



RIVER WARD CITY COUNCILLOR MARIA McRAE'S REPORT TO THE RIVERSIDE PARK COMMUNITY December 4, 2013

Happy Holidays

Best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and happy holidays. Happy New Year and may 2014 bring happiness and health to you and your family.

Councillor Maria McRae's Annual Christmas Lights Tour for River Ward Seniors

Date: Friday, December 13, 2013

Board Bus: 6:50 p.m.

Departure: 7:00 p.m. sharp

Christmas Treats and Carols: 9:15 p.m.

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

Bus routes 87 and 146

Please RSVP before December 6, 2013 by calling 613-580-2486 to reserve your tickets.

Airport Parkway Pedestrian-Cycling Bridge – December 2013 Update

Further to my October 2013 update, the City's Finance and Economic Development Committee (FEDCO) received a formal staff update about the status of the Airport Parkway Pedestrian-Cycling Bridge on December 3, 2013. This update also included the results of Delcan's review (as per the October memo) and the recommended option for completing this connection.

Committee members unanimously approved additional funding in the amount of \$4.65M to complete the bridge. They also directed the City Clerk and Solicitor to pursue legal action to seek to recover the past, present and future costs and damages incurred by the City with respect to the Airport Parkway Pedestrian-Cycling Bridge.

FEDCO also directed staff to provide written reports to members of City Council as specific milestones are reached on this project.

I will keep updating you about this project and I want to assure you that I will continue advocating to make certain that this project is built safely and to the highest quality standards.

Although this may not be the news that we wanted to hear, this project is one step further ahead and I look forward to crossing the bridge in the future.

If you would like to receive a copy of both the staff report and the Delcan report, please contact my office.

Investigations and Police Actions Continue after South End Robberies

In response to a series of robberies in November, the Ottawa Police Service has increased patrols and officer presence in the south end of Ottawa. This consists of increased presence of Neighbourhood, Patrol and Traffic officers in the area, including foot patrols along the pathways and parks. The Police continue to provide information about these robberies via their website www.ottawapolice.ca and have provided safety tips as well.

Both my office and the Police are taking these incidents seriously. I continue to receive updates from the Chief of Police and East District officers and I am assured that the Police are using all available resources to solve these crimes.

The Police have asked anyone with any knowledge of these crimes to call them, in confidence, at 613-236-1222. Residents can also call or text their information to Crime Stoppers at 613-233-TIPS (233-8477) or 1-800-222-8477, or submit a tip by accessing the website www.crimestoppers.ca. The information is identified by a code number, which is given to the caller.

Last month, I hosted a meeting with the Police and a local Neighbourhood Watch group to discuss community safety and crime prevention in their neighbourhood. If you would like me to host a meeting with your local Neighbourhood Watch group, please give my office a call. If you would like to join your Neighbourhood Watch or start one for your neighbourhood, I would be pleased to personally follow-up with you.

River Ward Speed Boards – Exclusive Use for Our Ward

Traffic safety continues to be a top priority of mine and you may have noticed speed boards displayed in our Ward. Last month, a board was installed on Southmore Drive between Welland Street and Linton Road.

If you would like City Traffic engineering staff to assess another street for use of the speed board, please give my office a call. I have made arrangements for deployment of the speed boards year round.

Help Stop Impaired Driving with Operation Red Nose

Operation Red Nose, a volunteer service, is operation in Ottawa until December 31, 2013. Impaired driving is a serious issue and Operation Red Nose offers drivers an option to get home safely during the holiday season.

You can arrive home safely, with your vehicles, in four steps:

1. Call 613-820-NOSE (6673)
2. Let the dispatcher know where you are
3. Let the dispatcher know where you are going
4. Let the dispatcher know who is travelling with you

For more information about this program or to volunteer, please visit <http://www.rednoseottawa.com>.

29th OC Transpo/Loblaw Annual Christmas Food Drive – December 7, 2013

On Saturday, December 7, 2013 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., more than 500 OC Transpo and City of Ottawa employees, and their families and friends, will be volunteering to collect food and cash donations at 18 participating Loblaw supermarkets around Ottawa.

