



**RIVER WARD CITY COUNCILLOR MARIA McRAE'S REPORT TO
THE RIVERSIDE PARK COMMUNITY AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION
MARCH 4, 2009**

Former Bayview Public School Update

On June 27, 2007, the City of Ottawa received notice from the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) that the former Bayview Public School ("Bayview") was surplus to the Board's needs and that it was being offered for sale to the City as mandated by provincial legislation (Ontario Regulation 444/98 as amended by 445/06 made under the *Education Act*). After receiving strong feedback from the community, an endorsement from the Riverside Park Community and Recreation Association, and by working for months with City staff and my Council colleagues, City Council unanimously approved the purchase of Bayview on November 28, 2007.

The City later learned the site was environmentally contaminated. In late October 2008, the OCDSB recommended the demolition of the school building as part of the remediation of this property. City staff have recently advised me that in early March 2009 the OCDSB will begin demolition and remediation. This work could be completed by the end of June 2009.

It is important that we begin a discussion about the redevelopment of the Bayview site. I want to hear from residents and the RPCRA about your vision for the future of this property. I intend to host an Open House in spring 2009 so you can share your ideas and raise your questions and concerns with me. In the meantime, if you have any feedback, I encourage you to contact me at 613-580-2486, or at Maria.McRae@ottawa.ca.

Sidewalk and Curb Reconstruction Program – Walkley Road

City staff recently released a list identifying road projects planned for 2009. A portion of Walkley Road was identified as the site of sidewalk and curb reconstruction. A stretch of sidewalk on the south side of Walkley Road near Otterson Drive will be rehabilitated.

I will provide a schedule of when this work is to be completed when more information becomes available.



Transit Resumption Ahead of Schedule

OC Transpo staff announced there will be service on all transit routes during peak periods starting Monday, March 16, 2009 – three weeks ahead of schedule. Leading up to March 16, 2009 there will be a gradual reintroduction of additional rush hour service, with six more routes being added February 25, 2009, two more on March 2, 2009, and more expected the following week.

Routes 38, 60, 76, 121, 125 and 131 will start operating during rush hour on Wednesday, February 25, 2009, while Express routes 33 and 35 will start Monday, March 2, 2009. These increases are being reinstated two weeks earlier than planned.

Starting Monday, March 16, 2009, although all routes will be running, some will have fewer trips than normally scheduled during peak periods since bus availability will still be at 90 per cent. By running some trips on all the routes, all communities will have service back in place and customers will have more transit choices. Throughout March 2009 and April 2009, additional rush hour trips will be added to routes as more buses become available.

Customers should check online regularly at www.octranspo.com for updated trip times.

As well, customers are reminded that during March Break, March 16 to 20, school routes will not operate. This does not affect service to post-secondary institutions.

Fare Reductions

Normal fares resumed on Sunday, March 1, 2009. Customers will notice that new, larger, bright pink bus tickets are in circulation, but the price is unchanged at \$1 each.

For details about the new bus schedules, contact OC Transpo at 613-741-4390 or visit www.octranspo.com.

Battery Recycling Program at Local Libraries

I am delighted to announce that the Ottawa Public Library will be participating in a city-wide pilot program to recycle batteries. As part of the program, four library locations will be equipped with drop-off bins for residents to dispose of their used and unwanted batteries.

The four branches participating in this pilot initiative are:

- **The Main Library**, located at 120 Metcalfe Street
- **Manotick**, located at 5499 South River Road
- **Cumberland**, located at 1599 Tenth Line Road
- **Carp**, located at 3911 Carp Road

Details as to what can be recycled will be posted directly on the drop-off bins, along with handling instructions. When full, these bins will be picked up and brought to a central battery depot.

This pilot is scheduled to start by the end of March 2009 and will run until the end of this year.

Closure of Block Parent Program in Ottawa

Following the closure of the Block Parent Program in the city of Ottawa last fall, the Ottawa Police Service is still looking for Block Parent window signs to be returned. In support of Ontario Block Parent's efforts to retrieve the red and white window signs, the police service has extended the sign return deadline to **March 31, 2009**.

Ottawa Police would also like to remind residents, particularly parents, schools and groups that work with children that the Block Parent Program no longer exists in the city of Ottawa.

Further information is available at www.ottawapolice.ca.

Block Parent Window Sign Recall

Block Parent window signs should be returned to the nearest police station by the end of **March** in one of the following ways:

- **In Person:** A full listing of police stations is available on line at www.ottawapolice.ca or in the Red Pages in the front of your Bell phone book.
- **By Mail:** Signs may also be returned by mail to: Ottawa Police Service, ATTN: Community Development, P.O. Box 9634, Station T, Ottawa, ON K1G 6H5.
- **Pick-up:** If a sign cannot be returned in person or by mail, residents can contact the Community Development Section by phone to arrange for pick up by calling 613-236-1222, ext. 6417.

