



## RIVER WARD CITY COUNCILLOR MARIA McRAE'S REPORT TO THE RIVERSIDE PARK COMMUNITY February 6, 2013

### **Airport Parkway Pedestrian and Cycling Bridge – Progress Report**

After a short break over the holidays, construction of the Airport Parkway Pedestrian and Cycling Bridge is progressing well.

Work over the last few months included the placement of scaffolding, formwork and falsework for the upper half of the tower, completion of the east pathway connection, hot mix paving of the pathway, and the installation of a new access door and windows at the South Keys Transit Station. Next steps include resuming formwork, falsework and reinforcing steel on the upper tower, which needs to be in place before the concrete is poured. The contractor will also begin constructing the forming and falsework for the main deck crossing the Airport Parkway. For safety reasons, the contractor is installing temporary concrete barriers on the Parkway when necessary. Please use caution when driving in this area.

For the next few months, there will be periods of time when traffic on the Airport Parkway is **heavily impacted**. The City and the contractor will make every effort to ensure that there is minimal disruption in traffic flow during this phase. The City will provide Public Service Announcements in advance of this work taking place and will post regular updates at [ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca). You can also visit my website at [MariaMcRae.ca](http://MariaMcRae.ca) and follow me on Twitter at [Twitter.com/CouncillorMcRae](https://twitter.com/CouncillorMcRae) for updates. The City has installed digital message boards along the Airport Parkway near the construction site as well.

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

### **Continued Investment in Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure**

As part of the 2013 budget, City Council unanimously approved \$2.5 million to further connect the network of pathways that run along the east side of the Airport Parkway between Hunt Club Road and Walkley Road. This pathway, another important investment in River Ward, will link Walkley Road to Brookfield Road and will start later this year. I will update you as the project progresses.

## **Community Safety and Crime Prevention**

Earlier this week it was brought to my attention that a home on Colman Street, near the corner of Colman Street and Cromwell Drive had their house egged. The police are investigating this incident.

It is important to make the right call if you notice something suspicious, or if you witness a crime in progress, such as egging.

<b>911</b>	Life-Threatening Emergency or Crime in Progress
<b>613-230-6211</b>	Other emergencies
<b>613-236-1222 ext. 7300</b>	Call centre: To report theft, property damage, missing person or stolen vehicle.
<b>613-236-1222</b>	Community Police Centres and all other enquiries
<b>3-1-1 or ottawa.ca</b>	To report graffiti on public property (parks, roads, street signs, utility boxes, newspaper boxes or Canada Post boxes) or private property (residential, businesses, industrial).

## **Winterlude in Canada's Capital**

The National Capital Commission (NCC) kicked off the 35<sup>th</sup> edition of Winterlude in Ottawa on February 1, 2013 with a lighting and pyrotechnic display at Marion Dewar Plaza at City Hall. If you have not had a chance to get out and enjoy some of Canada's favorite winter activities yet, be sure to do so before February 18, 2013!

A few of the fun-filled events include:

- Skating on the Rideau Canal, the world's largest skating rink and enjoying a beaver tail
- Checking out the ice sculpture competitions in the Crystal Garden at Confederation Park
- Visiting the Snowflake Kingdom at Jacques-Cartier Park
- Enjoying a variety of concerts and culinary events at venues throughout the city
- Skating on the Rink of Dreams at City Hall

All Winterlude sites are open on Monday February 18, 2013 for Family Day, where there will be fun-filled activities for all ages. To view the calendar of events and all Winterlude news, please visit [www.canadascapital.gc.ca](http://www.canadascapital.gc.ca).

## **Traffic and Schedule Impact of Winterlude at the Rink of Dreams**

### **Road Closures**

Laurier Avenue between Nicholas Street and Elgin Street, as well as the Queen Elizabeth Driveway between Laurier Avenue and Somerset Street, will be closed on the following days:

#### ***Friday, February 1***

6:00 to 11:30 p.m.

#### ***Saturdays, February 2, 9 and 16***

9:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

#### ***Sundays, February 3, 10 and 17***

9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### **Rink of Dreams**

Free public skating will still be available at the rink during most of Winterlude. Public skating will not be available during the following performance times:

#### ***Saturdays, February 2, 9 and 16 – Skating shows***

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

1:30 to 2:00 p.m.

3:30 to 4:00 p.m.

#### ***Sundays, February 3, 10 and 17 – Skating shows***

11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

1:30 to 2:00 p.m.