This will be the 29th OC Transpo/Loblaw Annual Christmas Food Drive in support of the Ottawa Food Bank. This year, the Food Bank is in need of canned and non-perishable items, including rice, soup, tuna, pasta, diapers, baby food, baby formula, peanut butter, tomato sauce and powdered milk. Basic toiletries and personal care items would also be especially welcomed donations.

This is the time of year when the Ottawa Food Bank needs the community's help the most, to brighten the holidays for some of our community's most vulnerable families and individuals.

On December 7, 2013, please find the time to give generously by donating at participating Loblaw's around the City.

Sawmill Creek Pedestrian and Cycling Pathway – December Update

Construction of the Sawmill Creek Pedestrian Cycling Pathway extension is underway and is moving along well. Staff are working hard to ensure that this pathway is built to the highest quality standards and on time. The contractor began laying asphalt at the end of November.

This pathway will link pathways from Walkley Road to Brookfield Road.

Mayor's 13th Annual Christmas Celebration in support of the Ottawa Food Bank

Mayor Jim Watson is holding the 13th Annual Christmas Celebration in support of the Ottawa Food Bank. Details are as follows:

Date: Saturday, December 7, 2013

Time: 3 to 7 p.m.

Location: Ottawa City Hall, 110 Laurier Avenue West

This fun-filled celebration will include ice skating on the Rink of Dreams, hot chocolate, roasting marshmallows and horse-drawn wagon rides on Marion Dewar Plaza. Inside City Hall meet Santa and Mrs. Claus, decorate a gingerbread cookie in Santa's bakery, have your face painted, and enjoy live performances in Andrew S. Haydon Hall. Enjoy special treats from BeaverTails and Lindt!

OC Transpo will offer free bus rides on all routes to and from City Hall from 2:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. to children 11 years and under when accompanied by a fare-paying adult.

To help those in need and to share in the spirit of the holiday season, admission is a non-perishable food donation to the Ottawa Food Bank.

Santa's Theatre

3:10 – 3:20 p.m.	Storytelling by Santa's Elves
3:30 – 4:00 p.m.	Ottawa Children's Choir
4:15 – 4:45 p.m.	Altantic Voices
5:00 – 5:30 p.m.	Movie- A Charlie Brown Christmas (English)
5:45 – 6:15 p.m.	Movie- Joyeux Noël Charlie Brown (French)
6:30 – 6:45 p.m.	Storytelling by Santa's Elves

2013 Canadian Space Society Summit – Canada's Space Economy

The 2013 Canadian Space Summit took place in Ottawa on November 14 & 15, 2013. The Summit brought together professionals, academics, and enthusiasts to explore topics in Technology, Commercialization, Education and Outreach, and Law and Policy as they relate to the aerospace industry. This year's theme was *Canada's Space Economy*.

I was honoured when Summit organizers asked me to deliver a keynote address on behalf of the City of Ottawa and to participate in the Education & Outreach panel. General (Retired) Walter J. Natynczyk, the new Canadian Space Agency President, and William H. Gerstenmaier, NASA's Associate Administrator of Human Exploration and Operations, are also speaking at the Summit.

I was proud to showcase the Ottawa region's strength in this sector and to illustrate why Canada's Capital is an excellent choice for businesses to establish and to grow their aerospace-related ventures.

Budget 2014 Approved with the Lowest Tax Change in Seven Years

On November 27, 2013, City Council approved the 2014 Budget that delivers a tax change of 1.9% – the lowest change in seven years, and below the 2% cap directed by City Council on May 8, 2013. The budget respects taxpayers' expectations that its municipal government live within its means, improve service delivery and invest strategically in initiatives that will help shape the community's future.

Budget 2014 continues the freeze on recreation fees and the Mayor and Councillors' office budgets, and garbage fees will remain at the same level as in the previous year. As well, the City will reduce its workforce for the third straight year, with the removal of 55 Full-Time Equivalent positions. In addition, no new debt will be added to the capital budget in 2014.

