



**RIVER WARD CITY COUNCILLOR MARIA McRAE'S REPORT TO
THE RIVERSIDE PARK COMMUNITY
November 7, 2012**

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.

Recycling and Waste Collection Changes in Effect

The new solid waste collection schedule began the week of Monday, October 29, 2012. Solid waste materials are now collected as follows:

- **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

Your new calendar can be accessed online at ottawa.ca. A new feature of the calendar allows you to 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.

Residents requiring collection of diapers and incontinence products during weeks without scheduled garbage collection can register for the City's Special Considerations waste program. To register, please visit ottawa.ca or call 3-1-1 or 613-580-2400.

City Council tabled its 2013 Budget on October 24, 2012. As a result of the changes to the waste collection contract, the solid waste user fee for a single family household will decrease to \$82 per year in 2013.

Interplanting in River Ward

Forestry staff are beginning interplanting on November 7, 2012 in River Ward. 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 the following streets can expect to see interplanting taking place between November 7 and 16, 2012. If you are receiving a new tree as part of this program, you will receive a letter from the city. Also, you will receive a lawn sign to mark the approximate location of the new tree:

- Buxton Crescent
- Farmington Avenue
- McCarthy Road
- Southmore Drive

Otterson Park Play Structure Opening

On October 20, 2012, Riverside Park residents gathered at Otterson Park to celebrate the new installation of a unique play structure. Mayor Jim Watson and I served cake to neighbourhood kids and adults as we enjoyed the wonderful sunny weather and treats from the Rogers TV/Tim Hortons Community Cruiser. Thank you to everyone who joined us!

OC Transpo Route 87: New Service to St. Patrick's Home and Riverside Park

After working closely with the community and OC Transpo staff to review the impact of changes made to the former Route 87, I am pleased to report that on December 23, 2012, OC Transpo will implement a pilot project to provide accessible transit service to the residents, staff, volunteers and visitors of the St. Patrick's Home of Ottawa.

The pilot project will see Route 87 travel along Riverside Drive between Ridgewood Avenue and Brookfield Road, two times per day, seven days a week, providing St. Patrick's Home and the Mooney's Bay area with service to Billings Bridge Station and Hurdman Station. OC Transpo will closely monitor ridership of the route during this pilot to determine if additional trips should be added as part of the spring 2013 service level review. I encourage you to provide me with your feedback regarding this pilot.

Airport Parkway Pedestrian/Cycling Bridge and Sawmill Creek Pathway

Sawmill Creek Constructed Wetlands: An Urban Jewel

As a rookie City Councillor, one of the first projects I sunk my teeth into was the building of the Sawmill Creek Constructed Wetlands, which officially opened in September 2007. This innovative stormwater management facility is over 2 km long and serves a catchment area of 1,418 hectares. It is designed to collect and treat stormwater runoff from three main sources: Sawmill Creek, Cahill Creek and the Plante Drive storm sewer, before it flows into the Rideau River. This area is home to 1000's of aquatic and terrestrial plants, trees and shrubs and various fauna. It also houses an important component of the north-south pedestrian and cycling network.

As part of the initial wetlands construction, I worked closely with City staff to make certain that service roads in the area were accessible to pedestrians and cyclists. I also ensured that design work to create an accessible pathway was completed.

In September 2010, thanks to contributions from the Federal and Provincial governments, the final link to the pedestrian/cycling network surrounding the wetlands was officially opened. This safe and accessible pathway system now fully connects Hunt Club Road and Walkley Road.

This year, the Draft 2013 Budget proposes to further connect this network from Walkley Road to Brookfield Road. Thank you to Mayor Jim Watson and staff for their support in adding this important piece of infrastructure to our pedestrian and cycling network, which runs beside the Airport Parkway.

Airport Parkway: Busy and Important North-South Connection

The Airport Parkway is a vital north-south link in Canada's Capital for residents and our visitors. To address safety concerns raised by drivers and cyclists, in 2007, I worked with traffic engineers to install streetlights between Brookfield Road and Hunt Club Road. A "micro-surfacing" upgrade was also applied to the surface of the Parkway to provide improved skid resistance.

My office also works closely with the Ottawa Police Service to address safety issues. As recently as October 17, 2012, Chief Charles Bordeleau and I conducted an on-site review of this area and noted the importance of proactive police enforcement. This is especially vital near the construction site of the pedestrian/cycling bridge.

