



**RIVER WARD CITY COUNCILLOR MARIA McRAE'S REPORT TO
THE CARLINGTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
APRIL 14, 2009**

Swing Set for Harold Place Park

At the re-opening of the Harrold Place Park, I referenced the opportunity for the community to work with the City to add infrastructure to the park. The community association recently requested information in this regard:

The estimated cost for the installation of swings in Harrold Place Park could be between \$5,000 and \$6,000 depending on the type of structure. In 2008 the estimated cost for the installation of a seven foot high toddler two seat swing set was \$5,000. The cost for an eight foot high two seat swing set would be closer to \$6,000.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services has the Community Partnership Minor Capital Program where the City matches the community contribution for projects on City property to a maximum of \$7,500 or 50% of the total cost of the project. The next deadline for applications is **May 1, 2009**.

For more information please go to www.ottawa.ca./residents/funding/capital_minor/about_en.

The swings would be located between the play structure and the gazebo with the swings oriented east/west. The space is tight because of the trees on either side and the need for required clearances at either end.

The existing fences could be extended however, there would be a cost to do so (the existing fences cost \$4,500 in 2008) and it would need to be determined whether there are conflicts with existing trees or park infrastructure.



Annual Community Safety and Crime Prevention Meeting

You and your neighbours are invited to attend my annual Community Safety and Crime Prevention Meeting for River Ward West. This year the meetings occur during Police Week, May 11 to 17, 2009, and I am delighted that Police Chief Vern White will join me to hear directly from you. Meeting details are as follows:

- Date:** Thursday, May 14, 2009
- Time:** *Meet the Chief and Visit Displays -*
6:30 to 7:00 p.m.
- Presentations and Q&A -*
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
- Location:** Alexander Community Centre
960 Silver Street
(off Shillington Avenue)

Representatives of the following organizations and City of Ottawa departments will be in attendance:

- By-Law and Regulatory Services
- Corporate Security
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Ottawa Fire Service
- Ottawa Police Service
- Ottawa Safety Council
- Public Works, including Graffiti Management
- Others

16th Annual Spring Cleaning the Capital

I would like to invite residents of all ages to participate in the City's 16th annual Spring Cleaning the Capital Campaign that runs from **Wednesday, April 15 to Friday, May 15, 2009**. Spring Cleaning the Capital is a great opportunity for high school students to get a head start on their Community Involvement Program volunteer hours, and for families, friends, schools, neighbourhood groups or organizations and businesses to band together on a community cleanup project to help keep our communities clean, green, graffiti-free, and litter-free.

Registration is quick and easy. Start by selecting a cleanup location; it can be a park, a woodlot, ravine, shoreline, bus stop, pathway, schoolyard or any public property requiring tidying up after the winter months. Projects can include litter pick-up or graffiti removal.

Register your project online at www.ottawa.ca/clean or by calling 3-1-1. Register on or before **Tuesday, April 14, 2009** for your chance to win early bird prizes. Registration is ongoing until Friday, May 15, 2009 – the last official day of the campaign.

While registering, participants may request a cleanup starter kit. Kits can include disposable vinyl gloves, garbage bags, leaf-and-yard waste bags, campaign posters and safety tips to assist your cleanup project. Spring Cleaning the Capital volunteers who submit completed Cleanup Reports by Sunday, May 31, 2009 are also eligible to win one of many prizes donated by Spring Cleaning the Capital sponsors.

Entire communities – including schools, neighbourhood organizations and associations, businesses, families, friends and individuals – take up the Spring Cleaning the Capital challenge each year. In 2008, over 70,000 volunteers completed more than 1200 cleanup projects. With your help, Spring Cleaning the Capital can be bigger and better in 2009.

For more information and to register, visit www.ottawa.ca/clean or call 3-1-1.

One-Day Depot for Household Hazardous Waste

The City of Ottawa is hosting a one-day household hazardous waste collection depot. Details are as follows:

Date: Saturday, April 18, 2009

Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Place: Drain-All Ltd.

2705 Stevenage Drive

(between Hawthorne Road and Russell Road, south of Walkley Road)

Residents are reminded that only household waste will be accepted (maximum 25 items) at the depot. **No commercial waste accepted.** For a complete listing of acceptable household hazardous waste, visit the City's website at www.ottawa.ca/hhw.

Integrated Road Safety Program

March Results

Last month, the City of Ottawa's Integrated Road Safety Program (IRSP), through its Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP), laid 470 charges for **failing to stop for red lights** and **following too closely**.

Specifically, **410 tickets** were issued for **red light running**, while **60 charges** were laid for **tailgating**.

April Initiative

In April, the City of Ottawa's Integrated Road Safety Program (IRSP) will focus on **motorists who operate unsafe and heavy vehicles**, and those who **fail to buckle up** or comply with **child car seat requirements**.

