



**RIVER WARD CITY COUNCILLOR MARIA McRAE'S REPORT TO
THE RIVERSIDE PARK COMMUNITY
RIVERSIDE PARK COMMUNITY & RECREATION ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
October 4, 2012**

Thank you to the Riverside Park Community & Recreation Association Board of Directors, under the leadership of board President David Hutchinson, for the tireless work they have dedicated to the Riverside Park community. I look forward to working with the newly-elected Board members.

Thank you also to all residents who work with my office on important community issues, and to our volunteers who play a large role in ensuring that everyone enjoys the benefits that Riverside Park has to offer.

**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

Bus routes 87 and 146

Entertainment
Refreshments and Snacks
Door Prizes
Seniors' Information Table

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

Recycling and Waste Collection Changes

In early 2011, City Council approved changes to the City's waste collection contract resulting in the savings of millions of dollars of taxpayer funds per year. The new contract will also help extend the life of our Trail Road landfill and will reduce the number of trucks on our streets.

You should have recently received your new Waste Collection Calendar in the mail. It provides information about the new solid waste collection schedule, which takes effect during the week of **October 29, 2012**.

Please note that your collection day may change. If it does, you will receive a personal letter in the mail. You may also visit ottawa.ca for more information.

- **Recycling:** Blue and Black Box materials, such as paper, cans, plastic, bottles, etc.: Weekly Pickup
- **Green Bin:** Organics, such as tables scraps, etc.: Weekly Pickup
- **Residual Waste:** Non-recyclables such as packaging, etc.: Bi-Weekly Pickup

The City also launched a new collection calendar web tool that allows you to access your collection schedule more easily. In addition, you can sign up for weekly telephone, e-mail or Twitter reminders regarding your upcoming collection day and identifying the materials being collected that week. You can set the method and timing of the notification to suit your needs. Sign up for this reminder online at ottawa.ca or by calling 3-1-1 or 613-580-2424.

Otterson Park Community Celebration

You and your family, friends and neighbours are cordially invited to join me and Mayor Jim Watson to officially open our new play structure at Otterson Park. Following the ribbon cutting ceremony, we invite you to join us for cake and refreshments.

Celebration details are as follows:

Date: Saturday, October 20, 2012

Time: 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

12:15 p.m. Ribbon cutting and community photo

Place: Otterson Park
2960 Otterson Drive

I hope to see you and your neighbours there!

Stepping Up the Battle Against the Emerald Ash Borer

On Monday, September 24, 2012, Mayor Jim Watson joined me on a beautiful street in Riverside Park, on Southmore Drive East, to provide an update about the City's fight to protect Ottawa's tree canopy from the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). This invasive beetle has a devastating impact on Ash trees, which make up 25% of the City's tree canopy. The sustainability of our urban and rural forest infrastructure relies heavily on the replacement of trees removed because of the borer and to that end, Forestry Services continues to inter-plant and replace Ash trees in infested locations.

New Trees - Sustaining Our Canopy

In the spring of 2012, 1,267 new trees of various species were planted along streets and in parks where a large percentage of Ash trees are present. This fall, using some of the additional \$1 million of funding approved by Council on July 11, 2012, the City will plant an additional 2,700 trees, for a total of 3,967 new tree plantings in 2012. The planting program will minimize the impact on our forest cover and these new trees will have additional time to establish themselves prior to the removal of dying Ash trees.

If the City's right-of-way near your property is selected for inter-planting, you will receive a written notification in advance of planting. The City will also install a small compostable sign on the lawn to mark the approximate location of the new tree.

Tree Injections – A New Tool for This Fight

Tree injections using TreeAzin have formed part of the City's EAB strategy since its inception in 2008 and Forestry Services continues to evaluate and add Ash trees to the injection program every year. This summer, the City partnered with industry researchers to trial a new injection product. Confidor, approved by Health Canada, is being used on a trial basis on a small number of trees in Ottawa. This trial program will allow researchers to assess the effectiveness of this insecticide and the injection system on Ash trees in Ontario. This product is used in EAB programs in the United States, and Ottawa is one of two municipalities in Canada to investigate its use as part of our EAB strategy.

