



## COUNCILLOR/CONSEILLER RILEY BROCKINGTON

### Riverside Park Community Association

May 5, 2021



#### LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

##### Brigil - Riverside Mall

You are invited to attend a virtual public information session and consultation to learn about Brigil's residential development proposal for the Riverside Mall at 729-753 Ridgewood Avenue on **Monday, May 31 at 7 p.m.** Brigil is planning to file its rezoning application and development proposal with the City by mid-May. This is an opportunity for you to learn about Brigil's vision for the property, view the proposed design plans and ask questions. Please register in advance for this meeting at [bit.ly/3eXHPm](https://bit.ly/3eXHPm). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email. I will be posting a video recording of the session at [RileyBrockington.ca](https://RileyBrockington.ca) for those unable to attend.

##### St. Patrick's Home of Ottawa

On Friday, April 30, RPCA representatives and I met with the President and CEO of St. Patrick's Home of Ottawa. They are preparing to submit a rezoning application seeking the City's approval to build a seven-storey 133-unit affordable seniors apartment building, with an additional 120 parking spots, on a vacant parcel of their property. The goal is to provide affordable housing and assisted living alternatives for older adults with limited incomes. The concept includes an economically sustainable mix of housing options that accommodate the living-arrangement preferences of older adults, as well as access to community support services, including health-care services. Their proposed campus of care model would help fill some of the gaps for those who are no longer able to remain at home but who aren't yet ready for a retirement residence and would like to live independently but with access to some supports, such as meal preparation. Tenants would have 24/7 access to staff. St. Patrick's will continue to refine their plan and explore its feasibility.

#### LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE

##### West Walkley Road Beautification

I am pleased to inform the community that I purchased six large planters, which will be placed in strategic locations along the sides of and in the median of West Walkley Road on either side of the train bridge, between Springland Drive and McCarthy Road, to serve as a "Welcome to Riverside Park." They will serve key functions: making the roadway appear smaller and thereby calming traffic, reminding motorists they are travelling through a residential neighbourhood, and beautifying the area. This initiative is the product of a collaboration between myself and the RPCA executive, and its transportation, garden and traffic-calming sub-committees. The RPCA has agreed to take on the maintenance of the planters, which generally measure 1.2m x 1.2m x 0.9m.

##### Sawmill Creek Pathway Upgrades

Three segments of the Sawmill Creek Multi-Use Pathway are scheduled to be rehabilitated this year. One section is at the northern end to the west side of the Wendy Stewart Pond, and west of the north end of the Greenboro Station's park and ride. A second section is on the west side of the centre pond directly west of Loblaw's at the South Keys Shopping Centre. The third location is on the east side of the southerly pond east of Michael's at the shopping centre. The exact dates for the pathway's rehabilitation in 2021 are not yet known. A portion of the pathway (the northern part of the loop) is a construction access route for the LRT. Any length of the pathway within the construction access route zone will be reviewed once the LRT construction is completed and the LRT construction team relinquishes the route.

## **Hydro Pole Replacements**

Hydro Ottawa is planning to replace 14 existing hydro poles on Walkley Road between Springland Drive and Bank Street. The project is scheduled to begin May 10 and finish August 10. Understanding that this is a sensitive time with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, with many residents working from home and modified business hours, Hydro Ottawa recognizes that any construction activities and power outages can be very disruptive. Their goal with this work is to maintain the electricity system to prevent larger and longer unplanned outages from occurring in the future.

Residents may notice an increased construction presence throughout the project, including construction vehicles. Traffic control measures, lane reductions and sidewalk closures will be implemented throughout the project to ensure that roads and sidewalks remain safe and accessible to residents and staff. All precautionary measures will be taken to ensure social distancing and public health guidelines are respected. Power outages are expected to occur as a result of this project, and impacted customers will be contacted by phone, text and/or email. Further, written notification will be provided to impacted homes and businesses prior to the scheduled outages taking place. In case of adverse weather, some outages may be rescheduled. Please contact my office if you have any questions or concerns.

