



**RIVER WARD CITY COUNCILLOR MARIA McRAE'S REPORT TO
THE RIVERSIDE PARK COMMUNITY
December 5, 2012**

Happy Holidays

Best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and happy holidays. Happy New Year and may 2013 bring happiness and health to you and your family.

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

Date: Friday, December 7, 2012

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 by calling 613-580-2486 to reserve your tickets.

Airport Parkway Pedestrian/Cycling Bridge

Construction of the Airport Parkway Pedestrian/Cycling Bridge is progressing. The contractor is completing the formwork and falsework for the upper portion of the main tower which, when complete, will rise 40 feet above the current height of the tower. Work continues on the ramp joining the existing pathway on the east side of the Airport Parkway to the bridge deck and the contractor is finalizing the installation of the door leading to the South Keys Transit Station.

Heron Road and Riverside Drive – Construction Update

The construction of dedicated transit and cycling lanes along Heron Road at Riverside Drive is complete for the 2012 construction season. During the month of November 2012, staff rehabilitated the pedestrian tunnel running underneath Heron Road and finished the paving of both roadways. The construction site is closed for the winter season, and workers will return in the spring of 2013 to complete reinstatement of the concrete boulevards, finalize the reconnection of the street lighting to its permanent power source and complete landscaping in the area.

River Ward Flu Clinic

Wednesday, December 12 - 3:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Jim Durrell Recreation Centre (1265 Walkley Road)

For more information please visit ottawa.ca/flu , watch for daily updates on [Twitter](#) (@ottawahealth) and [Facebook](#), or call Ottawa Public Health Information at 613-580-6744 (TTY:613-580-9656).

River Ward Resident and Community Volunteer, Frank J. Licari, Receives Mayor's City Builder Award

I was honoured to join Mayor Jim Watson at City Council on Wednesday, November 28, 2012 to present the Mayor's City Builder Award to Frank J. Licari for his many years of volunteering with a variety of organizations and for his exceptional service to the Ridgemont Community and the citizens of Ottawa.

Frank is recognized for his 30-year commitment to the Ridgemont Community Association in various capacities, culminating as president. He was honoured by the City of Ottawa in 2010 when Ridgemont Park was renamed the Frank J. Licari Park in recognition of his achievements in community building, preserving green spaces, and improving local recreation facilities and programs, including wonderful upgrades to the play structure at the park.

Frank is known for his enthusiasm, commitment and also his modesty. He has inspired many with his volunteer work and dedication to many causes and organizations: Villa Marconi, Little Italy, Ottawa's Dragon Boat Festival, St. Anthony's Soccer Club, the Bank Street Redevelopment Plan, the Winter Park Skating Program, Saro's Softball Team, Clifford Bowey Public School, the United Way, Ridgemont's hockey and skating programs and much more.

He also worked with his colleagues and neighbours to initiate the Neighbourhood Watch Program and has organized numerous social functions for area residents, including street dances, community garage sales, and winter carnivals to name a few.

On behalf of the residents of River Ward, thank you Frank for your tremendous contributions which have made our city a better place.

Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre Senior's Christmas Party

River Ward seniors are invited to join Mayor Watson and I at the Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre's Senior's Christmas Party. Please call the Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre at 613-260-1299 to RSVP.

Date: Friday, December 14, 2012

Time: 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.

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

Details:

12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Christmas Cookie and Goody Baking with Councillor Maria McRae

12:30 - 2:00 p.m. Photos with Santa Claus and his Elf

1:00 - 1:15 p.m. Tap Dancing Performance

1:15 - 2:00 p.m. Christmas Songs

2:15 - 2:30 p.m. Tap Dancing Performance

2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Enjoy Christmas Goodies Served by Councillor McRae and Mayor Watson

Rink of Dreams Open for 2012-2013 Season

On November 30, 2012, the Rink of Dreams officially opened for the 2012-2013 winter season. The 12,500 square foot oval ice surface is a refrigerated outdoor skating facility situated on Marion Dewar Plaza at Ottawa City Hall, 110 Laurier Avenue West. The rink features LED lighting, a heated change hut and picnic tables and benches.

The Rink of Dreams is open from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., seven days a week. Please visit ottawa.ca for regular updates on rink closures due to inclement weather or for special events.

Public Skating Winter Schedules

The winter schedule for the City of Ottawa's public skating programs is underway. River Ward residents can enjoy recreational skating at the J. Alph Dulude Arena and Jim Durrell Recreation Complex. Each session lasts for 50 minutes.

J. Alph Dulude Arena

- Public Skating: Thursdays at 6:00 p.m., Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. and Sundays at 3:00 p.m.

- Family Skating: Saturdays at 1:00 p.m. and Sundays at 3:00 p.m.

Jim Durrell Recreation Complex

- Public Skating: Mondays at 4:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 4:30 p.m.

- Family Skating: Mondays at 9:30 a.m. and Sundays at 3:30 p.m.

Additional programs such as Adult Skating, 50+ Skating and Pick-Up Hockey are also available at these locations. Please note that special schedules are in place during the holiday periods. Find a public skating schedule that works for you online at ottawa.ca, or by calling the Public Skating Automated Information Line at 613-580-2666.

