



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

### **Emerald Ash Borer Information Sessions**

Do you want to learn more about how you can help slow the spread of emerald ash borer, an invasive species that is killing Ottawa's ash trees?

Please join me and City staff at an information session to learn more about what the City is doing to prevent the spread of the emerald ash borer and how you can help mitigate the impact of this insect on our ash trees. The presence of emerald ash borer poses a serious threat to 25 percent of the City's forest cover located on both public and private properties.

The information sessions are scheduled for:

**Date:** April 12, 2012  
**Time:** 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Ben Franklin Place, 101 CentrepoinTE Drive, Andrew Haydon Hall

**Date:** April 23, 2012  
**Time:** 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Jim Durrell Recreation Centre, 1264 Walkley Road, Ellwood Hall

### **St. Patrick's Home Construction**

My office worked with City of Ottawa Traffic Management staff to resolve concerns associated with construction activity at 2865 Riverside Drive (St. Patrick's Home of Ottawa). To secure the safety of residents in the surrounding community, I ensured that the following actions were carried out:

- Restriction of all vehicular traffic to the Riverside Drive entrance of the construction site.
- A guarantee by the contractor that the fence removed without permission from Garner Avenue will be repaired, at their cost, when weather conditions permit.
- The erection of "No Construction Traffic is Permitted" signs leading into Garner Avenue.

### **"Clean & Green" Partnership with Brookfield High School**

I am pleased to announce that I have organized a new collaborative partnership between the City of Ottawa and Brookfield High School to resolve issues of concern with respect to garbage in this area. This Clean & Green partnership represents a shared effort between my office and the staff and students at Brookfield High School, and would not have been possible without the help of Riverside Park residents.

### **Festivals in Riverside Park**

The following festivals are scheduled, or are expected to take place, in Riverside Park this summer:

- MEC Paddle Fest
- Enbridge Canoe for Kids
- Ottawa Dragon Boat Festival
- HOPE Volleyball
- National Capital Triathlon

### **Airport Parkway Pedestrian Bridge – UPDATE**

Further to my January 2012 update to the community, my office continues to work with City of Ottawa Infrastructures Services and Legal staff to determine the cause of the deficient work on this important pedestrian connection and to identify a course of action to ensure the project is completed.

I will provide you with further updates as they become available.

### **Take the Bus to the Capital Exhibition Centre**

As of March 26, 2012, residents can take OC Transpo Route 147 to events at the new CE Exhibition Centre. Route 147 operates seven days a week, and runs between the CE Centre's main entrance and the Greenboro Station Park and Ride lot.

Route 99 now also provides a connection from the CE Centre to the South Keys and Greenboro Stations on weekends. Service operates northbound on Uplands Drive via the CE Centre every 30 to 60 minutes on Saturday until midnight, and hourly on Sunday until 10:30 p.m.

The primary service for customers going to the CE Centre remains Route 97.

### **Weekly Green Bin Collection**

Green bins and leaf and yard waste are now being collected every week, year-round, permanently. Food scraps, soiled paper products and other allowable waste from your home can be placed at the curb for weekly collection.

The move to weekly green bin collection is in keeping with City Council's decision to find long-term solutions to our waste and will go a long way in extending the life of the City's landfills. Diverting residential organic waste away from landfill saves the City millions of dollars and reduces the need for additional landfill sites.

For more information on using your green bin, please visit [ottawa.ca/greenbin](http://ottawa.ca/greenbin).

### **Spring Street and Sidewalk Sweeping**

The City of Ottawa has started its annual spring clean up, which includes sweeping streets and sidewalks to remove debris and materials that have accumulated throughout the winter. This annual effort started March 19, and crews are working around the clock to sweep over 6,500 kilometres of roadway and over 2,000 kilometres of sidewalks to get the job done as quickly as possible and reduce the impact to residents and businesses.

Sweeping operations include daytime and nighttime work and will cause some noise and dust. The operation might be repeated several times on a street to ensure a clean surface. If vehicles are parked on the street, the un-swept area is noted and crews must then return to sweep that portion. Your patience during this process is appreciated.

### **Winter Operations Lawn Damage**

Every spring as the snow recedes, it becomes apparent that some lawns were inadvertently damaged by the City's winter operations equipment. If you would like your lawn to be examined and repaired with soil and grass seed, please make a quick call to 3-1-1 and City staff will place your home in the queue.

### **City of Ottawa Planning Summit**

The City of Ottawa is hosting a Planning Summit on **April 26, 2012** at the new CE Centre. The morning will feature keynote speaker Pamela Blais, an award-winning author who will speak on suburban development. Jeffrey Tumlin will provide the afternoon address, with ideas on how growth could take place around our future Light Rail Transit stations.

Summit participants will take part in round-table discussions on issues such as suburban development, growth in rural areas and community design plans. For more information or to register for the Summit, visit [ottawa.ca/planningsummit](http://ottawa.ca/planningsummit), e-mail [planningsummit@ottawa.ca](mailto:planningsummit@ottawa.ca) or call 3-1-1. Registration for the event is limited.

### **Soles4Souls Shoe Drive**

Soles4Souls Canada launched their Ottawa shoe drive on April 2, 2012 with an aim to collect 200,000 shoes throughout the campaign. During the month of April, you can donate gently-used shoes at participating sponsor locations across the city. The following drop-off locations are closest to Riverside Park residents:

- 1830 Walkley Road (Dymon Storage)
- 2420 Bank Street (Dymon Storage)

Donated shoes will be distributed to local social agencies that help some of the city's most vulnerable adults and children. Any remaining shoes will be shipped by Soles4Souls to needy locations around the world.

### **Applications for Camp FFIT Now Available**

Ottawa Fire Services invite young women between the ages of 15 and 19 to apply for a position in Camp FFIT (Female Firefighters in Training), an annual camp designed to educate young women about the career of fire fighting. The camp will be held at 898 Industrial Avenue during the week of August 13 to 17, 2012.

Participants will experience such tasks as search and rescue, aerial ladder climb, auto extrication, forcible entry, high-rise operations, as well as wearing full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and fighting simulated fires.

Applications are available at [ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca) and must be returned to Ottawa Fire Services Training Centre at 898 Industrial Avenue no later than May 15, 2012. For more information, please e-mail [campffit@ottawa.ca](mailto:campffit@ottawa.ca) or call 613-580-2424 extension 29032.

### **Shared Vision – City of Ottawa and the Ottawa Airport**

On March 28, 2012, City Council approved a shared vision with the Ottawa Macdonald-Cartier International Airport Authority to collaborate and foster economic growth. As part of Ottawa's investment in economic development, the City has committed to leveraging Ottawa's strengths as a competitive global hub and promoting Ottawa worldwide as a top destination in which to live, work, study and play.

The shared vision recognizes the critical role of our world-class, award-winning airport as a catalyst for economic growth. The shared vision statement is:

*“To optimize economic performance and growth within Ottawa through the establishment of a multi-modal transportation centre on airport lands, that together with improved access and designated employment lands, enhances and promotes Ottawa's profile and ability to be a competitive global hub for innovative and knowledge-based talent, businesses and organizations.”*

### **Safer Roads Ottawa Program**

#### *April Initiatives*

During the month of April, the Safer Roads Ottawa Program will focus on **unsafe lane changes** and **improper use of reserved lanes**.