## **Stage 2 Trillium LRT Construction:**

### **Rideau River Crossing**

As part of the Stage 2 project, a new Rideau River Pedestrian Bridge is being constructed to connect Carleton University to the Rideau River Eastern Pathway in Vincent Massey Park, parallel to the existing rail bridge. Site preparations including vegetation removal began in 2020. The Rideau River Eastern Pathway remains open, however a section through the work site is being controlled by flaggers to complete site preparations. I strongly advocated for the pathway to remain open and to ensure safe passageway for cyclists

and pedestrians. Before the prefabricated bridge can be installed, columns will be constructed. Once complete, crews will use a special technique to connect the prefabricated bridge to the columns in summer 2021.

### **Brookfield Junction**

Construction has begun on the rail structure that will allow the O-Train Line to pass over the VIA Rail tracks at the Brookfield Junction, also known as the Ellwood Diamond. Crews are drilling caissons that form the sub-structure of the rail bridge and will move on to pouring columns and pier caps in preparation for the installation of precast girders, or deck panels. Sawmill Creek bridge and rail bridge demolition is scheduled for the summer.

### **Mooney's Bay Station**

The transformation of this station includes ongoing formwork, rebar and concrete works, as well as underground electrical ductbank work and conduit connections. Structural backfilling continues.

### **Walkley LRT Station Update**

The location of this future LRT station remains a busy construction site with ongoing formwork and placement of footing walls, rebar placement and concrete work. Crews are also focused on the installation of the watermain sleeve, backfilling for the platform walls and installing concrete duct banks in the platform area.

## **PARKS & GREENSPACES**

### **Arnott Park Tennis Courts**

A plan is in place to resurface the tennis courts in Arnott Park and add an accessible pathway from Hartman Crescent leading to the courts. The design is to be completed this year. The resurfacing and pathway project will be submitted to Council this fall for budget consideration. The goal is construction in 2022.

### **Mooney's Bay Park Treeplantings**

Commemorative tree plantings will take place in Mooney's Bay Park this spring:

- 1 White Oak on the south end of the park close to the water's edge.
- 1 Red Maple between the pavilion and parking lot.
- 1 Red Oak and 1 White Pine on the water side near the large playground.

As well, a tree-planting proposal is in development for the park this fall. Staff are still working to determine locations and select tree species for shade, fall colour, including native trees for pollinators and wildlife, or conifers for winter interest. This is all in addition to plantings last fall of 3 Pink Crabapple trees between the west sports field at Terry Fox and Hog's Back Road and 4 White Crabapple trees along the north edge of the north sport field.

### **Wild Parsnip Strategy**

The City's Wild Parsnip Program will begin in late May with the goal of reducing the growth of the plant in highly infested areas without impacting environmentally sensitive areas and public safety. Approximately 935 kms of roadsides and pathways and more than 236 parkland locations will be treated this year. In River Ward, east of the Rideau River, wild parsnip will be treated along the pathway near Cahill Drive West and Plante Drive, as well as along the Brookfield pathway near Brookfield Road East.

## **TRANSPORTATION & TRAFFIC UPDATES**

### **Riverside Drive Resurfacing**

City Staff are still working through the design phase of resurfacing Riverside Drive and putting the tender together for this project, which has not yet been issued. The proposed limits are from Walkley Road to approximately 300 metres north of Ridgewood Avenue. Start and completion dates may vary but staff are likely looking at construction beginning in July and wrapping up late September.

### **Three-way stop at Fielding/Southmore**

I will be seeking approval from the City's Transportation Committee at its June meeting to install four three-way stop signs in River Ward, including at Fielding Drive and Southmore Drive west. It is in response to safety concerns raised by local residents and the Riverside Park Community Association, which have been championing for a controlled intersection to better protect pedestrians, dog walkers and cyclists and to control speeding traffic. A flex stick installed close to that crossroads has been described as inadequate, and failed to calm traffic and only created other issues, such as erratic driving. I had hoped to champion this request last year, however my plans were stalled by the pandemic. I will provide your board with an update following the committee's June 2 meeting.