Wood Handling and Disposal – The City Has a New Partner

This summer, through a Request for Proposal process, the City selected a qualified vendor to sort and process Ash wood materials into marketable products. The successful bidder, Ottawa Cedar Lumber, is a family owned and operated company in the forestry business that operates a sawmill facility in the east end of the City. Ash trees will be transported directly to the sawmill for processing into materials such as fuel pellets, etc. This will reduce the number of times that the City has to handle the wood material. In addition, by moving the wood directly to a processing site, we are minimizing the risk of spreading the EAB by shortening the time required for processing.

Tree Removal – Operations Resume

Ash tree removal operations resumed during the week of September 24, 2012. If you have an Ash tree scheduled for removal, you will receive a notification letter one week prior to work taking place. Work will generally take place between 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., weather permitting.

Inter-Planting in Riverside Park

In June 2012, residents on Cromwell Drive and Harkness Avenue received new trees on their properties as part of the City's strategy to address the Emerald Ash Borer. The inter-planted trees are located next to existing Ash trees in an effort to maintain our forest cover and to allow the smaller tree time to grow before the Ash tree must be removed.

Fall tree planting began on September 24, 2012 and the following streets will receive inter-plantings: Buxton Crescent, Farmington Avenue, Fielding Drive, Garwood Avenue, Linton Road, Rand Avenue, Southmore Drive East, Southmore Drive West and Thorndale Drive. If your City Ash tree was selected for inter-planting, a notification will be delivered to your residence providing information about the anticipated timeline for tree installation and future maintenance. A small compostable sign will also be placed on the grass to mark the approximate planting location of the tree.

Let's Talk Transportation

The City is updating the Transportation Master Plan and I want to hear about your transportation vision. Please join me for a roundtable discussion:

Date: Tuesday, December 4, 2012

Time: 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Place: Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre
3320 Paul Anka Drive

SPACE IS LIMITED. Please call 613-580-2486 to register.

Airport Parkway Pedestrian/Cycling Bridge

In November 2011, the City identified concerns about the quality of the concrete forming the main tower of the Airport Parkway Pedestrian/Cycling Bridge. Throughout the winter of 2011/2012, my office worked with City of Ottawa Infrastructure Services staff and Legal staff to oversee work undertaken by the contractor to determine the cause of the deficiencies on this important pedestrian connection. A thorough review indicated that the best solution to address the concrete deficiency was to tear down and rebuild the main tower of the bridge at the cost of the contractor.

Demolition of the main tower began on May 2, 2012 and was completed on May 23, 2012. During the demolition process, City staff closely monitored traffic in the construction zone and provided intensive “Zero Tolerance” enforcement along the Airport Parkway.

During this time, other activities have taken place on site, including the pouring of concrete in the west abutment, installation of lightweight fill in the west approach, and grading on the pathway and adjacent landscaping areas. During the summer of 2012, construction crews completed the railway underpass structure and the east and west bridge approaches, installed light poles and fixtures along the pathway approaches, began landscaping activities throughout the site and installed a chain link fence along the east pathway approach between the Sawmill Creek culvert crossing and the OC Transpo Transitway.

On September 27 and 28, 2012, the concrete for the lower portion of the main tower was poured. Over the coming months, the contractor will pour the remaining concrete for the main tower, construct the bridge deck, install outstanding light poles, pave the pathways, and complete miscellaneous construction activities. Final landscaping will be completed in 2013.

This fall and winter, there will be periods of time when traffic on the Airport Parkway will be heavily impacted when the contractor builds the formwork crossing the parkway and when the concrete for the bridge deck is poured. The timing of this work will be communicated by public service announcements and through social media. You can also visit my website at MariaMcRae.ca, sign-up for my e-newsletter, or follow me on Twitter @CouncillorMcRae for updates on this project.

