



**RIVER WARD CITY COUNCILLOR MARIA McRAE'S REPORT TO
THE RIVERSIDE PARK COMMUNITY AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION
January 5, 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 Riverside Park residents and the RPCRA to make our community a great place to live.

Riverside Park Street Speed Reduction

Last month, City staff approved a change in the speed limit on Flannery Drive, Springland Drive and Ridgewood Avenue from 50 km/h to 40 km/h. The work order for sign installation on Flannery Drive and Springland Drive was issued last week and the signs will be installed in due course. I am still awaiting information on the status of sign installation for Ridgewood Avenue.

Thank you to Riverside Park residents who completed petitions to have the speed limit reduced. Residents interested in lowering the speed limit on local residential streets should contact my office at 613-580-2486 for more information.

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 anticipates hosting a Public Open House in early 2011. I invite all members of the RPCRA and the Riverside Park community at large to attend this open house and share their vision for the future of Bank Street.



Mooney's Bay Place Turn Restrictions

In response to a number of concerns raised by residents of Mooney's Bay place regarding the volume of cut through traffic during the morning rush hour, City staff have agreed to implement right-hand turn restrictions onto Mooney's Bay place from Riverside Drive during the morning rush hour, Monday to Friday, 7 to 9 a.m. City staff anticipate installation of signage indicating the restrictions by the end of February 2011.

Brookfield Road and Flannery Drive Roundabout

In an effort to better promote the requirement for drivers to slow down and yield to those in the roundabout, special pavement markings will be painted on the Brookfield Road approach to the roundabout on a pilot basis to better alert drivers as they approach the roundabout. The marking will include a large yield sign upon entry into the roundabout. If the pilot is successful, the pavement markings will be painted on all approaches to the roundabout.

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. Thank you to Bill Smith who is a member of the Public Working Group. I look forward to continuing working with the RPCRA and residents of Riverside Park as we move closer to completing this important project.

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

Thousands of volunteers have begun flooding ice surfaces at the 248 City of Ottawa outdoor rinks. Rink locations can be found on the City's website at www.ottawa.ca.

Thank you to the RPCRA and Riverside Park volunteers for your continued commitment to the community in providing and maintaining rinks in your community through the City of Ottawa Outdoor Rinks Program.

**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

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.

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 Initiative

Impaired driving and speeding were on the City's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) radar in **December**.

The **Integrated Road Safety Program (IRSP)** teamed up with the **CAA North & East Ontario** to deliver additional **R.I.D.E. checkpoints during the festive season**.

In **2009, 381 impaired driving-related collisions occurred on Ottawa roads** – resulting in **nine deaths** and **175 injuries, 22 of them serious**. Of the motorists who were charged with impaired driving, **84 per cent were male** and **36 per cent were between the ages of 17 and 25**.

Speeding is also a serious issue on Ottawa roads. In **2009, speeding or driving too fast for road and weather conditions resulted in 3,454 reportable collisions**. These collisions resulted in **15 deaths and 1,002 injuries** – including **43 serious injuries**.

The speeding initiative is part of a larger IRSP public awareness and enforcement campaign entitled "Speeding Costs You."

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**.