The Ottawa Police Service is committed to community-police partnerships, which are key in developing and maintaining programs such as the Block Parent Program. Unfortunately, since 2001, local support and leadership initiatives for the program declined. While the program has been on hold, the Ottawa Police Service invested significant time and resources to work in partnership with the few remaining Ottawa Block Parent representatives to renew the program. Attempts to renew the community driven program have been unsuccessful, as community interest has dwindled significantly over the years.

On October 2, 2008, the Ontario Block Parent Program sent a letter to all registered Block Parent volunteers in Ottawa indicating that the program was closed.

The Ottawa Chapter of Block Parent has provided more than twenty years of community service in Ottawa. Volunteers who kept the program viable during that time should be commended for their important work and years of dedication.

Increased Fees for Police and Criminal Record Checks

Due to the increase in requests for record checks, the Ottawa Police Services Board approved fee increases in the 2009 Budget. This decision was based on that fact that this increase in requests for services had created a large gap between the cost of providing the services and the revenues generated. These changes are consistent with fees charged by other municipal police services in Ontario.

On Monday, March 2, 2009, the Ottawa Police Service increased the following service fees:

- Police Record Check for Service with the Vulnerable Sector - \$14 (from \$13) (still free for volunteers with a letter from the volunteer agency)
- Criminal Record Check - \$40 (from \$38)
- Non-Resident Surcharge (for people who do not live in Ottawa) - \$33 (from \$32)
- Express Surcharge "while you wait" (only available at 474 Elgin St.) - \$33 (from \$32)
- Copy of Police Report (e.g. accidents) - \$45 (from \$43)
- Adoption Application - \$40 (from \$38)
- Pardon Application - \$50 (from \$48)

For police station addresses and hours of operation, please consult the Red Pages of your phone book or visit www.ottawapolice.ca.

Improved Ottawa Option

City Council approved the new Ottawa Option policy that allows businesses to approach the City with unsolicited proposals. This policy will make it easier for businesses to bring cost-saving and innovative proposals forward.

The revised policy implements the following improvements to the existing policy:

- Unsolicited proposals must result in an improved outcome or reduced cost for the City, or build on and add benefit to an existing undertaking
- Clear definition of roles, responsibilities and decision points is required when considering the unsolicited proposal
- Unsolicited proposal dealing with a current or planned procurement process, will not qualify as an Ottawa Option proposal, but can be leveraged by the City outside of the Ottawa Option policy
- Final procurement phase will use the "best and final offer" process
- Council approval of the application of the policy is required for all instances where the value is estimated to exceed \$500,000

For the complete report, please visit www.ottawa.ca.

Integrated Road Safety Program

January Results

Last month, the City of Ottawa's Integrated Road Safety Program (IRSP), through its Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP), laid 384 charges for **following too close** and **failing to stop for stop signs**. Specifically, 90 tickets were issued for tailgating and the stop sign safety initiative resulted in the laying of 294 charges.

Each month since 2004, STEP has been profiling and enforcing two initiatives that target specific traffic safety priorities. Ottawa residents have identified traffic safety as a top priority. The IRSP is committed to using available resources to make Ottawa roads safer for residents.

March Initiative

This month, the City's Integrated Road Safety Program (IRSP) will focus on drivers that **run red lights** and **tailgate**.

In 2007, 916 collisions were reported on Ottawa roads due to drivers failing to stop at red lights; resulting in two deaths and 416 injuries – 14 of them life-threatening.

Following too close is also a serious issue on Ottawa roads. In 2007, tailgating caused 4,716 rear-end collisions – the most frequent type of collision in Ottawa accounting for one-third of the city's total collisions. These collisions resulted in four deaths and 1,470 injuries – 17 of them life-threatening.

Earth Hour 2009

The City of Ottawa is proud to once again support Earth Hour and will be asking all residents to participate in the global campaign scheduled to take place on **Saturday, March 28, 2009** from **8:30 to 9:30 p.m.**

Earth Hour is a global climate change initiative organized by the World Wildlife Fund that encourages every individual, business and community to turn off their lights for one hour.

Ottawa was one of the first cities in Canada to join the Earth Hour initiative and was among 116 Canadian municipalities that took part in this event in 2008. This year, organizers hope to reach one billion people in more than 1,000 cities around the world. By partnering with Hydro Ottawa, the Ottawa Sun and 24, the City will be reaching out to businesses and residents over the next five weeks to encourage them to shut off all non-essential lighting for Earth Hour.

Earth Hour is a message of hope and a message of action. Everyone can make a difference.

I encourage you to share the Earth Hour message and invite residents to sign up by visiting www.ottawa.ca and clicking on the Earth Hour link.

Downtown Ottawa Transit Tunnel

I would like to hear from you on the groundbreaking downtown transit tunnel project that will shape the city for generations to come. A transit tunnel will bring a faster, more efficient, environmentally-friendly and world-class transit system to Ottawa.

If you would like to know more about this project please visit www.ottawa.ca/residents/public_consult/transit_tunnel.

If you have any questions or comments with respect to the transit tunnel, please feel free to contact me at 613-580-2486 or at Maria.McRae@ottawa.ca.