I continue to closely monitor progress on this project to ensure that this connection is safe and is built to the highest quality standards. Thank you for your patience during construction.

**Planning 101 – Heading Back to School...
...Planning Really Can be Cool**

Once again, I have asked City planning staff to become professors of planning for the evening. Planning 101 will allow you to learn more about the land-use planning process.

Report to class for an evening of learning:

Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012

Time: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Place: Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre
3320 Paul Anka Drive

SPACE IS LIMITED. Please call 613-580-2486 to register.

Arnott Park Pathway Improvements

Improvements to the pathway running from Hartman Crescent to Walkley Road began on October 1, 2012. I worked diligently with City staff to ensure that this project was delivered before the 2012 winter season. The scope of construction includes the widening of the pathway to 2 metres, the addition of granular fill to ensure that the pathway is level and sturdy, and the repaving of the surface.

This pathway serves as an important pedestrian connection in our community, allowing residents easy walking and cycling access to and from Arnott Park, transit services on Walkley Road and other destinations. As such, I also made special arrangements to ensure that this pathway is added to the City's winter maintenance program for snow and ice removal.

Heron Road Bridge Construction

Work to rehabilitate the north side of the Heron Road Bridge was completed in early December 2011. Traffic on both sides of the bridge was then re-instated to pre-construction conditions for the 2011/2012 winter season.

Construction on the south side of the Heron Road Bridge began on March 12, 2012. Work completed to date includes asphalt removal, sidewalk and curb removal, cable relocation, bearing replacement, abutment modifications and new sidewalk installation. During October 2012, staff will install the traffic barriers, pave the roadway and finalize the sidewalks and guard rail. Traffic is expected to be re-instated to pre-construction conditions when the project wraps up in November 2012.

Heron Road and Riverside Drive Widening

During the summer of 2012, construction began on the widening of Heron Road between the Rideau Canal Bridge and Bronson Avenue, and of the north side of Riverside Drive between Heron Road and the O-Train bridge overpass. This work will allow for the implementation of reserved bus and bicycle lanes along this corridor.

Other components of the project include modifications to the intersection of Heron Road/Riverside Drive, reconstruction of sidewalks and street lighting improvements and the replacement of traffic control signals at the Heron/Riverside and Heron/Bronson intersections. Intermittent lane closures are required to complete this work. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, construction will be completed in November 2012.

Riverside Drive Construction

Beginning in May 2011, construction took place to widen Riverside Drive, from Heron Road to slightly north of Brookfield Road, to include an additional lane on both the northbound and southbound sides of the road. The scope of work also included additional improvements to street lighting and the island configuration at the intersection of Riverside Drive and Hog's Back Road. The final overlay of asphalt was completed on October 28, 2011.

St. Patrick's Home Construction - Update

As part of the construction of the new St. Patrick's Home facility (2865 Riverside Drive), a zoning by-law amendment was required to permit the addition of a pharmacy to the new wing. On February 8, 2012, I moved a motion at City Council to ensure that the re-zoning did not allow for competition with any local businesses. The motion, carried unanimously, ensures that the retail store is limited to a pharmacy as a principal use, does not include the sale of non-pharmaceutical products or a display area, and must be located below the ground floor.

In addition, following concerns from residents about the safety of the surrounding community during construction at this site, my office worked with City Traffic Management staff to restrict vehicular traffic to the Riverside Drive entrance of the construction site, ensure that the contractor repaired the fencing at the site and erect "No Construction Traffic Permitted" signs leading into Garner Avenue. Inspectors continue to monitor the site regularly to ensure compliance with these regulations throughout the duration of construction.

Bank Street Community Design Plan

The Bank Street Community Design Plan (CDP) was unanimously approved by City Council on March 28, 2012 as a guide to the long-term growth and development of the 3.2-kilometre stretch of Bank Street between the Rideau River and the CN tracks south of Walkley Road. The CDP provides the land use concept for the area, as well as the servicing and transportation structure for future development.

