



## **RIVER WARD CITY COUNCILLOR MARIA McRAE'S REPORT TO THE RIVERSIDE PARK COMMUNITY June 6, 2012**

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

Demolition of the Airport Parkway Pedestrian/Cycling Bridge main tower began on May 2, 2012. On May 5, the contractor successfully completed saw-cutting operations that isolated the bottom 1.5 metres of the tower from the remaining structure. This allowed for the safe removal of material above the saw cut while preserving the foundation of the tower. The material above the saw cut line was demolished on May 7.

Workers then began the intricate work of removing the remaining 1.5 metres of concrete while preserving the reinforced steel connected to the foundation. The high attention to detail in this process required the use of two demolition methods: jack hammering and hydro-demolition. Residents were advised via public service announcement that this work would take place from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. (within the noise by-law restrictions).

Demolition was completed on May 23 and a full and detailed assessment of the foundation and reinforced steel is ongoing. The erection of the interior forming has commenced and when the foundation assessment is complete, the rest of the forming will be installed.

Other activities are currently taking place on site, including the pouring of concrete in the west abutment, installation of lightweight fill in the west approach and installation of a waterproof vapour barrier. Workers are also completing grading on the pathway and adjacent landscaping areas at the new rail underpass and the west limit at the intersection of Cahill Drive and Plante Drive.

City staff have closely monitored traffic in the construction zone throughout the demolition process. “Zero Tolerance” signage is in place along the Airport Parkway and Ottawa Police Service is providing intensive enforcement and issuing tickets accordingly. Signage was also increased on the Northbound On-Ramp from Hunt Club Drive.

### **Interplanting in Riverside Park**

Forestry staff are scheduled to complete interplanting in the Riverside Park community during the second and third weeks of June. As part of the City's strategy to address the Emerald Ash Borer, new trees will be planted next to existing Ash trees. Interplanting does not mean that Ash trees are scheduled for removal – those timelines are based on the health of the existing tree.

Residents on **Cromwell Drive** and **Harkness Avenue** can expect to see interplanting taking place this month.

### **Interprovincial Crossings – Ottawa to Gatineau**

The National Capital Commission will host a public consultation session as part of Phase 2B of the Interprovincial Crossings Environmental Assessment Study. On **June 12, 2012 from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m.**, residents can visit the Shenkman Arts Centre to review the functional designs of the technically preferred alignment for each corridor of a new crossing between Ontario and Québec.

For more information on the Study and the public consultation session, visit [ncrcrossings.ca](http://ncrcrossings.ca).

### **Free PRESTO Smart Cards - UPDATE**

OC Transpo will distribute the first 200,000 PRESTO cards for free starting on June 10, 2012. Hunt Club residents can pick up their cards at the Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre on **June 15, 2012 from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.** OC Transpo staff will be distributing cards in the Seniors Multi-Purpose Room.

You can alternatively go to [www.prestocard.ca](http://www.prestocard.ca), call 1-877-PRESTO123 or visit an OC Transpo Sales & Information Centre, a select City Client Service Centre or a branch of the Ottawa Public Library to receive your free card. PRESTO cards will be operational on most OC Transpo buses starting July 1, 2012.

### **Ottawa Museum Programs**

This summer, the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum is offering a *Stars Alive!* program on select Wednesday evenings at dusk. Visit the museum on June 20, July 4 and 18 and August 8 and 22 to identify stars and constellations with the help of the museum's astronomer. Bring your own telescope or binoculars and a flashlight.

The Ottawa Orienteering Club is also offering a demonstration from **11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** on **June 9, 2012** at Pinhey's Point Historic Site. Work with a map and a compass to complete an orienteering course. Prizes will be awarded to the fastest groups and individuals.

For more information, please visit [ottawa.ca/museums](http://ottawa.ca/museums).

### **Splash Pads Now Open**

Most City of Ottawa splash pads opened on May 19, 2012 and will operate between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. for the summer season. Wading pools will open on June 22, 2012. Schedules including pool hours and special event dates will be released soon at [ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca).

Splash pads located near school yards will open once school activities conclude for the summer.

### **June OC Transpo Service Changes**

Beginning on **Sunday, June 24**, annual summer adjustments will be made to the OC Transpo schedule. As a result of ridership declines across the system during the summer months, the frequency of service will be reduced on some routes, including **Route 146 in Riverside Park**.

New transit services will be introduced for visitors to the Canada Agriculture Museum and the Canadian Aviation and Space Museum. New Route 185 and an extension of Route 129 will operate every 30 minutes on Saturday and Sunday between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. OC Transpo will also offer service during several events taking place in Ottawa this summer. Extra trips will be made on Canada Day, with free service offered after 10:00 p.m. Additional late evening service will also be provided on Transitway routes during the Ottawa Bluesfest.

Once the new service begins, up-to-date schedules can be found using [octranspo.mobi](http://octranspo.mobi) or the MyTransit iPhone app, by calling 613-560-1000 or by texting 560560.

### **Half-Price Parking for Motorcycles and Scooters**

On May 19, 2012, the ByWard Market parking garage at 70 Clarence Street reopened for the summer season. The opening of this lot adds to the list of locations offering half-price parking for motorcycles and scooters, which also includes the City Hall parking garage (110 Laurier Avenue West) and all Pay and Display machines throughout the city.

To activate the half-price feature on the Pay and Display machines, motorcycle and scooter customers are reminded to press the designated grey motorcycle button. The half-price charge is automatically applied to motorcycle and scooter customers who register and use the new PayByPhone service.

### **Emergency Preparedness Workshops**

Are you, your friends and neighbours in the community prepared in the event of an emergency or disaster such as floods, severe weather and blackouts? The better-prepared people are for an emergency, the better the City of Ottawa can respond to that emergency. That's why the City offers the Are You Ready Program, which utilizes a grass-root network of community leaders, agencies and individuals to help deliver emergency preparedness workshops.

Residents have the opportunity to volunteer as leaders of these workshops following training by City of Ottawa emergency preparedness experts. To become a volunteer trainer, you must attend a training session from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on **June 20, 2012**.

To inquire about booking a workshop for your community group or to register to become a volunteer trainer for emergency preparedness workshops, please contact the City's Office of Emergency Management by phone at 613-580-2424 extension 28078 or by e-mail at [areyouready@ottawa.ca](mailto:areyouready@ottawa.ca).

## **Safer Roads Ottawa Program**

### *June Initiatives*

During the month of June, the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program will focus on **cycling safety** and **speeding**. In 2010, six cyclists lost their lives and 243 were injured on Ottawa roads. Speeding was attributed to 2,833 reportable collisions – claiming 20 lives and injuring 863 people in 2010.

### *April Results*

In April, 112 motorists were fined for improper lane changes and 100 tickets were laid for inappropriate usage of reserved lanes.

### *Leave the Phone Alone Campaign*

Between 2006 and 2010, 17 percent of all reported collisions in Ottawa were a result of distracted driving.

This month, drivers are encouraged to sign up for the online Leave the Phone Alone pledge to avoid distractions caused by talking, texting or using a hand-held electronic device while behind the wheel. While completing the form, you will also have the option of receiving a sticker and a bookmark featuring Leave the Phone Alone information.

The online awareness campaign will run until June 30, 2012. Take the pledge at [www.leavethephonealone.ca](http://www.leavethephonealone.ca).