### **Fielding Drive Sidewalk Upgrade**

Earlier this Spring, City staff surveyed the boulevard for the proposed replacement of sidewalks along both sides of Fielding Drive, from McCarthy Road to Rankin Street. The design of the new 1.8-metre wide concrete sidewalks is expected to take place this spring with construction planned for the fall, all subject to timing and budgetary limits. Homeowners planning to have their driveways resealed or reconstructed this year are advised to wait until we know the sidewalk reconstruction is proceeding this year.

### **Hunt Club Resurfacing**

Hunt Club Road westbound from the Airport Parkway to Paul Anka Drive is scheduled to be resurfaced sometime this year. The project has yet to be finalized. Once it is, it will then go through the tender process and a contract will be awarded. Staff will keep my office updated and I will share information about the schedule and traffic impacts with the association and local residents.

### **Bank Street Renewal (Riverside Drive to Ledbury Avenue)**

A virtual public information session was held on Thursday, April 22. A virtual meeting for

representatives of businesses along the Bank Street corridor took place Tuesday, April 13. The next step is to proceed to the detailed design stage, which is expected to take approximately one year. That process will include designs for grading, traffic signals, streetlights and landscaping, as well as property acquisitions and discussions with property owners regarding their entrances and exits, agency approvals, construction phasing and traffic management, among other elements. For details, visit [Ottawa.ca/BankStreet](https://ottawa.ca/BankStreet).

## **CITY UPDATES & CONSULTATIONS**

### **Draft Community Emergency Management Tool Kit & Template**

Following the 2018 tornadoes which impacted a number of neighbourhoods, including Hunt Club, a postmortem of the City's response to the crises determined that a number of communities were unprepared to assist or complement the City's response. Members of City Council, including myself, identified the need for resources to be made available to communities to help them better prepare for emergencies. To support communities in understanding how they can increase their preparedness, the City's Office of Emergency Management has developed a 72-hour community plan template and tool kit. The public is encouraged to review the draft Community Emergency Management Tool Kit and Emergency Response Plan Template and complete the survey before **May 28**. These have been designed as a resource for all residents and outline the City's ongoing role in emergency preparation and response and how individuals or community groups can create their own plan for the first 72 hours in the event of an emergency. The draft tool kit and survey are available at [engage.ottawa.ca/community-emergency-management-toolkit](https://engage.ottawa.ca/community-emergency-management-toolkit).

### **Short-Term Rental Bylaw**

On April 28, Ottawa City Council approved a new bylaw and zoning changes that will govern short-term rentals across the city for the next three years to address community nuisance issues

as well as public health and safety concerns. The new bylaw establishes a permit system for local short-term rental hosts, rules for short-term rental platforms and property managers and restricts short-term rentals to principal residences in urban residential zones and rural villages in order to protect the housing supply. The bylaw places the bulk of accountability on the local host. They would need to obtain a host permit from the City, proving the property being rented is their principal residence. Hosts would need to provide guests with instructions about waste management, parking, community nuisances, and safety, and have valid insurance that specifically covers short-term rental activity.

Violations of the bylaw may result in fines for both guests and hosts, allowing the City to issue fines up to \$100,000 each day an offence occurs. The City could also suspend or revoke a host permit for violating the bylaw. To help enforce the bylaw, the City would hire six temporary full-time equivalent positions, funded on a cost-recovery basis through user fees and the Municipal Accommodation Tax.

At the April 28 Council meeting, Gloucester-Southgate Councillor Deans and I moved a motion to lower the cap of people sleeping in a residence from 32 to 8. This was amended to 10 and was approved. No residence, regardless of size, may have more than 10 people sleeping over. I also provided formal direction to staff at the meeting, that the General Manager of Emergency and Protective Services provide a memorandum to Council by September 1, 2022 to provide information on compliance with the Short-Term Rental Bylaw by hosts, platforms, and property managers; relevant enforcement activities including data; and the nature and volume of service requests received. Should Council need to modify the bylaw before the three-year pilot ends, this data will assist us in making decisions.