3:30 to 4:00 p.m.

For a full list of Winterlude activities at the Rink of Dreams and at Marion Dewar Plaza, please visit [canadacapital.gc.ca/celebrate/winterlude](http://canadacapital.gc.ca/celebrate/winterlude). Look for the green flag beside the Rink of Dreams or check [ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca) to make sure the rink is open for skating.

### **OLG Sno-Bus**

Ottawa residents and visitors are encouraged to leave their cars at home and to use public transit to visit downtown Ottawa. Once again, courtesy of OLG, OC Transpo, in association with the Société de transport de l'Outaouais (STO) will provide a free Sno-bus shuttle service between Winterlude locations during the three weekends of Winterlude, Saturdays, February 2, 9 and 16, and Sundays, February 3, 10 and 17. For more information about Sno-bus, please visit [canadacapital.gc.ca/celebrate/winterlude](http://canadacapital.gc.ca/celebrate/winterlude) or [octranspo1.com](http://octranspo1.com) or call 613-741-4390.

### **Accessibility**

Ottawa City Hall and the Rink of Dreams are always accessible to people with unique needs. Nursing moms are supported to breastfeed anytime and anywhere, but those who desire a more private setting may ask security for access to a breastfeeding room inside City Hall throughout Winterlude.

### **Launch of the City's Official Plan: We Want to Hear From You**

On January 29, 2013, the City launched Building a Liveable Ottawa 2031, the Official Plan and Master Plans review. The focus of the review is to propose solutions to 12 current planning issues. A preview of these policy direction proposals was presented along with a discussion by Dr. David Mowat, Chief Medical Officer in Peel Region, on Building Healthy Cities by Design.

The proposed solutions to the 12 current planning issues are profiled on [ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca). The site also features a summary of each issue and each proposal, a video and feedback mechanisms, including a survey that is available until March 1, 2013.

I encourage you to have your say and to share your feedback by visiting [ottawa.ca/liveableottawa](http://ottawa.ca/liveableottawa).

### **Ottawa River Action Plan Receives Public Works Project of the Year Award**

The City of Ottawa received an environmental award on January 23, 2013 from the Ontario Public Works Association (OPWA). The award recognizes Real Time Control System improvements made to the City's combined sewer system as part of the Ottawa River Action Plan.

The OPWA Project of the Year in the Environment, over \$10 million category, was awarded at their annual conference and awards luncheon. The award was granted jointly to the City of Ottawa, and other stakeholders and partners involved in the Real Time Control project including, Stantec, BPR-CSO, Louis W. Bray Construction and Doran Contractors.

The OPWA Public Works Project of the Year Award was established in 2001 to promote excellence in the management and administration of public works projects by recognizing the alliance between the managing agency, the consultant/architect/engineer, and the contractor who work together to complete public works projects.

## **City of Ottawa Honours Two of Own**

At City Council on Wednesday January 23, 2013, Mayor Jim Watson, my Council colleagues and I had the pleasure of honouring two amazing philanthropists. Joseph Cull and David Smith, who have both given back to Ottawa in such tremendous ways throughout their lives.

Joseph Cull was presented with the Mayor's City Builder Award for his work as a volunteer group fitness instructor for the Older Adult Program with the YMCA/YWCA, as well as for his volunteer work and fundraising efforts for the Maycourt Hospice and a number of other charities in Ottawa. Joseph is known for his sharp, self-deprecating humour which was on display at city Council. Joseph is always aiming to entertain.

David Smith is a well-known Ottawa business man, owner of Nate's Deli and Nate's Deli Family Kitchen, and a philanthropist and was honoured with his very own street. Dave has helped raise an estimated \$100 million for local and national charities. Dave Smith Crescent is planned for a new development in Gloucester South Nepean. This small token of our appreciation will help acknowledge Dave's incredible fund-raising efforts, including his tireless work creating and supporting the Dave Smith Youth Treatment Centre in Ottawa. Dave raised a significant amount of funds for this treatment centre, which has now expanded to three locations.

Dave is also involved in an Afghanistan-centred fundraising campaign called "Boomer's Legacy," a foundation to aid the women and children in Afghanistan, and in doing so honours all Canadian soldiers who have served there. The foundation, of which Smith sits on the board, was inspired by the memory of Andrew 'Boomer' Eykelenboom, a Canadian soldier from CFB Comox who was killed in action in Kandahar Province in 2006.

