

Maria McRae

River Ward City Councillor • Conseillère, quartier Rivière

Autumn/Winter 2009

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Dear River Ward Friends and Neighbours:

As we say goodbye to the warmer months and eagerly anticipate the holiday season, I would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. It is hard to believe that another year has gone by.

River Ward continues to see many positive changes. The expansions of the Hunt Club Riverside Community Centre and the Carleton Heights Community Centre are on track for completion by the end of December 2009. Construction has begun for a much needed facelift of the Rideau Canoe Club and the Environmental Assessment for the Airport Parkway Pathway Connection is almost done.

City Council approved the rezoning of the former Laurentian HS Site and I am now working with the community on the draft Site Plan. Riverside Park residents provided a great deal of input into the redevelopment plan for the former Bayview Public School, and the Community Development Framework in Carlington is well under way.

Things were also busy at City Hall. Among many items, City Council implemented the new budget strategy, the Ottawa River Action Plan and the Parking Management Strategy, and updated the Official Plan. All three levels of government worked well together to swiftly approve projects under the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund. Council is now focussed on the 2010 Budget.

As always, you are my eyes and ears in the community. I encourage you to keep in touch and let me know what your priorities are.

I wish you and your family a happy and healthy new year. It remains an honour and a privilege to represent you at City Hall.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maria'.

Maria McRae
River Ward City Councillor

Snow Go and Snow Go Assist Pilot Program: Helping Seniors and Persons with Disabilities

The **Snow Go Program** matches seniors and persons with disabilities with contractors and/or individuals who will clear snow and ice from their private driveways and walkways. Once matched with snow removal help, residents are responsible for making payments directly to the individual or contractor.

This is the third year of the three year **Snow Go Assist Pilot Program**. Eligible, low-income seniors and persons with disabilities can apply to receive financial assistance to pay for a portion of their snow and ice removal costs through this program. Approved participants may be reimbursed for up to 50% of the cost of snow and ice clearing per event, up to a seasonal maximum of \$250.

Please call my office at 613-580-2486 for more information about either of these programs.



Councillor Maria McRae enjoys serving her residents at her Annual Autumn Tea for River Ward Seniors.

Community Centres Growing to Meet Community Needs: Expansion Updates

The expansion of two well-used community centres officially kicked-off at the Hunt Club/Riverside Community Centre and the Carleton Heights Community Centre. Thank you for your patience during construction.

Hunt Club/Riverside Community Centre – 3320 Paul Anka Drive

In May, I was proud to officially launch the expansion of the Hunt Club/Riverside Community Centre. I was honoured that the Premier of Ontario and Ottawa South M.P.P., Dalton McGuinty, and Acting Mayor Michel Bellemare joined many Hunt Club and Riverside Park residents for the ceremonial sod-turning.

Outdoor upgrades that took place over the past few months include the application of a new plexipave treatment for the basketball court, a fresh coat of paint for the court lines, a new rubberized surface for the playground and the completion of new walking pathways and a fully accessible parking lot, with two accesses.

I worked closely with City staff over the summer to identify additional resources to install a long overdue sports floor in the gym. This project was identified as a community priority and will be completed by the end of this year.

Every school in Hunt Club and Riverside Park will work in partnership with the City to create a unique piece of art for the expanded community centre. Future generations will be able to appreciate the talent of our local schools.

The new Library Kiosk Pilot Project is the first of its kind in Canada. In addition to the Bookmobile, library staff will drop by the Centre a couple of days a week. I encourage you to get your library card in advance so that you can make use of these services.

The expanded centre will also include a Drop-In Seniors Centre. Seniors will enjoy a home away from home where they can meet new friends and enjoy a wide range of activities decided by seniors for seniors.

Carleton Heights Community Centre – 1665 Apeldoorn Avenue

Construction crews broke ground on the expansion of the Carleton Heights Community Centre in July. This project is the first successful Community Partnership Major Capital Program between the City and a community group to expand and renovate a recreation facility. Thank you to the Carleton Heights and Area Residents Association (CHARA) and City staff for their continued collaboration on this important community project.

Both projects are on target for completion in late December. I look forward to seeing you at the Official Opening of both centres in 2010.



Councillor Maria McRae and local residents are joined by Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty, Acting Mayor Michel Bellemare and Chief Librarian Barbara Clubb at the Official Sod Turning for the Hunt Club Riverside Community Centre expansion.

Councillor Maria McRae and Ottawa Police Chief Vern White working together at a community event.



Budget 2010: New Process Increases Community Engagement

This year, City Council approved a new process for the 2010 Budget to increase engagement by Councillors and our residents at the beginning of the budget process. These changes also include an increased role for Standing Committees, including the creation of the new Audit, Budget and Finance Committee, of which I am a member. As Chair of the City's Transportation Committee, I worked closely with senior staff reviewing and challenging budgets for the departments under my responsibility.

I encourage you to contact me regarding your priorities for the 2010 Budget. Committee of the Whole/Council approval will take place between January 25, 2010 and January 29, 2010.