### **Better Homes Loan Program**

The City is developing a proposed Better Homes Loan program to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Ottawa. Through the proposed

program, Ottawa homeowners could get a low-interest loan of up to 10% of the value of their home to cover the cost of home energy improvements. Measures eligible for financing will likely include insulation, window and door replacements, heat pumps and solar panels.

City staff are currently finalizing the program details and would like to get feedback from residents, homeowners, contractors, community groups and organizations on details of the program including:

- Energy efficiency measures eligible for financing
- Eligibility requirements
- The proposed application process

The City would like to hear from homeowners, renters, community groups and organizations, contractors, landlords, real estate agents and mortgage lenders. Fill out the survey at [bit.ly/3exUnFy](https://bit.ly/3exUnFy) by **May 9**.

### EcoHack-A-City

The City of Ottawa is participating in the Canada-wide EcoHack-a-City initiative organized by Earth Day Canada. It features a public panel discussion about local environmental issues concerning municipalities and online hands-on training to solve environmental challenges facing cities. Ottawa will host a regional event that explores the environmental theme of “Accelerating the Transition to Electric Vehicles. Attend the public panel on **June 3 at 7 p.m.** and register for the training at [bit.ly/3vm3wHX](https://bit.ly/3vm3wHX).

### Summer e-Guides

The City recently published its Summer e-Guides online to help you plan ahead. Registration began today, **May 5**. Programs include COVID-19 modified in-person programming at select locations, including low-ratio summer camps for kids ages 4 to 12, cycling and tennis for children and adults, and activities for children, youth and adults with disabilities. Virtual summer camps are available in the arts and technology, as well as

virtual fitness programs for adults. To register, go to [ottawa.ca/recreation](https://ottawa.ca/recreation) and click on ‘eGuides.’ Keep an eye out for information on the City’s upcoming spring and summer learn-to-swim and aquatic certification programs and registration dates.

## COVID VACCINATION UPDATE

### New Community Clinic

- A new clinic located at the Infinity Centre, at 2901 Gibford Drive, is now available. Residents 18 and older in the K1T and K1V hot spots can book an appointment at the centre or any other community clinic in Ottawa through the provincial booking system by calling **1-833-943-3900** between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. seven days a week or visiting [Ontario.ca/bookvaccine](https://Ontario.ca/bookvaccine).

The City continues to operate pop-up clinics for residents 18 and older in high-priority neighbourhoods who are not yet eligible to book at community clinics.

### Eligible Groups

Beginning **May 6** at 8 a.m., additional groups will be eligible to book an appointment through the provincial online booking system and call centre, including:

- all Ottawa residents turning 50 and older in 2021.
- Individuals with high-risk and highest-risk health conditions, including pregnant individuals.
- Essential workers who cannot work from home, including elementary and secondary school workers, farm and manufacturing workers, enforcement and inspection workers, and child-care workers in licensed child-care settings, among others.
- First Nation, Metis, Inuit populations can call 613-691-5505 for the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health or 613-740-0999 for Akausivik.



## Vaccination at Pharmacies

All residents aged 40 and older are eligible for vaccination through select pharmacies across Ottawa. Supplies are limited so patience is required as you add yourself to the various waitlists. My office has gathered a list of River Ward pharmacies listed as participants on the Province's website and posted it at [rileybrockington.ca/river-ward-participating-pharmacies-for-vaccinations](http://rileybrockington.ca/river-ward-participating-pharmacies-for-vaccinations). As well, some primary care providers are also booking appointments for residents aged 40 and older.