## **March Break Camps**

School will be out for a week of fun during March Break and the City of Ottawa is offering over 100 action-packed camps in sports, arts, water fun and more for children ages 3-12. Leadership and specialty camps are also available for youth 12 years of age and older.

March Break is taking place March 11 to 15, 2013.

Find your neighbourhood adventure and register online at [ottawa.ca/recreation](http://ottawa.ca/recreation):

- Take to the ice with hockey, skating and curling camps.
- Try aqua camps, indoor soccer or rock climbing.
- Wow family and friends with talents developed in computer, magic or movie camps.
- Star on stage in acting, singing and dance camps.
- Get messy with clay, paints and glue.
- Work on your leadership skills and make new friends.

Ottawa's largest selection of camps comes with enthusiastic and trained leaders. Our programs offer top value and quality you can trust. For more information, please visit [ottawa.ca/recreation](http://ottawa.ca/recreation).

### **City of Ottawa 55+ Short Story Contest Now Underway**

The City of Ottawa invites residents to enter the 16<sup>th</sup> annual 55+ Short Story Contest. The contest welcomes submission of original, unpublished short stories or memoirs from Ottawa residents 55 years or older.

Submissions must be 2000 words or less and can be submitted in English or French. Contestants may submit multiple entries, but will only be eligible to win one prize.

Eight entrants will be named to the 2013 Winners Circle, sharing recognition at *An Afternoon of Readings* on Wednesday, May 1, 2013 at the Heron Seniors' Centre, 1480 Heron Road. A \$400 prize will be shared among the winners.

For full contest details, pick up a brochure at any City of Ottawa Library or Client Service Centre. For details in English, residents can also call Heron Seniors' Centre at 613-247-4808, ext. 2. For details in French, residents can call Carleton Heights Community Centre at 613-226-2208, ext. 225.

The deadline for submissions is Friday, March 15, 2013. An entry fee of \$6.25 per story is applicable.

### **OC Transpo Launches NEXT-ON with PRESTO Card Distribution**

Between January 18 and February 1, 2013, OC Transpo distributed 10,000 free PRESTO cards to frequent customers as part of the NEXT-ON with PRESTO program. NEXT-ON is an important phase which will test and improve the customer experience before the full rollout of the PRESTO smartcard payment system later this year.

PRESTO card readers are now installed and running on all buses in the OC Transpo fleet. New PRESTO card readers are installed and are operational at the five O-Train stations. Anyone using a PRESTO card can load either a monthly pass or cash (E-purse) on their card. All PRESTO card holders are expected to tap on the card reader when boarding a bus or before boarding the O-Train.

OC Transpo is committed to working with its PRESTO partners to ensure that all customers receive excellent customer support. Customers are encouraged to contact the PRESTO Customer Service Call Centre toll free at 1-877-378-6123 or visit [prestocard.ca](http://prestocard.ca) for information and assistance with their PRESTO card. Customers are also encouraged to regularly visit [octranspo.com](http://octranspo.com) for further updates on *NEXT-ON* with PRESTO

## **9% Increase in Transit Use in Ottawa since 2005**

More Ottawa and Gatineau residents are using transit or cycling in their daily travel, according to the results of the 2011 Origin Destination Survey for the National Capital Region (NCR), released on January 24, 2013.

The 2011 Survey results show that since the last survey in 2005, the population of the NCR grew by 7.2 per cent to 1,233,880. In the same period, daily transit use rose by nine per cent, while the daily use of automobiles increased by only 4.7 per cent. Cycling also increased significantly, as transit and cycling trips represented the largest percentage user increases of all modes of transportation.

The survey also revealed that 49 per cent of trips to downtown Ottawa during the morning peak are made using transit. In the afternoon, transit accounts for 48 per cent of downtown trips. This compares to 43 per cent and 41 per cent, respectively, during the same travel periods in 2005.

In the Outaouais, work-related transit travel to downtown Gatineau had a 34 per cent (two per cent higher than 2005) share in the morning rush hour and 32 per cent share (three per cent higher than 2005) in the afternoon peak period.

For interprovincial travel, 27 per cent of the Outaouais commuters travelled to Ottawa for work, while four per cent of Ottawa commuters crossed the river for the same reason. Across the NCR, 76 per cent of the travel during the am peak was commute to work and school, while the evening return trips accounted for 64 per cent of the pm peak travel.