H1N1: Information from the City of Ottawa's Medical Officer of Health Dr. Isra Levy

The Medical Officer of Health advises that the best defense against the H1N1 virus is prevention. Here are four steps that may prevent the spread of H1N1:

- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly;
- Sneeze and cough into your sleeve or arm, not your hands;
- Stay at home when you are sick;
- Get the H1N1 vaccine when recommended.

If you have any questions regarding the H1N1 virus, please call the Ottawa Public Health Information Line at 613-580-6744.

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Rideau Canoe Club Makes a Splash with Expansion Plans

On June 26, 2009, all three levels of government announced funding, under the Recreational Infrastructure Canada Program in Ontario and Recreation Ontario, for the renewal and expansion of the Rideau Canoe Club (RCC). After working for many months with the Rideau Canoe Club, City of Ottawa staff and federal and provincial government representatives, I am thrilled that the Club will see this much-needed facelift.

The RCC is recognized internationally as one of the best training centres for paddle sports. The club prides itself on welcoming paddlers of all skills ranging from weekend paddlers to seniors to Olympians to persons with disabilities. When construction is complete, it will be Canada's first fully accessible canoe/kayak club.

The RCC was built on a foundation of volunteers and I would like to extend my sincere congratulations and thanks to all RCC members for their tremendous investment and work in making this expansion a reality.

Airport Parkway Pathway Connection: Environmental Assessment Update

I am pleased to report that the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the formal pathway to link the Hunt Club community to the Southeast Transitway began this spring and is almost complete. The EA will determine the location and the type of crossing and will take into account feedback received from the community, technicians, engineers, and a variety of different agencies. The EA will also provide information about cost effectiveness.

The Public Open Houses were well attended and I want to thank everyone for their feedback and support. I worked closely with City staff and funding for the design and construction of this important community link is included in the Draft 2010 Budget, subject to approval by City Council in January 2010.

City Council Approves the Rezoning of the Former Laurentian High School

After two years of public consultation and working closely with the Central Park community, on October 14, 2009 City Council approved the rezoning of 1357 Baseline Road from its current status of minor institutional subzone to an arterial mainstreet zone.

Thank you to everyone who provided their feedback about this application. I will continue to work closely with City staff and representatives from SmartCentres to develop a draft Site Plan that meets the stringent Holding Provisions identified in the rezoning report and approved by Council. To receive community feedback and input, once the draft Site Plan is ready, I will host a public meeting and will keep you updated accordingly.



Councillor Maria McRae proclaims Grete Hale Day on June 21, 2009.



Councillor Maria McRae, Transportation Committee Chair, speaks about cost savings using GPS technology in the City's salt trucks.

COMMUNITY CORNER

Are you interested in volunteering?

High School students looking to complete community service hours – this is a terrific opportunity!

I host many community meetings and events and I am grateful to residents who assist me at these events. Volunteering offers an opportunity to develop new skills, expand horizons and give back to the community. If you are interested, give me a call at 613-580-2486.



Cette information est également disponible en français.

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Carlington Community Development Framework: Off to a Great Start

In December 2008 Carlington was identified as the proud recipient of the City's new Community Development Framework (CDF). The CDF is an innovative way to coordinate municipal and community services. It brings together a cross-section of community partners to share information and leverage resources and community strengths to address needs in neighbourhoods. I am proud to be a member of the Steering Committee overseeing this CDF.

The CDF began in the Caldwell neighbourhood and will gradually move to other areas of Carlington. As a first step in the process of engaging residents and identifying priorities, a neighbourhood survey was conducted. Survey results were compiled and the CDF Steering Committee further consulted with residents to confirm those results and to address issues raised in the surveys. I look forward to sharing this information with you and continuing working with the community to address issues of interest and concern.

Many thanks to residents, City staff and other agencies who attended the first Carlington Special Workshop – Building Community Capacity that I hosted on Saturday November 21, 2009. I look forward to hosting another workshop in the new year and reporting on the progress that we've made to date.



Councillor Maria McRae and her father Mike spinning cotton candy for the kids at a Neighbourhood Watch sign-up event.

Free C.P.R. and Automated External Defibrillator Training for River Ward Residents



There are over 70,000 heart attacks in Canada each year and over 19,000 deaths. With training, you can help save a life.

I am pleased to invite River Ward residents to enroll in free CPR and Automated External Defibrillator training. Participants are welcome to tour the state-of-the-art City of Ottawa Paramedic Service Headquarters.

The four-hour class includes a short lecture on patient assessment and clinical training. Participants who successfully complete the course will receive valid CPR C "Basic Rescuer" and AED certification.

As space is limited, you **MUST** be a registered participant, live in River Ward and be at least 12 years of age to participate.

Please contact my office at 613-580-2486 to register.

Training is available on the following dates:

Date: Sunday, January 17, 2010
(Register by Wednesday, January 13, 2010)
OR
Saturday, January 23, 2010
(Register by Wednesday, January 20, 2010)

Training: 8:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Tour: 1:00 to 1:30 p.m.

Location: Ottawa Paramedic Service Headquarters
2465 Don Reid Drive
(off Walkley Road)

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