



## RIVER WARD CITY COUNCILLOR MARIA McRAE'S REPORT TO THE RIVERSIDE PARK COMMUNITY Wednesday, March 7, 2012

### **Bank Street CDP – Update**

The Bank Street Community Design Plan was unanimously approved by the City of Ottawa's Planning Committee on February 28, 2012. The Bank Street CDP covers a 3.2-kilometre stretch of Bank Street between the Rideau River and the CN tracks south of Walkley Road. The plan proposes changing this area into a mixed-use neighbourhood with residential, commercial and office development. The CDP goes before City Council on March 28, 2012.

### **Heron Road Bridge Rehabilitation**

Starting on March 12, 2012, construction on the south bridge will reduce Heron Road from six lanes of traffic to four. All eastbound traffic on Heron Road will be diverted to the north bridge over the Rideau River and Rideau Canal, just west of Vincent Massey Park. The speed limit will be reduced to 50 km/h and some delays can be expected during this rehabilitation work. The Vincent Massey Park Access Road and Colonel By Drive will also experience heavier than usual traffic related to the bridge work. This project is expected to be completed by the summer of 2013.

### **Spring and Summer Recreation Programs**

A schedule has now been released for the thousands of classes the City of Ottawa has to offer in the 2012 Spring-Summer Recreation eGuide. From boot camps to sports, drawing to pottery, and aquafitness to yoga, the City has spring classes that will keep you active, creative and healthy. Water fun, sports, neighbourhood, arts and specialty day camps offer kid-sized adventures during the summer months.

Registration for spring classes and summer camps has already opened for swimming activities, and opens at **10 p.m.** this evening for all other programs. Please browse the Recreation eGuide at [ottawa.ca/recreationguide](http://ottawa.ca/recreationguide).

### **Rideau River Ice Breaking**

Ice-breaking operations, including blasting, began on the Rideau River between Rideau Falls and Hog's Back on Monday, February 13, 2012. The City, in partnership with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, undertakes ice-breaking operations each year to alleviate possible spring flooding in flood-prone areas. These operations are carried out daily.

Ice-breaking operations will create open water. Please stay at a safe and reasonable distance from the river until operations are completed, and to supervise children around water.

### **April 2012 OC Transpo Service Changes**

Regularly scheduled adjustments to OC Transpo schedules will begin on April 22 and April 23, 2012. These service improvements are the result of feedback from customers, Councillors and staff, combined with a detailed operational assessment. They are financed from the \$5.5 million in new OC Transpo funding that was included in Budget 2012.

To increase passenger capacity in the Riverside Park community, articulated buses are being added to busy trips along routes 87 and 98. Route 99 has also been altered to stop directly in front of the CE Centre, providing public transit access for event-goers and easing the traffic congestion experienced in this area.

### **2012 Paint It Up! Mural Program**

The Paint It Up! program is a partnership between the City of Ottawa and Crime Prevention Ottawa which provides \$50,000 annually to fund projects that promote 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.

A public information session for the program will be held as follows:

- Thursday, March 8, 2012 – 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
  - Hall D, Nepean Sportsplex, 1701 Woodroffe Avenue

Applications now are available at [www.crimepreventionottawa.ca](http://www.crimepreventionottawa.ca) or by calling 613-580-2424, extension 22454. The deadline for submission is April 4, 2012 at 4 p.m.

### **Ottawa Police Service Youth Advisory Committee**

The Ottawa Police Service is launching a Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) and is now accepting applications. Young people under 24 years of age can apply online at [ottawapolice.ca/yac](http://ottawapolice.ca/yac) until **March 23, 2012**.

YAC will bring a youth voice to policing and give youth a chance to share ideas and work with police on decisions and projects that matter to Ottawa youth. YAC members will also meet new friends, build skills and resumes, and be provided with food, bus tickets and other perks.

### **City of Ottawa Water Rate**

The City of Ottawa's Environment Committee approved the 2012 Water and Wastewater Rate Budget and the Long Range Financial Plan for Water and Sewer Rate Supported Programs on February 21, 2012. The budget was subsequently passed by City Council on February 22, 2012, and sees the combined rate increasing by 6% this year. This increase will assist in the funding of Ottawa on the Move, the Ottawa River Action Plan and several Integrated Road-Water-Sewer projects, and to ensure that Ottawa's drinking water remains of exceptional quality.

### **Expanded Strategy for a Smoke-Free Ottawa**

On February 22, 2012, City Council expanded the City's smoke-free regulations, which are part of a long-term strategy designed to protect children and non-smokers from second-hand smoke, while reducing smoking rates. The City of Ottawa's smoke-free regulations are being broadened to include municipal properties, including parks and beaches, and all bar and restaurant patios. An awareness and warning phase will begin April 2, 2012, and enforcement will begin July 2, 2012.

These changes follow a comprehensive three-month public consultation that involved residents and businesses. A public awareness campaign will be launched in the coming weeks to ensure residents, businesses and community partners have a clear understanding of the new regulations.

### **Lansdowne Plan Approved**

City Council approved detailed reports for the Lansdowne Park redevelopment on February 22, 2012. The approval covered everything from the programming at the large new urban park to the updated financial information and awarding of air rights for the residential-commercial portion of the project.

The final approval for Lansdowne will be sought this spring, following which construction will begin in June 2012. The Lansdowne redevelopment is a partnership between the City of Ottawa and the Ottawa Sport and Entertainment Group. To view images of the new Lansdowne, please visit [ottawa.ca/lansdownepartnership](http://ottawa.ca/lansdownepartnership).

### **City of Ottawa Organizational Change**

In October 2008, the City implemented an organization restructuring to advance the change agendas of Service Excellence and Community Sustainability. These initiatives have now been incorporated into the day-to-day practices of City operations. A recently-implemented reorganization changes the alignment of the City's organizational and leadership structure to provide a consistent approach to City operations and maximize the benefits to residents while enabling the delivery of the Term of Council planning and infrastructure priorities.

Details on the reorganization can be found in the newsroom section on [ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca).

### **Safer Roads Ottawa Program**

#### *January Results*

The City of Ottawa's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) now operates under the umbrella of the new Safer Roads Ottawa Program. In January 2012, 72 charges were laid for **following too closely** and 229 drivers were fined for **stop sign violations**.

#### *February Results*

February's STEP program saw 1,688 drivers charged for **speeding** and 370 fines laid for **running a red light**.