



## RIVER WARD CITY COUNCILLOR MARIA McRAE'S REPORT TO THE RIVERSIDE PARK COMMUNITY

March 6, 2013

### **River Ward Airport Parkway Pedestrian/Cycling Bridge:**

#### **The Dream Becomes More of a Reality**

While most of us were snug in our beds late on February 15, 2013, City of Ottawa staff and our contractors worked throughout the night installing overhead formwork for the main deck of the River Ward pedestrian and cycling bridge crossing the busy Airport Parkway. Thanks to City staff and our contractors for delivering a safe and successful build. Thank you also to motorists and cyclists for your patience.

Next steps include the installation of the reinforcing steel for the main deck and the welding of the tower anchoring system. Once the anchoring system is complete, the upper tower will be poured. I look forward to the next steps of this River Ward project when the contractor pours the concrete and the dream becomes more of a reality.

I continue to closely monitor progress on this project to ensure that this connection is built safely and to the highest quality standards.

### **Pizza Party For Mental Health Was An Outstanding Success**

On Wednesday, February 27, 2013, Councillor Allan Hubley and I co-hosted a pizza lunch at City Hall to raise awareness and funds for the Royal Ottawa Foundation for Mental Health's Do It for Daron (D.I.F.D.) "Power to the Purple" campaign. Gabriel Pizza generously donated the pizza for the event and additionally donated \$1 from each pizza sold at all Gabriel Pizza locations that day.

I am strongly committed to raising awareness about mental health issues. Last Wednesday's event was a fun way to inspire conversations and to encourage people to reach out for help. Thank you to Gabriel Pizza, City of Ottawa staff and so many community members for your generosity.

Thank you also to members of our office teams, our volunteers and the Royal Ottawa Foundation for Mental Health who helped make this event a monumental success.

## **Fun for the Entire Family this March Break**

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very enjoyable March Break. From crafts to sports, the City of Ottawa offers many activities in recreation and culture facilities, pools and arenas for family members of all ages during the entire week. I invite you to visit [ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca) to browse a list of activities that might be of interest to you or a loved one. The public swimming and skating schedules are also available on the City's website.

## **Apps 4Ottawa Contest**

The City of Ottawa announced it will be holding a second Apps4Ottawa contest. The new contest will feature a similar prize structure as the first contest but will be opened up to all Canadians for entry. Microsoft Canada is the contest's title sponsor while other technology companies have agreed to be category sponsors.

Until **March 10, 2013**, you can submit your ideas and comment on others on [ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca). These ideas and suggestions will help developers decide which apps to build, based on which ideas seem most popular and useful. Starting **March 11, 2013**, developers can start submitting their apps. The deadline for apps submission is **May 12, 2013**.

Entries will be judged on usefulness, inventiveness, originality and ease of access and use. Apps can be designed for mobile phones, desktop computers or websites. Prizes will be awarded in four theme categories: On the Move, Having Fun, Your City and a brand new category for Data Analysis and Visualizations.

Cash prizes will total \$38,000 with the top prize in each category set at \$3,000. There will also be prizes for Silver and Bronze in each category, plus one prize each for the best student app and the people's choice app, along with prizes for the top Microsoft 8 apps. The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in June.

Ottawa is one of the leaders in the open data movement in Canada. Currently, there are 63 data sets and 121 data files available on [ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca)

## **Spring and Summer Are Around the Corner: Registration for Spring and Summer 2013 Classes and Summer Camps Opens This Week**

I invite you to browse through the City's Spring and Summer Recreation Guide by visiting [ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca) to find a program or class that is suited to you or a member of your family. The City has a wide range of programs and classes and there is certainly something to meet everyone's needs no matter what their age or ability.

Online/Touch tone registration for Swimming and Aquafitness Programs opens on Monday, March 4, 2013. You can register for these programs in person starting on Tuesday, March 5, 2013. Online/Touch tone registration for all other programs including summer camps opens Wednesday, March 6, 2013 and you can register for these in person starting Thursday, March 7, 2013.

Register for summer camps before June 10 and you could win a free week of camp! 50 winners will be notified. Please visit [ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca) for more information.

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

The City of Ottawa invites you 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.

## **174 Sewer Work Completed Ahead of Schedule**

The lining work on the two sewers running under Highway 174 is complete. The 2.1m diameter sewer, west of the Montreal Road interchange near Jasmine Park was completed February 13, 2013. The 1.8m diameter sewer west of Orleans Boulevard overpass was completed on January 24, 2013. Both of these projects were completed on budget and ahead of schedule.

These sewers were identified for accelerated lining under the renewal program launched last September.

### **Ottawa.ca Refresh**

On November 30, 2012, the City launched its new website at [ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca). The new website features four main search categories – Residents, Businesses, Visitors and City Hall. Sub-categories such as Older Adults, Families and New Residents further narrow the search, making it easier for you to find the information and City services relevant to you.

The new website demonstrates the City's ongoing commitment to accountability and transparency by making it easy to find information and programs related to the Corporate Accountability Framework. Users with mobile devices will experience better search functionality and the ability to resize the screen image to suit the device it is being viewed on. The new [ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca) also provides easier access to E-Post options, allowing resident to view, pay and print their water and tax bills online.

### **LRT On Its Way: Confederation Line Project Agreement finalized**

On February 12, 2013, the City of Ottawa finalized the Project Agreement with Rideau Transit Group ("RTG") to design, build, finance and maintain Ottawa's new 12.5-kilometre Confederation Line Light Rail project as well as widen Highway 417 from Nicholas Street to Highway 174. This marks the commercial and financial close of the Confederation Line project and the beginning of the construction phase.

Construction will begin this spring and will include the start of the widening of Highway 417 between Nicholas Street and Highway 174. Work will also begin at the Maintenance and Storage Facility on Belfast Road. RTG will continue to work on completing its designs, hire local sub-contractors and project staff and commence the work necessary to start excavation of the 2.5-kilometre tunnel under downtown Ottawa.

The final project agreements related to the Confederation Line project are currently being prepared for posting on [Ottawa.ca](http://ottawa.ca). They will be made available this week to coincide with a ceremonial event between the City and Rideau Transit Group.

## **Safer Roads Ottawa Program**

### ***March Initiatives***

The Ottawa Police Service's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) will focus on **School Bus/School Zone Safety** and **unsafe lane changes** as part of its ongoing commitment to keeping Ottawa's roads safe.

### ***January Results***

The Ottawa Police Service's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) focused on following too close and stop sign violations during the month of January, resulting in 368 charges being laid against motorists, 97 charges for following too close and 271 charges for failing to stop at a stop sign.

### ***December Results***

As part of several initiatives to keep roads safe during the holiday season, the Ottawa Police Service conducted RIDE (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) programs throughout December.

A total of 6,789 vehicles were stopped at RIDE checkpoints, which resulted in 26 roadside tests being administered. Three individuals were charged for impaired driving and 4 suspensions were issued.

A three year comparison of December RIDE stats show the numbers being relatively consistent.

### ***November Results***

Almost 500 charges were laid in November as part of the STEP program. 325 motorists were fined for stop sign violations and 168 charges were given to driver making unsafe lane changes.