The Origin Destination Survey for the NCR was conducted in the fall of 2011 as a partnership between the City of Ottawa, Ville de Gatineau, Ontario Ministry of Transportation, Ministère des Transports du Québec, OC Transpo and Société de transport de l'Outaouais (STO). The survey captured the travelling habits, over a 24-hour period, of 25,000 randomly selected households from the NCR – Ottawa, Gatineau, MRC des Collines. The survey results will be used to inform future transportation infrastructure and services planning.

You can visit [www.O-DSurvey.ca](http://www.O-DSurvey.ca) for more about the results of the survey.

## **City of Ottawa 2013 Summer Student Employment Program**

The Summer Student Employment Program is a great opportunity to gain valuable work experience and insight into today's workforce, discover a career path, showcase skills and enhance academic goals. Students interested in summer employment with the City of Ottawa can apply online at [Ottawa.ca](http://Ottawa.ca). The application process will close on Thursday, February 7, 2013. Student positions are available in the following areas:

- Administrative and Support Services
- Building, Roads, Forestry and Parks Maintenance
- By-Law Services
- Engineering and Science
- Environmental Science
- Finance and Accounting
- Information Technology and Geomatics
- Laboratory Technologist/Chemistry
- Library Services
- Paramedic Services
- Parks and Recreation Services
- Public Health Services
- Recreation, Heritage, Community and Social Services
- Traffic and Parking Operations

For more information including eligibility criteria and other requirements, please visit [ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca). I greatly encourage our River Ward youth to apply for these summer positions.

## **Protect Yourself and Your Loved Ones this Flu Season**

Ottawa Public Health and area hospitals want to remind you to protect yourself and your loved ones and to take appropriate steps to ease symptoms if you get sick this flu season.

### ***Prevention***

It is not too late to get the flu vaccine. You can get their flu vaccine at OPH clinics, your doctor's office, some local pharmacies and many walk-in clinics in the city. This season's flu vaccine is proving to be effective and is well matched to the most common influenza strains in the community.

Ottawa Public Health would also like to remind you of these key tips to avoid getting and transmitting the flu virus:

- Wash your hands with soap and water, or use hand sanitizer.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with your arm, not your hand.
- Avoid crowds, public gathering and stay at home if you are sick.
- Do not visit hospitalized patients if you are experiencing flu-like symptoms.

### *Ease symptoms*

Individuals who have flu-like symptoms – a fever, a cough, severe headache and/or chills are advised to:

- Rest.
- Drink lots of fluids.
- Take basic pain or fever relievers.
- Take a warm bath.
- Gargle with a glass of warm water or suck on hard candy or lozenges.
- Avoid alcohol and tobacco.

Contact your health care provider if symptoms are severe and do not improve after a few days

You should call your health care provider immediately if you experience flu symptoms and you:

- Are pregnant.
- Have a chronic health problem that requires regular medical attention.
- Are elderly or frail.
- Have an illness or are receiving treatments – for example, for diabetes, cancer, or HIV/AIDS – that might affect your immune system.
- Have a child under three months of age who has a fever over 38° C or 100.4° F.

There are many ways to get non-emergency medical care. Trained professionals from Telehealth Ontario and the Ottawa Public Health Information line can answer your questions by phone, and family doctors, nurses and other health care providers can provide care.

The emergency room may not be your best option. Residents are asked to note that many area-hospitals are experiencing an increase in volume to their emergency departments and that the Ottawa Public Health has noticed an increased demand for the flu vaccine in recent days and is working with health care providers, institutions and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to ensure that everyone who wants a flu vaccine can get one.

To find out where to get the flu vaccine, or for the latest public health information, visit [ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca), contact Ottawa Public Health Information Line at 613-580-6744 (TTY: 613-580-9656) or visit them on Facebook and Twitter (@ottawahealth).

To reach Telehealth Ontario, call 1-866-797-0000.

## **Safer Roads Ottawa Program**

### ***February Initiatives***

The Ottawa Police Service's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) will focus on **seat belt/child safety restraint use** and **red light running** as part of its ongoing commitment to keeping Ottawa's roads safe.

Between 2007 and 2011, there were 230 collisions involving drivers or passengers not wearing vehicle occupant restraints. The collisions resulted in 22 people being killed and 245 being injured. Sixteen of those 22 fatalities were male.

Between 2007 and 2011, there were 4042 collisions involving drivers failing to stop for red lights. The collisions resulted in eight people being killed and 1875 being injured.