In 2007, **94 unsafe vehicles** were involved in collisions on Ottawa roads. These collisions led to **33 injuries**, four of which were life threatening, and **two deaths**. Causes of these collisions included: defective brakes, wheels and suspension, as well as tire blowouts.

In addition to focusing on unsafe vehicles, this initiative will also include **heavy vehicle inspections**. These inspections will be done to ensure: compliance with weight restrictions, that loads are properly secured, and that heavy vehicles are not being driven on restricted load roadways. Properly maintained documentation, certificates and logs will also be inspected.

In support of the province-wide "Spring Seatbelt Campaign," Ottawa Public Health nurses and the Ottawa Police will also be setting up spot-checks at various locations throughout the city to **ensure motorists are wearing their seatbelts**, and that child car seats and booster seats are suitable and **properly installed**.

Ready-To-Go Infrastructure Priority Projects

On Wednesday, April 8, 2009 City Council unanimously approved a list of ready-to-go infrastructure projects and submitted them to the federal government for consideration under the economic stimulus package announced in the 2009 federal budget. Projects were itemized to reflect Council's priorities, particularly in regards to transit investment, as well as maintenance and renewal of City-owned assets.

The stimulus package provides municipalities with more funding for projects, in addition to other sources of revenue such as the Building Canada Fund, gas taxes, and the GST rebate. The project list represents \$729 million of potential investment funds for Ottawa, requiring an estimated \$179 million in City contributions. The package would also contribute to the creation of over 8,300 jobs in the city.

To qualify for funding from the federal economic stimulus package, each identified project must be new and not previously scheduled to begin in the 2009 construction season. It must also be completed within the next two years

To view the list of ready-to-go infrastructure priority projects, please visit www.ottawa.ca. If you have any questions about these projects, please feel free to contact me at 613-580-2486 or at Maria.McRae@ottawa.ca.

Spring Sweep of Ottawa Streets and Sidewalks

To keep Ottawa clean and beautiful, the City is starting its annual springtime sweeping of streets and sidewalks.

Residents who park in central neighbourhoods, including the downtown core, Vanier, New Edinburgh, Sandy Hill and the Glebe should note that special parking restrictions will be posted on a street-by-street basis from April 6 to April 14, 2009, except during the long weekend of April 10 to 13, 2009.

The restrictions will be in effect to allow crews to complete work. Vehicles parked in restricted zones may be ticketed and towed to nearby streets.

The sweeping operations will include both daytime and nighttime operations and may result in minor noise and dust. The sweeping cleans the city's streets by removing debris that has accumulated during the winter, and prevent litter from entering into the storm sewer.

For more information, please visit www.ottawa.ca or call 3-1-1.

City Warns of False Sales Pitches

The City of Ottawa has received complaints from residents who have been contacted to purchase water filtration or treatment systems by salespeople making false claims about the quality of City drinking water. There have also been reported cases of phone calls and visits by people misrepresenting themselves as City of Ottawa employees.

I would like to remind residents that Ottawa's drinking water is completely safe and of the highest quality, which is ensured through rigorous and ongoing testing.

City employees do not personally contact residents to sell products or services. The City schedules in advance any visits that may require access to homes or businesses and/or provides advanced notification of projects that may impact local residents. All employees requiring access will have City-issued identification cards in cases where residents need to be contacted. Residents are asked to check identifications, and, if concerns remain, contact the City before allowing access, and to report any suspicious, unsolicited calls or visits.

The drinking water delivered to City residents exceeds all federal and provincial health-based water quality guidelines and standards. As recently as June 2008, the Chief Drinking Water Inspector for Ontario again recognized Ottawa's drinking water as being among the best in the province.

TREE Program Delivers – To the Front Door

The City's Trees, Reforestation and Environmental Enhancement (TREE) program is making it easier for residents to receive a tree to plant on their own property. Ottawa residents can now opt to have the tree delivered, at no charge, right to their front door.

Registration for the TREE program is year-round and trees will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, while quantities last. Once registration for the June 2009 tree distribution is full, registrations will be accepted for Fall 2009.

Residents who have registered for the June 2009 delivery will receive a letter in May from the City confirming pickup location or delivery dates.

One potted tree per household is available by registering online at www.ottawa.ca/TREE or by calling 3-1-1. A selection of species will be provided, depending on availability. Each tree measures approximately 1.5 to 2 metres in height.

The TREE program is a four-year initiative that aims to enhance Ottawa's urban and rural forests through the planting of 100,000 trees. It empowers residents, businesses, community groups and schools to plant trees to increase and maintain the city's forest cover and combat climate change.

For more information on the TREE program visit www.ottawa.ca/TREE or call 3-1-1.