



**RIVER WARD CITY COUNCILLOR MARIA McRAE'S REPORT TO
THE RIVERSIDE PARK COMMUNITY
Wednesday, January 4, 2012**

Dear Riverside Park Residents:

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and Holiday season.

Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication. I am privileged to work with you to improve our community. Your participation is greatly appreciated, and I look forward to continue fostering our relationship throughout 2012.

Christmas Lights Tour

On Friday, December 9, 2011, my office hosted the Annual Christmas Lights Tour for River Ward Seniors. Two OC Transpo buses toured around Ottawa showcasing some of the most beautiful lights our city has to offer. Following the lights tour, seniors returned to the Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre for refreshments and live music by local musician Mike Fahey.

Winter 2012 OC Transpo Route Schedule Changes

The implementation of OC Transpo service changes beginning on **January 8, 2012**, will bring improvements to two routes serving the Riverside Park community. Service on the 87 South Keys and the 87 Baseline will increase in both frequency and capacity during the morning and afternoon rush hour periods. The 146 South Keys will run every 10 minutes during the late afternoon (3:00 – 6:00 p.m.) and the 146 Hurdman will run every 10 minutes from 6:00 – 8:30 a.m. every weekday morning.

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.

Workshops to Help Quit Smoking

The Carlington Community Health Centre, Ottawa Public Health, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, and Somerset West Community Health Centre will host two workshops to educate eligible participants about the benefits of quitting smoking.

The sessions, offered in both English and French, will take place at the Carlington Community Health Centre on the following days:

- January 31, 2012 from 6:00 - 9:00pm
- February 8, 2012 from 1:30 – 4:30pm

For more information regarding eligibility, registration, or content- please contact:

- Ottawa Public Health: (613)580-6744 or
- Carlington Community Health Centre: (613)722-4000 ext. 322

Outdoor Rink Program Commences

Weather permitting, the outdoor rink season will operate from now until February 28, 2012.

Some sites may extend their season on a voluntary basis and without additional City funding.

Dismantling of rink sites with temporary features (i.e. trailers, boards, lighting) will commence prior to the spring thaw to prevent damage to parkland and vandalism.

Information about the City's outdoor rink program can be found at the following link:

http://ottawa.ca/rec_culture/park_facility/parks/outdoor_rinks/index_en.html.

Residents can also call the Seasonal Recreation telephone information line at 613-580-2590.

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.

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 of Ottawa Agrees to Waste Disposal Deal with Plasco

On Wednesday, December 14, 2011, City Council approved a 20 year deal with Plasco Energy Group to convert the City's waste into energy using a "plasma gasification process". Council approved the deal by an overwhelming majority of 22-1, making Ottawa the first city in Canada to adopt plasma gasification technology on a commercial scale. The Plasco deal embraces the City of Ottawa's goal to both foster new technology and encourage sustainability.

Updating Ottawa's Smoke-Free By-Laws

Ottawa Public Health is conducting public consultations on the expansion of the City of Ottawa's smoke-free by-laws. OPH has developed a comprehensive consultation plan which will run until January 20, 2012. The objective of the consultations is to ensure residents, businesses, and other community representatives have an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed expansion of the City's smoke-free by-laws to include all public beaches and parks, all municipal properties, all outdoor patios and terraces, and new regulations relating to the use of water-pipes in public establishments.

There is an online consultation form available until January 20, 2012 at:

http://ottawa.ca/health_safety/living/dat/tobacco/pub_consultation_en.html

Hockey Day in Ottawa

The fourth edition of "Hockey Day in Ottawa" will take place on **Saturday February 11, 2012** from 1 to 3 p.m. The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department, in partnership with our community based operators, is planning a fun filled day where you are encouraged to set-up hockey games and other winter activities citywide. The goal is to raise visibility and awareness for the Winter Carnival Program and its volunteers.

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.

Integrated Road Safety Program

January Initiatives

Tailgating and stop sign running are on the City's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) radar in January.

November Results

The City of Ottawa's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) targeted motorists improperly using reserved transit lanes and distracted driving last month, resulting in 289 charges being laid.

Distracted driving was the prevalent charge with 227 tickets being issued, while 62 charges were laid for improper use of reserved transit lanes.

October Results

Police charged 487 motorists for running stop signs and failing to buckle up or comply with child car seat requirements as part of the City's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) in October. Stop sign running accounted for 277 charges being laid, while 210 motorists were caught failing to properly buckle up.