Airport Parkway Pedestrian and Cycling Bridge: An Accessible & Safe Crossing

For many years, residents have highlighted the need for a safe connection from the Hunt Club community to the east side of the Airport Parkway. In 2009, I was pleased to deliver funding for the Environmental Assessment for this connection. One year later, in 2010, City Council approved funding for the design and construction of the new bridge. Construction began during the summer of 2011.

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 successfully poured. Erection of falsework for the upper portion of the tower is currently underway. The west span deck was successfully poured on October 4, 2012 and the contractor is working on the forming for the west span parapet wall. The paving of the pathways at both ends of the project was completed on October 18, 2012 and construction of the door and glazing installation at the South Keys Station is underway. Next steps include constructing the main bridge deck that spans the Airport Parkway and all other 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.

Household Hazardous Waste Depot

The City of Ottawa will host a one-day mobile Household Hazardous Waste Depot on **Saturday, November 10, 2012** from **9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** at **Drain-All Ltd. (2705 Stevenage Drive)**, between Hawthorne Road and Russell Road.

Household hazardous waste includes the following items:

- Aerosol containers
- Propane cylinders
- Disinfectants
- Fluorescent bulbs/tubes
- Fire extinguishers
- Fertilizers and pesticides
- Mercury switches/thermometers
- Needles and syringes
- Pharmaceuticals
- Paints and coatings
- Oven and window cleaners
- Pool chemicals
- Batteries (automotive/household)

For a complete listing of acceptable household hazardous waste and for more information on waste management and recycling, please visit ottawa.ca or call 3-1-1.

If you are unable to attend the depot, some materials can be easily recycled every day. Items such as paint, oil, compact fluorescent bulbs and rechargeable batteries can be returned to a participating local retailer any day of the week during regular operating hours.

Heron Road Bridge Construction

The south side of the Heron Road Bridge re-opened to traffic on October 11, 2012. During the rehabilitation project, which began on March 12, 2012, staff completed the removal of asphalt, sidewalks and curbs, relocated cables, reinstalled the sidewalks and traffic barriers and paved the roadway.

Heron Road and Riverside Drive Widening

Modifications to the intersection of Heron Road and Riverside Drive are ongoing. The road widening and concrete work along both Heron Road and Riverside Drive is substantially complete and the contractor is currently finishing work on the median at this intersection.

Work is underway to extend the tunnel underneath Heron Road which connects the Tupper Building on the south side to the parking lot on the north side of the street. Once this extension is complete, finishing touches for the widening and paving of the eastbound lanes of Heron Road between the Heron Road Bridge and Riverside Drive will take place. Street and traffic lighting and landscaping are expected to be completed by the end of December 2012.

Hunt Club Road and Riverside Drive

Operational Efficiencies

The City recognizes that the intersections of Hunt Club Road and Riverside Drive and Hunt Club Road and Prince of Wales Drive are two of the busiest intersections in the City and, as a result, staff actively work to address congestion and traffic safety issues in these locations. I have asked City staff to regularly monitor these intersections and to adjust the timing of the traffic signals as necessary in an effort to improve traffic flow.

Infrastructure Investments: The Strandherd/Armstrong Bridge

Ottawa is a large city that is continuing to grow. We will see more traffic on our streets, due in part to the growth in southern suburbs like Riverside South and Barrhaven. Once the Strandherd/Armstrong bridge is complete in the late summer of 2013, it will relieve some stress from these intersections. City staff have indicated that traffic on the Hunt Club bridge is expected to be reduced by ~22% once the bridge opens.

Hunt Club Road: A Transit Priority Corridor

Public transit is a large component of addressing congestion. I was a strong proponent of North/South Light Rail and did not vote in support of its cancellation. Moving forward, as part of the 2008 Transportation Master Plan (TMP), I worked with City staff and my Council colleagues to ensure that North/South Light Rail was included in the new Light Rail plan.

Hunt Club Road is also listed as a transit priority corridor in the City's TMP. The transit priority corridor will run along Hunt Club Road from Woodroffe Avenue to the South Keys Bus Station and further to Conroy Road.

Future Infrastructure Improvements

Hunt Club Road, Riverside Drive and Prince of Wales Drive are listed as priorities in the current TMP and I will continue to work with staff to ensure that they are included in the 2013 TMP refresh. The City's TMP identifies the need for an additional 2-lane bridge crossing the Rideau River at Fallowfield Road and Leitrim Drive. This project is considered in the 2031 TMP scenario. This will also help reduce congestion along these corridors.