The CDP includes some of the following initiatives for River Ward:

- Future Walkley LRT station;
- Transit-oriented development area at Bank Street and Walkley Road, with an increased building height at the south-west corner of the intersection; and
- New park connecting Ledbury Park to the Sawmill Creek Constructed Wetlands.

"Clean & Green" Partnership with Brookfield High School

In March 2012, my office organized a collaborative partnership between the City of Ottawa and Brookfield High School to resolve issues of concern with respect to garbage in the area.

Community Events

Over the past year, I attended many events in our community, including neighbourhood BBQs, festivals and special celebrations. Thank you to those neighbours who extended a kind invitation to your events. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the many residents who took the time to attend events I hosted this year. I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to meet with you during these occasions.

Civic Events Funding Applications

Local not-for-profit organizations, such as volunteer-based community or recreation associations, are invited to apply for funding to provide one- to two-day civic events with free admission that foster civic pride and strengthen communities. Each group can apply for a maximum \$3,000 grant.

These events are linked to and celebrate a civic or statutory holiday in Ontario (New Year's Day, Family Day, Victoria Day, Canada Day, Ontario Civic Holiday, Labour Day, Thanksgiving Day), are held in a specific geographic district in Ottawa, and encompass a broad range of activities and family entertainment.

The application deadline is **November 1, 2012**. Application forms are available at City of Ottawa Client Service Centres or online at ottawa.ca. For more information, contact 613-580-2424, ext. 24322 or ext. 14133 or e-mail rec-info@ottawa.ca.

Influenza Clinics

The seasonal flu vaccine will be available from participating physicians and health care providers throughout the city beginning on **October 27, 2012**. This vaccine is the most effective way to protect yourself and your family from the seasonal flu.

Ottawa residents have several easy options for getting the flu vaccine, including:

- Through their physician or local health care provider
- At thirty-six OPH clinics across Ottawa, four of which are by appointment only. OPH clinics begin on October 27, 2012. A complete list of these clinics is available at ottawa.ca/flu.
- At a workplace immunization clinic

Snow Go and Snow Go Assist Programs

Snow and freezing rain during Ottawa's winters can present us with challenges when it comes to keeping our private driveways and walkways clean and safe.

The *Snow Go Program* helps seniors and persons with disabilities find reliable and affordable snow removal services to clear snow from private driveways and walkways. Once matched up with snow removal help, residents are responsible for making payments directly to the individual or contractor. The *Snow Go Assist Program* provides financial assistance to eligible low-income seniors or persons with disabilities to assist with their snow removal costs. Approved participants may be reimbursed up to 50 per cent of the cost of snow clearing per event, to a seasonal maximum of \$250.

For more information on either of these programs, please call my office at 613-580-2486.

City Seeks Applicants for Advisory Committees and Boards

The City of Ottawa is seeking volunteers to sit on the Ottawa Police Services Board, the newly restructured Accessibility Advisory Committee; Arts, Culture, Heritage and Recreation Advisory Committee; Community Services Advisory Committee; Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee; French Language Services Advisory Committee; the Built Heritage Sub-Committee; and the Cumberland Museum Board for the term ending November 30, 2014.

You can be a part of one of these new Committees, which will focus on the City's Term of Council Priorities. Make a difference by becoming a volunteer member of an Advisory Committee. The City will benefit greatly from your expertise, enthusiasm and civic pride and in return, you will gain insight and knowledge of how the City works.

For more information on eligibility, roles and responsibilities and the application process, please visit ottawa.ca or contact Diane Blais at 613-580-2424 ext. 28091 (TTY: 613-580-2401) or e-mail diane.blais@ottawa.ca.

