



**RIVER WARD CITY COUNCILLOR MARIA McRAE'S REPORT TO
THE RIVERSIDE PARK COMMUNITY
September 5, 2012**

Welcome Back

I hope that you and your family enjoyed a fabulous and relaxing summer. I look forward to working with you throughout the coming months, addressing issues important to the residents of the Riverside Park community.

**Councillor Maria McRae's
Annual Autumn Tea for River Ward Seniors**

Date: Friday, October 19, 2012

Time: 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

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

Accessible by bus routes 87 and 146

Entertainment
Refreshments and Snacks
Door Prizes
Seniors' Information Table

Please call 613-580-2486 to reserve your ticket(s).

Construction Projects: Riverside Park

Construction is progressing well on several projects outlying the Riverside Park area. To facilitate the ongoing work on these projects, the following traffic restrictions remain in effect:

- Heron Road Bridge is reduced to four lanes of traffic as work is done to rehabilitate the south bridge. This closure will continue for the remainder of the year, and traffic will be re-instated to pre-construction conditions in early 2013.
- Riverside Drive between the O-Train crossing and Heron Road continues to experience intermittent lane reductions as the road is rehabilitated. These reductions will continue until the end of October 2012.

Airport Parkway Pedestrian Bridge

Please keep an eye out for a letter in your mailbox next week which will provide a detailed update on the status of this important community project.

Additional Funds for the 2012 Emerald Ash Borer Strategy

On July 11, 2012, City Council unanimously approved a motion, moved by myself and seconded by Mayor Jim Watson, to invest an additional \$1 million in the Emerald Ash Borer Strategy. This investment will increase the number of injections of diseased trees and the number of replacement trees being planted in 2012.

Fall/Winter Recreation Guide Now Available

The Fall/Winter edition of the Recreation E-Guide is available at ottawa.ca/recreationguide. This guide is available online, but, recreation facilities have their own printed brochures and flyers detailing the programs and services they offer. If you don't have access to the Internet, various facilities and libraries have public computers. You can also visit a recreation facility or a Client Service Centre near you, where customer service staff will help you register. You can also contact my office at 613-580-2486 and I would be happy to follow-up.

Registration for all programs is now open, and can be completed in person during regular business hours, online or over the phone.

OC Transpo Implements Fall Service Improvements

On Sunday, September 2, 2012, OC Transpo released revised schedules for most bus routes and introduced several service improvements to meet residents' transit needs.

Fall service highlights for River Ward residents include:

- Additional trips to reduce crowding and improve service on routes 8, 87 and 111;
- The use of higher capacity buses during the busiest trips on routes 8, 14, 87, 111 and 118;
- Schedule changes on route 85 to improve reliability; and
- The special summer weekends-only service to the Canada Agriculture Museum on Route 185 is suspended until next year.

With seasonal service increases and schedule revisions to many bus routes, customers should check their route at www.octranspo.com or www.octranspo.mobi.

Park and Ride

While Park and Ride facilities across the city provide more than 5,000 free parking spaces for commuters, some lots fill up quickly, so check www.octranspo.com for alternative lots in your community. Customers are also reminded to park in designated parking spaces only, to avoid receiving a fine and allow safe passage of emergency vehicles.

Students

Full-time college and high school students ages 13-19 are reminded to get their new transit photo ID card before last year's card expires on September 30, 2012. Special photo sessions are available at many schools, so check www.octranspo.com for locations and times. Photo ID cards are also available at OC Transpo's four Sales and Information Centres. University students can get their new U-Pass on campus.

You can find up-to-date schedules by using octranspo.mobi or the MyTransit iPhone app, by calling 613-560-1000, or by texting 560560.

Fall Cleaning the Capital Campaign

The fall *Cleaning the Capital* campaign begins on September 15, 2012 and runs until October 15, 2012. I invite everyone to get involved to help keep our city clean, green and free of litter and graffiti. With your help, River Ward can be the cleanest ward in the City.

You can begin by selecting a cleanup location where litter or graffiti has accumulated. It can be a park, woodlot, ravine, shoreline, bus stop, pathway, schoolyard or any public property requiring tidying up. Large or small, all cleanup projects are welcome! Once you choose your cleanup location, register online at ottawa.ca/clean or call 3-1-1 (TTY: 613-580-2401).

The registration form also includes a section for our Cleanup Starter Kits. Cleanup Starter Kits for litter pickup and/or graffiti removal projects donated by our campaign sponsors, and are available to all registered volunteers. Should you wish to receive a kit, please indicate the type (litter or graffiti) and select a pick up location near you.

Every year, entire communities – including schools, neighbourhood organizations and associations, businesses, families, friends and individuals take part in the Cleaning the Capital challenge. Together we can help keep Ottawa clean, green, graffiti-free and litter-free.

Sharing in Student Success Program

This year, the Ottawa Public Library has partnered with the Sharing in Student Success program (under the Caring and Sharing Exchange program). Seven Library branches are accepting school supply donations.

- Alta Vista, 2516 Alta Vista Drive
- Nepean Centrepointe, 101 Centrepointe Drive
- St-Laurent, 515 Côté Street
- Carlingwood, 281 Woodroffe Avenue
- Greenboro District Library, 363 Lorry Greenberg Drive
- Ruth E. Dickinson, 100 Malvern Drive
- North Gloucester, 2036 Ogilvie Road

This program provides Ottawa children living in poverty with school supplies that have been donated, or a gift voucher to buy school materials.