City Council Approves Master Plans for Building the Future Ottawa

On November 26, 2013, Council approved five key master plans that will guide the City's future land development and the growth of Ottawa's transportation system for the years to come.

Council approved an updated Official Plan, Infrastructure Master Plan, Transportation Master Plan, Pedestrian Plan and Cycling Plan that were created in consultation with the public throughout 2013 during the Building a Liveable Ottawa initiative. These plans set the vision for Ottawa's future growth to 2031.

Some of the highlights of the plans include:

- Bringing more than 270,000 residents within five kilometres of LRT and ensuring that close to 700,000 residents (67% of Ottawa's population) will have ease of access to rapid transit.
- Protecting and improving the health of the Ottawa River through the Ottawa River Action Plan by eliminating overflows into the river and solidifying Ottawa's place as a world leader in environmental protection.
- Encouraging dense development, including high-rises, in designated locations, such as near public transit stations, downtown, or employment centres and ensuring that it is built to a high level of urban design.

The City has worked hard with its residents holding multiple "Building a Liveable Ottawa" plan-review project. Residents have done online surveys, attended public information sessions, sent e-mail comments and participated in outreach panels. The City has also worked closely with community leaders and the building industry in updating the master plans. In all, there have been more than 10,000 contacts with residents — including visits to ottawa.ca, visits to information sessions and verbal presentations and online surveys submitted — for the five master plan reviews this year. Please visit ottawa.ca for more information.

Rink of Dreams Open for Skating

The Rink of Dreams is open again for skating. Weather permitting, the Rink of Dreams will open daily from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., including holidays, until the end of the skating season in March 2014. A heated change hut at Marion Dewar Plaza is open every day from 8 a.m. until 11 p.m.

It operates annually from November to March seven days a week and serves as a community space during the spring and summer months. The City works closely with the National Capital Commission (NCC) and other organizers to complement the many festivals and events in the downtown core.

The Rink of Dreams first opened January 25, 2012. It was installed at Marion Dewar Plaza in a partnership between the City of Ottawa and the Ottawa Senators Foundation as part of the foundation's Sens Recreational Investments in Neighbourhood Communities (RINC) program.

You are encouraged to look for the green flag at City Hall, and notices on the city's website, ottawa.ca, for daily confirmation that the rink is open or closed.

Winter Parking Regulations – November 15, 2013 to April 1, 2014

The City's snow-clearing teams work diligently, around the clock to keep our roads and sidewalks safe and clear for motorists, public transit & emergency services vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists.

Winter overnight parking regulations are in effect from November 15, 2013 to April 1, 2014. No parking is permitted on City streets from 1AM to 7AM when **7 cm or more** snow is forecast in the Ottawa area. Vehicles that remain parked on the street during an overnight parking restriction may be ticketed and could be towed.

Planned snow removal can occur during the day or night, even if no snow is in the forecast. Temporary, no parking-snow removal signs are placed in snow banks just prior to a planned removal.

Please visit ottawa.ca or call my office for more information. You can also sign up for Winter Parking e-Alerts to receive e-mail notification about overnight parking bans.

City is Prepared for Traffic Volumes This Winter

This winter, most construction projects will go on hiatus while others, like the Highway 417 expansion and the Confederation Line projects, will continue with traffic volume expected to remain at the same level. When winter storms hit, public safety and mobility are always the priority as City snow clearing crews work to clear Ottawa roads, sidewalks and bus stops.

With both the construction-related activities and winter weather, residents are encouraged to be flexible with their commuting times, stagger their work hours, or use other alternative transportation, such as transit (especially during inclement weather) and take advantage of the 10 Park and Ride locations throughout the city.

The City snow clearing crews maintain an expansive area that covers 2,796 square-kilometres, spans 90 kilometres from west to east and includes more than 6,000 km of roads and 2,000 km of sidewalks, in addition to the Transitway and bus stops. Council-approved Maintenance Quality Standards prioritizes and optimizes snow and ice removal to ensure safety and accessibility of our transportation network and ensures a consistent level of snow clearing service is provided to all residents.

