businesses are scheduled in advance unless an emergency situation exists. Residents are also provided with advance notice of projects that might impact them. Residents are reminded that all employees requesting access must show City-issued photo identification. Residents who are directly contacted by persons claiming to be City employees for City business are asked to check identification, and, if concerns remain, contact 3-1-1 before allowing access. Residents are also asked to report any suspicious phone calls or visits to police.

Integrated Road Safety Program***December Initiatives***

Impaired driving and speeding are on the City's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) radar in December. Enforcement will be further bolstered by teaming up with the CAA North and East Ontario to deliver additional R.I.D.E. checkpoints.

Ottawa saw 372 impaired driving-related collisions in 2010 – which injured 161 (22 serious injuries) and killed five. Eighty percent of the impaired drivers were male and 30 percent were between the ages of 16 and 24.

Speeding or not slowing down for road and weather conditions also took its toll on Ottawa roads last year. It was attributed to 2,833 reportable collisions – taking 20 lives and injuring 863 (63 were serious).

September Results

September was a costly month for 91 Ottawa motorists who were charged as part of the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) focus on tailgating and failing to stop for the flashing red lights on school buses.

Tailgating was the prevalent charge with 78 tickets being issued. The school bus initiative resulted in the laying of 13 charges.

The penalties for a driver passing a stopped school bus with its upper red lights flashing include fines ranging from \$400 to \$2,000 and six demerit points for a first offence. A second offence yields the driver a fine between \$1,000 and \$4,000, six demerit points and a possible jail sentence of up to six months.