Ottawa's Light Rail Transit Project Receives Consortia Submissions

On September 10, 2012, the City of Ottawa received submissions from three industry teams to design, build, finance and maintain the Ottawa Light Rail Transit (OLRT) Project. Proposals were submitted by: Ottawa Transit Partners (led by Vinci Concessions), Rideau Transit Group (led by ACS Infrastructure Canada) and Rideau Transit Partners (led by Bouygues Travaux Publics).

Each of these teams was prequalified to submit proposals after an initial Request for Qualifications was completed in October 2011. Collectively, these firms have successfully built over \$100 billion in light rail projects and 2,000 kilometres of tunnels in cities around the globe.

The City of Ottawa and Infrastructure Ontario will evaluate these submissions, and will recommend a Preferred Proponent along with their design, cost and schedule to City Council for approval by the end of 2012. Construction of the ORLT Project is anticipated to begin in early 2013 and the system is expected to enter full revenue service in the spring of 2018. For more information about the OLRT Project, please visit ottawalightrail.ca.

Winter Equipment Operators Begin Driver Training

To prepare for winter operations, the City of Ottawa began training drivers in the on-street operation of snow clearing equipment on September 24, 2012. Winter equipment driver training starts in the classroom with instruction on roadway safety, equipment orientation, operating principles and operation of attachments. Trainees then move to supervised closed-course practice at City facilities and parking lots. Training concludes with on-street practical experience; again with an instructor supervising at all times.

On-street training will run until early December 2012. This portion of the training takes place close to the City of Ottawa Public Works yards located near the communities of Orléans, rural Cumberland, Kanata, Stittsville, Bells Corners and Manotick. All winter operations equipment used for training will display driver training signs on the rear and both sides of the vehicle.

Safer Roads Ottawa Program

October Initiatives

The City of Ottawa's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) will focus on the **safety of pedestrians and workers in constructions zones** during the month of October.

Between 2007 and 2011, 37 pedestrians were killed on Ottawa roads in traffic collisions and another 1,705 pedestrians were injured (175 of those injuries were serious). During the same time period, 981 collisions occurred in construction zones resulting in 212 injuries, nine of which were serious. Four construction workers were struck and injured on the job by a motorist.

Past Results

Month	Program	Results
October 2011	Running stop signs and failing to buckle up or comply with child car seat requirements	Police charged 277 motorists for running stop signs, while 210 drivers were caught failing to properly buckle up.
November 2011	Distracted driving and disregarding reserved transit lanes	Distracted driving was the prevalent charge with 227 tickets being issued, while 62 charges were laid for improper use of reserved transit lanes.
December 2011	Impaired driving and speeding	803 tickets were issued for speeding. The impaired driving initiative resulted in 91 alcohol-related criminal charges, 7 Highway Traffic Act alcohol violations and 4 Liquor Act violations.
January 2012	Tailgating and stop sign running	72 charges were laid for following too closely and 229 drivers were fined for stop sign violations.
February 2012	Speeding and running red lights	Speeding resulted in 1,688 drivers being charged and 370 fines were laid for running a red light.
March 2012	Distracted driving and failing to buckle up	Enforcement of seat-belt use resulted in 353 charges being laid, while 314 motorists were fined for distracted driving.
April 2012	Unsafe lane changes and improper use of reserved lanes	112 motorists were fined for improper lane changes, while 100 tickets were laid for inappropriate usage of reserved lanes.
May 2012	Red light running and stop sign violations	Red light runners received 303 charges, while stop sign violations resulted in 236 fines being laid.
June 2012	Cycling safety and speeding	Cycling safety initiatives resulted in 358 charges, while 1623 drivers were fined for speeding.
July 2012	Unsafe heavy vehicles and impaired drivers	105 tickets were issues to drivers operating vehicles at or above the legal limit of alcohol consumption. 26 charges were laid for unsafe vehicles.
August 2012	Distracted driving and seat belt and child safety restraint use	229 motorists were charged with distracted driving and 275 drivers were fined for improper seat-belt use.
September 2012	Following too closely and school zone safety	Not yet available.