



RIVER WARD CITY COUNCILLOR MARIA McRAE'S REPORT TO THE RIDGEMONT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION January 26, 2011

Happy New Year! It is an honour and a privilege to continue to be your strong voice at City Hall. This term, in addition to City Council, I am serving as Chair of the City's new Environment Committee and will represent you on the newly formed Finance and Economic Development Committee, the new Ottawa Board of Health and the Hydro Ottawa Holdings Inc. Board of Directors. I look forward to continue working with Ridgemont residents and the RCA to make our community a great place to live.

Bank Street Community Design Plan (CDP)

The first meeting of the Public Working Group for the Bank Street CDP was held on November 18, 2010 and the City is hosting a Public Open House on Wednesday, February 16, 2011. Details are as follows:

- Date:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011
- Time:** 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., presentation at 7:00 p.m.
- Place:** St. Timothy's Presbyterian Church
2400 Alta Vista Drive

I look forward to seeing you there.

Airport Parkway Pedestrian and Cycling Bridge: Detailed Design Proceeding Smoothly

The detailed design of the Airport Parkway Pedestrian and Cycling Bridge to link the Hunt Club community to the South-East Transitway is well under way. I was pleased to host a Public Open House on December 7, 2010 to allow you and your neighbours the opportunity to review the design. I am confident that we will create a unique focal point, which will be a spectacular entry to our Nation's Capital. The impressive design is well balanced with safety and mobility in mind, creating a safe pedestrian and cycling friendly connection.

Construction is scheduled to start in the spring of 2011, with completion expected in the fall of 2011, barring any unforeseen circumstances.

Low-Income Energy Assistance Program

The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) is a new year-round, province-wide program available to low-income consumers experiencing difficulty paying their electricity bills. In Ottawa, LEAP is funded by Hydro Ottawa and is administered by the United Way/Centraide in conjunction with the Salvation Army Booth Centre and a network of community in-take agencies. For more information on this program, please contact the Salvation Army Ottawa Booth Centre at 613-241-1573.

City Rinks Open for the Season

Many of the City of Ottawa's outdoor rinks are now open for use. The City of Ottawa operates rinks» at:

Frank J. Licari Park – 1990 Cochrane Street

Ledbury Park – 1250 Ledbury Avenue

Additional City of Ottawa rink locations can be found on the City's website at www.ottawa.ca.

You are Cordially Invited to... Maria McRae's First River Ward Family Day Skate

Date: Family Day - Monday, February 21, 2011

Time: 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Place: Jim Durrell Recreation Complex
1264 Walkley Road

Bus Route: 8

This Family Day, please join me, your friends and neighbours for an afternoon of fun filled with plenty of skating, music, delightful snacks, hot drinks and more to make this an enjoyable and memorable event. Skates are optional but smiles are required!

Please visit your local community centre to pick up your complimentary ticket(s). As space is limited, tickets are first come, first served.

Alexander Community Centre
960 Silver Street

Carleton Heights Community Centre
1665 Apeldoorn Avenue

Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre
3320 Paul Anka Drive

2011 Budget Process

The 2011 budget process is underway. As part of the process, City staff have organized five multi-ward, bilingual consultations across the city. Senior City staff from key departments will be participating and will be available to answer residents' questions. I encourage you to participate in this important process to help shape the 2012 budget. Meeting details are as follows:

Dates and locations:

South	Tuesday, February 22	Nepean Sportsplex Halls A/B	7 to 9 p.m.
West	Wednesday, February 23	Holy Trinity Catholic School, Kanata	7 to 9 p.m.
Rural	Thursday, February 24	Stuart Holmes Arena, Osgoode	7 to 9 p.m.
East	Monday, February 28	Shenkman Arts Centre (Theatre)	7 to 9 p.m.
Central	Thursday, March 3	City Hall (Andrew Haydon Hall)	7 to 9 p.m.

Snow Go Program and Snow Go Assist Program

The City of Ottawa's Snow Go Program provides a matching service for seniors and people with disabilities looking to hire an individual or contractor to clear snow from private driveways and walkways. Eligible low-income seniors and people with disabilities may also apply to receive financial assistance to pay for a portion of their snow removal costs through the Snow Go Assist Program. For more information about these programs, please contact my office at 613-580-2486.

Green Bin Program

In less than one year, Ottawa residents helped divert 53,000 tonnes of organic waste from the landfill through the Green Bin Program.

To make using your green bin easier this winter, here are some cold weather tips to help prevent material from freezing in the green bin:

- If possible, store your green bin in the garage during the winter months
- Crumpled newspaper in the bottom of the bin will help prevent contents from freezing inside
- Spray the bottom of your green bin with cooking oil to prevent freezing
- Set out your green bin the morning of collection day (before 7 a.m.) rather than the night before
- Wrap wet food waste (e.g. meat, fish, fruit and vegetables) in old newspapers, used paper towels or cereal boxes or try used popcorn, sugar, flour or potato paper bags to hold your material
- Put your liquid food waste, such as cooking oil and bacon grease, in a milk carton
- Use leaf and yard waste paper bags to line your green bin

Over the winter months green bin collection takes place every two weeks. Weekly green bin collection will begin again in April 2011.

City Seeks Public Input for Review of Residential Waste Collection

The City's Environmental Services Department is reviewing residential garbage and recycling collection services and is seeking public input on the different options being considered. The Solid Waste Service Level Review (SLR) is focused on the blue and black box, the Green Bin, as well as garbage (residual waste) collection. The City's Yellow Bag Program for small businesses, Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and the *Take it Back!* program will also be examined.

This review will determine if any changes to waste collection programs are needed. As Chair of the City's Environment Committee, I encourage you to complete the questionnaire at www.ottawa.ca/wastereview and attend the public consultation listed below:

Saturday, January 29

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bayshore Shopping Centre

100 Bayshore Dr.

Your input and feedback is important and will inform how the city will collect your garbage, recycling and green bin.

Integrated Road Safety Program (IRSP)

November Results

Red light running was the dominant charge laid in the City's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) in November – accounting for 353 of the 407 total charges laid.

The other two focus areas resulted in a total of **52 charges – 18 for the improper use of Reserved Transit Lanes and 36 for travelling the wrong way on roadways.**

December Results

Impaired driving and speeding were on the City's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) radar in **December**. A total of **905 charges** were laid in **December**.

Specifically, **803 tickets were issued for speeding** and the **impaired driving initiative resulted in 91 alcohol-related criminal charges** (the result of **57 drivers caught driving under the influence**), **7 Highway Traffic Act alcohol violations for novice / young drivers** and **4 Liquor Act violations for open / unsealed alcohol in vehicles.**

During the **three IRSP/CAA-sponsored R.I.D.E. initiatives** conducted in **December**, approximately **2,000 vehicles were stopped**, **two drivers were charged with impaired driving** and **four 3-day driver's license suspensions were handed out.**

January Initiative

The City of Ottawa's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) is ringing in the New Year with a crackdown on **tailgaters** and **stop sign runners**.

In **2009, tailgating caused 4,973 rear-end collisions** – the most frequent type of collision accounting for one-third of Ottawa's total collisions. These collisions resulted in **one death and 1,373 injuries – 17 of them life-threatening.**

Disobeying stop signs – including rolling stops – is also a serious issue on Ottawa roads. In 2009, **1,667 collisions at stop sign-controlled intersections** resulted in **one death and 462 injuries – 17 of them life-threatening.**