I am also working with staff about the possibility of extending the right-hand turn lane at the north-west corner of the intersection of Hunt Club Road and Riverside Drive and have asked staff to include this work for funding once a site plan for the re-development of the property at the north-west corner of this intersection is submitted by the owner and approved by the City. At this time, this property is owned by a private company.

Autumn Tea for River Ward Seniors

I hosted River Ward seniors at my Annual Autumn Tea on October 19, 2012. Mayor Jim Watson, MP David McGuinty and many other servers were on hand to help serve pumpkin pie. Thank you to everyone who attended this afternoon of fun and fellowship!

2013 Draft Operating and Capital Budget

City Council tabled its 2013 Draft Operating and Capital Budget on October 24, 2012. I was pleased to attend the public budget consultation at City Hall on Thursday, November 7, 2012 to listen to residents' feedback on the budget.

There are many ways to have your say by providing feedback on the 2013 budget. While the formal public consultations are complete, you can contact me directly at Maria.McRae@ottawa.ca or at 613-580-2486, register as a public delegation at a Standing Committee budget review meeting taking place between November 6 and 26, 2012, or e-mail budget2013@ottawa.ca, call 3-1-1 or use the Twitter hashtag #ottbudget.

Flu Clinics

The seasonal flu vaccine is now available from participating physicians and health care providers throughout the city. 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. Riverside Park residents can take part in a clinic at the **Jim Durrell Recreation Centre** (1265 Walkley Road) on **December 17, 2012** from **3:30 to 8:30 p.m.** A complete list of these clinics is available at ottawa.ca/flu.
- At a workplace immunization clinic

Better Neighbourhoods Program

Applications for the City's new Better Neighbourhoods Program opened on October 17, 2012. The program offers assistance to qualified groups for the development of resident-driven improvement projects aimed at addressing identified short-comings in the community or enhancing the community experience. The program is part needs assessment and part project implementation. Selected neighbourhoods will work with City staff to identify opportunities, and to plan and implement projects chosen by the community.

Projects will be supported financially by the City up to a maximum of \$30,000. Opportunities for neighbourhood-level projects that could be supported through the program might include making streets more walkable, park revitalizations or artistic initiatives such as street painting. Projects requiring elevated levels of funding may be referred to the City of Ottawa's budget priority setting process.

Three to four neighbourhoods will be selected for the program in 2013 and another three to four in 2014. Interested neighbourhood or community groups can submit applications until **Tuesday, November 27, 2012**. Application criteria can be found on the City's website at ottawa.ca/neighbourhoods.

Final Endorsement of Lansdowne Redevelopment

On October 10, 2012, City Council approved the reports and legal agreements to finalize the partnership with the Ottawa Sports and Entertainment Group (OSEG) and move forward with building the new Lansdowne. With Council's approval of all of the final legal conditions and budget, the City can start the bulk of the construction work at Lansdowne.

The City also announced as part of the report that the contract to complete the construction works was awarded to Pomerleau Inc., an industry leader in the construction of commercial, residential and public buildings. Work to be carried out by Pomerleau Inc. includes building a new underground parking garage, renovating the stadium and building the new south side stands, installing site servicing and providing overall site management. This work is anticipated to begin during the second half of October 2012.

In May 2012, Council approved some preparation activities at Lansdowne, including soil remediation, demolishing the Coliseum Building and stabilizing and relocating the Horticulture Building. This work is on track to be complete by the end of 2012. Work at the Horticulture Building is on schedule to be finished in March 2013.

With current activities progressing well, the project remains on target to see the stadium complete from the 2014 CFL season and the remainder of the development work finished by the summer of 2015. For further information on this project, please visit ottawa.ca.

Safer Roads Ottawa Program

November Initiatives

During the month of November, the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program will focus on **drivers making unsafe lane changes and those failing to completely stop at sign-controlled intersections.**

Unsafe lane changes caused 5,471 reportable collisions from 2007-2011, resulting in four deaths and 639 injuries. From 2007-2011, 3,405 collisions at stop sign-controlled intersections resulted in five deaths and 1,075 injuries.

September Results

98 charges were laid against motorists during the month of September 2012. The STEP program issued 7 charges relating to school zone safety and fined 91 drivers for following too closely.