## Second Dose Appointments

If you received your first vaccination dose through an Ottawa Public Health pop-up clinic and are still waiting for the date of your second appointment, Ottawa Public Health is working on creating an efficient booking system for these second appointments. OPH hopes to announce how to register in the coming weeks. They recommend signing up to receive COVID-19 vaccine updates by email as the information will be shared through that, on social media and through news outlets. Subscribe here: [app06.ottawa.ca/esubscriptions/signup-form-en.html](http://app06.ottawa.ca/esubscriptions/signup-form-en.html). Rest assured, the registration system will be up and running before the first residents are due for their second dose.

## Transportation

Assistance with transportation to Covid-19 vaccination appointments is available through Ottawa Community Transportation for seniors and adults with a physical disability. You can request a ride at no cost to and from the clinic through Ottawa Community Transportation after you have booked your appointment. Ottawa Community Transportation will contact you directly. Book a ride at [communitysupport.covidresponse.ca/transportationvaccination](http://communitysupport.covidresponse.ca/transportationvaccination). If you or someone you know require transportation but do not have online access, please contact 211 and they will help complete the transportation request form on your behalf. Please have your vaccine booking confirmation number available when calling.

## Parks & Masks

Some park amenities are closed and enhanced restrictions are in effect under the Province's extended Stay-At-Home order. The City has closed some recreation amenities and mask wearing is required within five metres of playground equipment. At this time, I have decided not to close any parks in River Ward earlier than the normal closing time of 11 p.m.

## Scam Warning

The City of Ottawa is warning residents to protect their privacy due to reports of unauthorized callers offering vaccination appointments. The calls ask for personal information and pretend to arrange COVID-19 vaccination appointments or tests. Ottawa Public Health will not call you directly about a vaccine appointment unless you have asked for a callback.

## Mental Health Supports

It's so important to check in with ourselves and our loved ones to see how things are going and to make sure we are using good coping skills to support our mental health. For some, this can mean getting back to good habits like getting enough sleep, being more active and eating well, or developing new habits such as mindfulness to add to your coping tool kit. For others, this can mean checking in with some of the many local supports and professionals to talk about our mental health and ways to manage through these challenges. I would like to remind everyone that there are resources available to help.

- **The Walk-in Counselling Clinic** at (613) 755-2277 offers free in person sessions as well as video or phone counselling sessions in English, French, Arabic, Somali, Spanish, Mandarin, and Cantonese at a variety of locations.
- **The Counselling Connect** service in Ottawa offers free access to a same-day or next-day phone or video counselling session.
- If you need immediate help, call the **Distress Centre Ottawa and Region** 24/7 at (613) 238-3311 in English or Tel-Aide Outaouais at (613) 741-6433 in French.

## RIVER WARD SAFETY

### Project NoiseMaker

Ottawa Police launched Project NoiseMaker on May 1 for a second year with a goal to reduce speeding, stunt driving and excessive noise on city streets. Officers will be out at all times of the day and night on weekdays and weekends. Since the start of the pandemic there has been an increase in unsafe activity on Ottawa roads. Last year, officers stopped an average of 10 stunt drivers per week and issued 2,300 tickets, including approximately 1,400 for speeding alone. A stunt driving charge is laid when a motorist is travelling 50km/h or more over the posted limit, resulting in fines starting at \$2,000, a seven-day suspension and a court date. Excessive noise is typically generated from aftermarket modifications to muffler and exhaust systems. Fines range from \$100 for an improper muffler to \$365 for a modified exhaust and missing emissions-control equipment. Report traffic safety complaints online at [ottawapolice.ca/en/safety-and-crime-prevention/Traffic-Complaints.aspx](https://ottawapolice.ca/en/safety-and-crime-prevention/Traffic-Complaints.aspx).