City Appoints Integrity Commissioner

Robert Marleau, our River Ward neighbor, was appointed as the City of Ottawa's first Integrity Commissioner on August 29, 2012.

The Integrity Commissioner, whose powers and duties are set out in the *Municipal Act, 2001*, will report directly to City Council and oversee the City's new Lobbyist Registry, which came into effect on September 1, 2012.

In addition to his role as Lobbyist Registrar, Mr. Marleau will fulfill the role of the City's Meetings Investigator and provide input in creating a Code of Conduct for Members of City Council and any related policies, including the Expense Policy and Gifts Registry. Following Council adoption of these policies, the Integrity Commissioner will oversee their implementation, providing advice to Members of Council, issuing interpretations and, where necessary, investigating complaints and recommending sanctions.

Mr. Marleau has 32 years of parliamentary experience, including 13 years spent as the Clerk of the House of Commons. He also served as the interim Privacy Commissioner of Canada and as the Information Commissioner of Canada.

Mr. Marleau received many honours in recognition of his service to the people of Canada, including a Queen Elizabeth Golden Jubilee Medal, Canada 125 Medal, Commander, Ordre de la Pléiade et de la Francophonie and a Doctorate Honoris Causa from the University of Ottawa.

The Commissioner will produce an annual report summarizing complaints, investigations and advice and will make recommendations for improvements to the accountability policies he oversees. Rulings and periodic reports by the Integrity Commissioner will be posted on ottawa.ca.

City Launches Lobbyist Registry

The City implemented its online Lobbyist Registry, a key component of the City's Accountability Framework, on September 1, 2012 as part of a continuing commitment to making municipal government more transparent and accountable to the public.

The Lobbyist Registry, found at ottawa.ca/lobbyist, is a bilingual online tool that provides accountability and transparency to lobbying activities by giving the public access to information about who is communicating with Members of Council and City Staff.

Lobbying is considered any communication with a Member of Council or City Staff by an individual who is paid or represents a business or financial interest with the goal of trying to influence a legislative action or the outcome of a decision outside of normal processes.

While most types of interactions will not need to be registered, including speaking on the record before Council and its Committees or following a Council-approved process, in instances where lobbying has occurred, the subject matter, the client, the individual(s) lobbied, the method of communication and the date will need to be disclosed on the Registry.

The Lobbyist Registry is overseen by the City's independent, arms-length Integrity Commissioner, Robert Marleau.

Barbara Ann Scott Exhibit Relives her Exciting Career

An exhibit honouring Ottawa's Golden Girl, Barbara Ann Scott, officially opened at Ottawa City Hall on August 9, 2012.

The City of Ottawa Archives acquired a donation of documents, photographs and artifacts from the only Canadian woman figure skater to win the ladies singles figure skating Olympic gold medal. She is also the only Canadian to hold the European, North American, Canadian, World, and Olympic Championships simultaneously.

The exhibition will remain on display at City Hall for five years. Come and relive Ms. Scott's exciting career by viewing the exclusive collection of photos, medals and other treasures.

Safer Roads Ottawa Program

September Initiatives

The City of Ottawa's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) is targeting drivers who **follow too close** and **school zone safety** this month as part of its ongoing commitment to keeping Ottawa's roads safe.

Between 2007 and 2011, following too close was the cause of 24,487 traffic collisions, 6,872 injuries and eight fatalities. Between 2007 and 2011, there were 41 collisions in schools zones throughout the city resulting in nine injuries.

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. Penalties may not be limited to the driver. The vehicle owner may also be charged for school bus traffic control violations, with fines ranging from \$400 to \$2,000.

Police officers are not required to witness the vehicle passing a stopped school bus with its upper red lights flashing in order to lay charges against the vehicle owner. Citizens who witness such occurrences can contact the police and provide the make, model, colour of vehicle; license number; location, date and time of the incident; and, if possible, a description of the driver.

August Initiatives

The City of Ottawa's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) targeted **distracted driving** and appropriate **seat belt and child safety restraint use** in August as part of its ongoing commitment to keeping Ottawa's roads safe.

Between 2008 and 2010, driver distraction was either fully or partially the cause of 6,129 traffic collisions in Ottawa. The collisions resulted in nine deaths and 1,976 injuries (84 of them serious).

Between 2006 and 2010, 26 people were killed, 50 suffered life-threatening injuries and another 202 were injured in Ottawa as a result of not wearing vehicle occupant restraints. 20 of those 26 fatalities were male.

July Initiatives

The City's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) focused on **unsafe heavy vehicles** and **impaired drivers** during the month of July.

In 2010, 181 reportable collisions on Ottawa roadways involved unsafe vehicles – resulting in 58 injuries; six were life-threatening and two were fatalities. Causes of these collisions included defective brakes, steering, tires, lights, engine controls, trailer hitches, suspension, as well as obscured vision.

In 2010, there were 372 collisions, 22 serious injuries and 5 fatalities involving impaired drivers.

June Results

The City of Ottawa's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) laid almost 2,000 charges during the month of June with speeding and a lack of safety equipment (bike light and bike bell) being the most common infractions. 358 charges were laid with regards to cycling safety and 1,623 drivers were fined for speeding.