Residents are also reminded to be patient, drive according to the conditions, and practice caution and safety with other motorists, pedestrians, cyclists and winter maintenance vehicles.

The City of Ottawa has tools on ottawa.ca to help motorists and transit users plan their routes and manage their commute.

Additionally:

- Residents can also seek information by calling 3-1-1 or visiting a City of Ottawa Client Service Centre.
- Permanent and mobile variable message signs are installed across the city to inform motorists of road closures, lane reductions and other traffic change.
- Constant and accurate transit, traffic and winter storm information will be made available at ottawa.ca, on Twitter and through the media

Three City Employees Honoured for Heroic Response to Stittsville Fire

Three City of Ottawa employees from the Public Works Department, who are also volunteer firefighters, were honoured on November 21, 2013 at the Community and Protective Services Committee meeting for their heroic actions in locating and assisting a woman to safety as fire engulfed a historic building in Stittsville on September 9, 2013.

As thick black smoke poured from doors and windows of the 140-year-old building, volunteer firefighters Brian Danson, Rob Hartnett, and Paul Lamothe entered the burning building to search for occupants. They located a woman who was asleep in an upper-floor unit and rushed her to safety just as Ottawa Fire Services personnel arrived on-scene and took over from the three men.

Para Transpo Accepts PRESTO Monthly Passes

OC Transpo customers were able to benefit from the features and convenience of PRESTO while travelling on Para Transpo starting December 1, 2013. Para Transpo began accepting PRESTO cards loaded with a monthly pass and accompanied by proof of purchase. Para Transpo cannot accept the PRESTO e-Purse.

The PRESTO monthly pass is ideal for Para Transpo customers who purchase a monthly pass and regularly travel on both Para Transpo and OC Transpo.

For Para Transpo customers wishing to make the switch from paper passes, OC Transpo will distribute no-fee PRESTO cards between November 20, 2013 and February 28, 2014. Visit any of these OC Transpo Sales and Information Centres with your Para Transpo registration number to get a card:

- Rideau Centre (new location on the third floor near Rideau Street);
- St-Laurent Station;
- Lincoln Fields Station; and,
- Place d'Orléans Station.

For more information about obtaining a no-fee PRESTO card or about Para Transpo's acceptance of PRESTO, visit octranspo.com or call 613-741-4390 (TTY 613-741-5280).

***Taking Care of My Health* Awareness Campaign**

Ottawa Public Health (OPH) has launched the *Taking Care of My Health* campaign to raise awareness and help prevent falls of older adults.

Every year in Ottawa, one in four seniors fall, leading to an average of more than 6,300 visits to emergency rooms and 70 deaths. An injury related to a fall can have a lasting impact on an older adult's independence and quality of life.

To meet the needs of Ottawa's aging adult population, OPH is now offering group education sessions on topics related to healthy aging, and offering fall prevention screening clinics. At the clinics, seniors 65 and older can meet with a public health nurse to review their risk of falling, have their balance tested and their blood pressure checked.

To help prevent falls, OPH encourages residents to:

Make your home safe:

- Keep your home well lit and free of trip hazards
- Remove scatter rugs and loose carpets
- Install grab bars in bathrooms and elsewhere as needed
- Install sturdy handrails that extend to the bottom on both sides of your stairs

Be active:

- Take part in at least 150 minutes of aerobic physical activity every week
- Minutes count, so be active in blocks of 10 minutes at a time
- Do strength and balance activities at least twice a week

Eat well:

- Eat at least three servings of foods high in calcium every day
- Take a daily Vitamin D supplement of 400 IU if you are over 50
- Have regular health exams with your health care provider and report any falls
- Review your medications with your doctor or pharmacist at least every six months
- Have your vision checked every year

For more information on healthy aging programs, visit ottawa.ca. To book a group education session or to register for a fall screening clinic, call the Ottawa Public Health Information Line at 613-580-6744 (TTY: 613-580-9656).