City Celebrates 50 Years of Wastewater Treatment

On November 15, 2012, I was pleased to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Robert O. Pickard Environmental Centre (ROPEC), which was officially opened on November 15, 1962. ROPEC is Ottawa's first wastewater treatment facility.

Today, as it was 50 years ago, ROPEC is a critical piece of infrastructure for our City. This plant treats all of Ottawa's domestic and commercial wastewater and has allowed the City to become a leader in wastewater treatment. With new technologies, including real time controls, the City can further protect our waterways by managing the volume of sewage and stormwater captured and redirected to ROPEC for treatment. The City also re-uses by-products of the treatment process, including the conversion of digester gases into heat and electricity to run the plant. As part of the celebration, I was honored to open a time capsule, which was buried on the site on November 15, 1962. The time capsule was full of interesting historical items. Another time capsule will be sealed and buried, which will be opened during ROPEC's 100th anniversary in 2062.

You can visit my website at MariaMcRae.ca for a list of what I discovered in the time capsule. In addition, the contents will be on display at several City facilities in 2013. I encourage you to take a look at some interesting pieces from our history.

Winter Overnight Parking Regulations

The City of Ottawa's winter overnight parking regulations are now in effect and will last until **April 1, 2013**. When a snowfall of 7 cm or more is forecast by Environment Canada, parking is prohibited on all Ottawa streets between 1:00 and 7:00 a.m. This includes any forecast for a range of snow that includes 7 cm, such as a snowfall forecast of 5 to 10 cm. Vehicles parked on the street when a restriction is in effect will be ticketed, even if it does not snow. Also keep an eye out for temporary "no parking, snow removal" signs on city streets, even when no snow is forecast.

You can sign up to receive e-mail or Twitter notifications of overnight parking restrictions at ottawa.ca. After signing up, you will receive an e-mail or Twitter alert via @ottawacity every time a winter overnight parking restriction goes into effect or is lifted. You can also find out if an overnight parking restriction is in effect by calling 3-1-1 or by tuning in to local media.

Congratulations to Order of Ottawa Recipients

On November 22, 2012, fifteen of Ottawa's most outstanding residents were inducted into the Order of Ottawa. I am proud to congratulate River Ward resident Paul Benoit on his selection as an inaugural recipient of this award. As President and CEO of the Ottawa International Airport Authority since 1996, Paul's countless contributions to our community are paralleled by his successes in putting Ottawa on the map of the international aviation industry. Congratulations to Paul and to all Order of Ottawa recipients!

New Street Food Vendors

The City of Ottawa will grant up to 20 new street food vending licences in 2013 as part of a new initiative approved by City Council in October 2012. This initiative aims to increase the diversity of food offered on City streets, meaning that more vendors will offer a wider variety of food in more communities.

If you are interested in being a vendor, applications are now available online at ottawa.ca. Proposals will be reviewed by a volunteer selection panel of Ottawa chefs and food experts. Applications are due by **January 4, 2013**.

Ottawa Light Rail Transit – Update and Design Showcases

In September 2012, the City received submissions from three world-class consortia for the construction and maintenance of Ottawa's Light Rail Transit (OLRT) project. These submissions have been assessed following the Infrastructure Ontario evaluation process. A recommendation will be made in December to be considered by the Committee of the Whole and City Council.

This recommendation will include the details of the recommended proponent's design, construction schedule and cost of the OLRT project for Council's review and approval. The report will seek authority for staff to finalize negotiations with the recommended proponent and execute the contract to begin construction in early 2013.

The report will first be considered by Committee of the Whole on December 12, 2012, then rise to Council on December 19, 2012. Design showcases will be held across the City to provide you with the opportunity to view the project designs.

- **December 5 to 19, 2012:** Ottawa City Hall
 - 110 Laurier Avenue West, 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- **December 6, 2012:** Rideau Centre
 - 50 Rideau Street, 3:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- **December 7, 2012:** Ben Franklin Place
 - 101 CentrepoinTE Drive, 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- **December 10, 2012:** John G. Mlacak Community Centre
 - 2500 Campeau Drive, 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- **December 11, 2012:** Gloucester Shopping Centre
 - 1980 Ogilvie Drive, 3:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- **December 12, 2012:** Walter Baker Sports Centre
 - 100 Malvern Drive, 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- **December 13, 2012:** Place d'Orléans Shopping Centre
 - 110 Place d'Orléans Drive, 3:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Roads Ottawa Program

December Initiatives

The City of Ottawa's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) will focus on **speeding** and **impaired driving** during the month of December 2012.

Speeding or not slowing down for road and weather conditions was attributed to 16,231 reportable collisions with 70 fatalities and 4,709 injuries between 2007 and 2011. In the same time period, there were 1,818 collisions related to impaired driving, with 34 fatalities and 764 injuries. Eighty percent of the impaired drivers were male and 30 percent were between the ages of 16 and 24.

October Results

During the month of October 2012, the STEP program laid a total of 74 charges. 43 motorists were charged for speeding in construction zones. Under the pedestrian safety initiative, 7 pedestrians were charged for disobeying a "don't walk" signal, 6 motorists were fined for failure to yield to a pedestrian and 5 tickets were issued to pedestrians for failure to use a crosswalk. 13 additional unclassified charges were also laid for pedestrian safety.