### Bicycle Thefts

Last year saw a boom in cycling across the country. With fewer cars on the road, more people decided to take up cycling during the pandemic as a means of travel and exercise. Demand for bikes has also skyrocketed. This year, in an effort to end bike theft in our city, the Ottawa Police Service is releasing incident-level bike theft data for the past six years. This information shows hot spots in the city, as well as information on how to better foil thieves and protect your bike. Find the full data set through Open Ottawa at [open.ottawa.ca](https://open.ottawa.ca). A key priority for OPS is to raise awareness about bike thefts and how to prevent them. Police are already seeing an increase in the number of stolen bikes this year. So far, they have received 30 additional bike theft reports than at this time last year (nearly a 70% increase). More bikes are being recovered thanks to the introduction of the 529 Garage bicycle registration app.

### Bike Theft Prevention Tips

- Use a sturdy bicycle lock (such as a U-Lock);
- Store your bike in a locked shed or garage;
- Register your bike on the 529 Garage app at [project529.com/garage/apps](https://project529.com/garage/apps) to let thieves and potential future buyers know the bike is registered and help police quickly locate and return your bike if it's stolen.

Report stolen bikes online at [www.ottawapolice.ca/onlinereporting](https://www.ottawapolice.ca/onlinereporting). For more safety tips, visit [www.ottawapolice.ca/endbikettheft](https://www.ottawapolice.ca/endbikettheft).

## RIVER WARD COMING EVENTS

### Ottawa Hospital Civic Campus Development Update

On May 4 the City's Finance and Economic Development Committee received a presentation from The Ottawa Hospital outlining development plans and the proposed design for its new Civic Campus. The next stage of planning for the campus is complete. The plan is for it to open in 2028 as one of the largest and most advanced hospitals in Canada, serving Ottawa, eastern Ontario, western Quebec and Nunavut. The Ottawa Hospital has submitted stage two of the capital planning process to the Ontario Ministry of Health for development of the new campus. The Ottawa Hospital will organize consultations in the coming months to give the public opportunities to ask questions and provide feedback on the proposal.

The new campus will house the most advanced trauma centre in Ottawa. The main hospital building, including the emergency department and inpatient and outpatient clinics, will sit atop the escarpment across from Dow's Lake. Additional clinic space, medical offices, research and education buildings and a parking garage will be located on the lower portion of the site, connected to nearby Dow's Lake Station. The project is estimated to cost \$2.8 billion.

Construction of the project will help drive the regional economy, creating an estimated 20,000 jobs along with research and training opportunities and health investments. Once open, it will offer world class health care in eastern Ontario that will attract health-care providers, researchers and students from around the world. Learn more at [newcivicdevelopment.ca](http://newcivicdevelopment.ca).

### **Active Transportation Public Meeting**

Join me, along with City Councillors Jeff Leiper and Theresa Kavanagh for a virtual public meeting on **Tuesday, May 18 starting at 6:30 p.m.** to discuss active transportation in Ottawa. Let me know what you would like to see added to your community to make it safer and easier for you to bike, hike, run or skate in our city. To register for the public meeting, please send me an email at [Riley.Brockington@Ottawa.ca](mailto:Riley.Brockington@Ottawa.ca). A meeting of south-end councillors is currently being discussed.

### **RIVER WARD NEWSLETTER**

Stay up to date on everything happening in your community by signing up for my monthly e-newsletter. Visit [rileybrockington.ca](http://rileybrockington.ca), scroll down to the bottom of the page, enter your email address under 'Connect' on the left, and click 'Subscribe.'

### **RIVER WARD EARTH DAY**

#### **E-Waste Depot**

On Saturday, April 24 I hosted my annual River Ward Earth Day Celebration E-Waste Depot at the Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre parking lot. COVID-safety protocols were in full effect for this essential service. Junk That Funk collected more than 30,000 pounds of electronic waste - a new record since I first began hosting this event in 2018.

- 2020: 28,349 lbs
- 2019: 16,860 lbs
- 2018: 29,000 lbs

### **RIVER WARD OFFICE IS STILL OPEN!**

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, my office has continued to work and I have been in the office each and every day to assist residents. Please reach out if you need my assistance. You can call 613-580-2486 or email me at [Riley.Brockington@Ottawa.ca](mailto:Riley.Brockington@Ottawa.ca).