Tips to Avoid the Grandparents Scam

The Ottawa Police Service Fraud Section wishes to raise awareness about telephone con artists that target senior citizens using the Distressed Loved One Tactic.

Across the country, con artists are scamming grandparents out of thousands of dollars by posing as their grandchildren in distress.

How this works:

A Grandparent receives a frantic telephone call from someone they believe to be their Grandchild.

The alleged Grandchild sounds distressed and may call from a location that has heavy background noise or static making it difficult to make out the voice.

The supposed Grandchild claims to be involved in some type of trouble while travelling in Canada, the US, or overseas (e.g. being arrested, having been involved in a car accident or experiencing major car trouble) and asks the Grandparent to immediately wire money to post bail, pay for medical treatment or unforeseen car repairs.

The scammer typically asks for several thousand dollars and may even call back again hours or days later, asking for more money.

The scammer may even claim embarrassment about the alleged trouble they've caused, requesting that the Grandparent keep it a secret from other family members and friends.

A variation of the scam may involve two scammers: the first scammer calls and poses as the Grandchild under arrest; the second scammer poses as a law Enforcement Officer--he or she gets on the phone with the grandparent and explains what fines need to be paid.

A common theme of the scam is the caller's request for the Grandparents to wire through Western Union or to provide account routing numbers and in some instances requesting e-mail money transfers.

Please be aware that wiring money is like sending cash. There is absolutely **no protection** for the sender. Typically, there is no way of reversing the transaction once it's gone, and no way of retracing the transaction for recovery of funds.

It is possible that the scammers find their targets on the internet or through social media.

How to avoid being scammed:

- Be suspicious when you receive a call from a faraway location;
- The caller identifies him or herself as your Grandchild only (no first name provided);
- The Grandchild claims to be in some sort of distress;
- The caller insists on you wiring money immediately.

Anyone who may have experienced this type of scam is encouraged to make a report with the Ottawa Police Call Centre 613-236-1222 ext. 7300 or phone Crime Stoppers at 613-233-8477 (TIPS) or toll free at 1-800-222-8477.

Safer Roads Ottawa Program

December 2013 Initiatives

The City of Ottawa and the Ottawa Police Service's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) will focus on **impaired driving** and **speeding** during the month of December, as part of its ongoing commitment to keeping Ottawa's roads safe.

Impaired Driving

Between 2008 and 2012, there were 1,786 collisions involving motorists who were impaired. These collisions resulted in 776 injuries and 28 fatalities.

Speeding

Between 2008 and 2012, there were 16,033 collisions involving motorists who were speeding. These collisions resulted in 4,543 injuries and 68 fatalities.

November 2013 Initiatives

The City of Ottawa and the Ottawa Police Service's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) will focus on **red light running** and **unsafe lane changes** during the month of November, as part of its ongoing commitment to keeping Ottawa's roads safe.

September 2013 Initiatives and Results

The City of Ottawa and the Ottawa Police Service's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) focused on **school zone safety** and **vehicle occupant restraints** during the month of October resulting in 801 charges being laid, 584 for school zone safety and 217 for vehicle occupant restraints.

October 2013 Initiatives and Results

The City of Ottawa and the Ottawa Police Service's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) focused on **distracted driving** and **stop sign violations** during the month of October resulting in 733 charges being laid, 393 for distracted driving and 340 for stop sign violations.

The Safer Roads Ottawa Program is a leading community partnership between Ottawa Fire Services, Ottawa Paramedic Service, Ottawa Police Service, Ottawa Public Health and the Public Works Department committed to preventing or eliminating road deaths and serious injuries for all people in the City of Ottawa, through culture change, community engagement, and development of a sustainable safe transportation environment.

Also participating in the Safer Roads Ottawa Program are the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Sureté du Québec, Department of National Defence's Military Police and Gatineau Police Service to improve road safety for all residents of the national capital region.

Your Strong Voice at City Hall

As always, I appreciate hearing from you and encourage you to keep in touch with me as it allows me to serve you better. It is an honour and a privilege being your strong voice at City Hall.