



**RIVER WARD CITY COUNCILLOR MARIA McRAE'S REPORT TO  
THE CARLETON HEIGHTS COMMUNITY  
Tuesday, January 17, 2012**

Dear Carleton Heights Residents:

Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and Holiday season.

Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication. I am privileged to work with you to improve our community. Your participation is greatly appreciated, and I look forward to continue fostering our relationship throughout 2012.

### **2011 Christmas Lights Tour for River Ward Seniors**

On Friday, December 9, 2011, my office hosted our Annual Christmas Lights Tour for River Ward Seniors. Two OC Transpo buses toured around Ottawa, showcasing some of the most beautiful lights our city has to offer. Following the lights tour, seniors returned to the Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre for refreshments and live music by local musician Mike Fahey.

### **Winter 2012 OC Transpo Route Schedule Changes**

OC Transpo winter bus schedules went into effect on January 8, 2012. There are schedule changes to the 86, 111, and 118 routes in the Carleton Heights community. Service has also increased for the 111 and 118 to improve capacity and frequency for residents.

Visit [www.octranspo.com](http://www.octranspo.com) to obtain the new route schedules or pick up a new timetable from an OC Transpo service centre.

### **Workshops to Help Quit Smoking**

The Carlington Community Health Centre, Ottawa Public Health, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, and Somerset West Community Health Centre will host two workshops to educate eligible participants about the benefits of quitting smoking.

The sessions, offered in both English and French, will take place at the Carlington Community Health Centre on the following days:

- January 31, 2012 from 6:00 - 9:00pm
- February 8, 2012 from 1:30 - 4:30pm

For more information regarding eligibility, registration, or content - please contact:

- Ottawa Public Health: (613)580-6744 or
- Carlington Community Health Centre: (613)722-4000 ext. 322

### **High School Diploma Information Session**

There is an information session **Wednesday, February 1, 2012** for residents over 18 years old who want to earn their high school diploma. Call Gill at (613)722-4000 ext. 203 to register. The information session takes place from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. at the Carlington Community Health Centre (900 Merivale Road).

### **Outdoor Rink Program Commences**

Weather permitting, the outdoor rink season will operate until February 28, 2012. Some sites may extend their season on a voluntary basis and without additional City funding. Dismantling of rink sites with temporary features (i.e. trailers, boards, lighting) will commence prior to the spring thaw to prevent damage to parkland and vandalism.

Carleton Heights residents can enjoy rinks at the following locations in the community:

- Carleton Heights Rink (rink with puddle) – 1665 Apeldoorn Avenue
- Lexington Rink (puddle) – 1404 Lexington Street
- Rideauview Rink (rink with puddle) – 960 Eiffel Avenue

Additional information about the City’s outdoor rink program can be found at the following link: [http://ottawa.ca/rec\\_culture/park\\_facility/parks/outdoor\\_rinks/index\\_en.html](http://ottawa.ca/rec_culture/park_facility/parks/outdoor_rinks/index_en.html).

Residents can also call the Seasonal Recreation telephone information line at 613-580-2590.

### **City Sledding Hills Open**

55 City of Ottawa approved sledding hills are open for public use. Approved sledding hill locations and safety tips are listed at [www.ottawa.ca](http://www.ottawa.ca). Residents are reminded to keep safety in mind and to wear helmets when participating in winter activities such as sledding and skating.

The closest sledding hill to the Carleton Heights community can be found in Mooney’s Bay Park at 2960 Riverside Drive.

### **Summer Student Employment Program**

Students interested in summer employment with the City of Ottawa can apply online from **Monday, January 30, 2012** until **Wednesday, February 29, 2012**. The Summer Student Employment Program is a great opportunity to gain valuable work experience and insight into today’s workforce, discover a career path, showcase skills and enhance academic goals. Monitor [www.ottawa.ca/careers](http://www.ottawa.ca/careers) for updated information, eligibility criteria, and other requirements on the 2012 Summer Student Employment Program.

### **Hockey Day in Ottawa**

The fourth edition of “Hockey Day in Ottawa” will take place on **Saturday February 11, 2012** from 1 to 3 p.m. The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department, in partnership with our community based operators, is planning a fun filled day where you are encouraged to set-up hockey games and other winter activities citywide. The goal is to raise visibility and awareness for the Winter Carnival Program and its volunteers.

### **Winter Carnival Equipment Loan**

Numerous community associations will host Winter Carnivals across the City this winter. The Seasonal Recreation office provides equipment and secures sponsorship with various companies in support of the Winter Carnival Program. Operators may contact the Seasonal Recreation front desk by phone at 613-580-2590 or e-mail at [seasonalrecreation@ottawa.ca](mailto:seasonalrecreation@ottawa.ca) to learn more.

## **Planning Primer**

The Planning and Growth Management Department is offering the Planning Primer Program to help residents become more aware of, and more involved in, the land-use planning process. The program is a series of half-day courses including two core courses and two elective courses. The courses are offered in English only.

The core courses, Primer I and Primer II, describe the legislative and policy basis under which land-use planning decisions are made, the way policy documents are amended and how to make a development application. The second elective course for 2012 will focus on heritage planning.

### **Primer I Course**

- Saturday, January 21, 2012 or
- Monday, January 23, 2012

### **Primer II Course**

- Saturday, February 11, 2012 or
- Monday, February 13, 2012

### **Location:**

City Hall, 110 Laurier Avenue West,  
Champlain Room, Second Floor  
8:30 a.m. to noon

The Primer I course is a pre-requisite for the Primer II course. Registration for Primer II will open on January 31, 2012

## **Civic Events Funding – Applications Now Available**

Local not-for-profit organizations, such as volunteer-based community or recreation associations, are invited to apply for funding to provide a one-to-two-day civic event and/or civic celebration. The event should foster civic pride, develop community cohesion and offer free admission. The maximum allocation is \$3,000 and the application deadline is **March 5, 2012**. Program guidelines and application forms are available at [Ottawa.ca](http://Ottawa.ca) or by visiting City of Ottawa Client Service Centres. For more information, contact 613-580-2424 extension 20029.

## **Updating Ottawa's Smoke-Free By-Laws**

Ottawa Public Health is conducting public consultations on the expansion of the City of Ottawa's smoke-free by-laws. OPH has developed a comprehensive consultation plan which will run until January 20, 2012. The objective of the consultations is to ensure residents, businesses, and other community representatives have an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed expansion of the City's smoke-free by-laws to include all public beaches and parks, all municipal properties, all outdoor patios and terraces, and new regulations relating to the use of water-pipes in public establishments.

There is an online consultation form available until January 20, 2012 at:

[http://ottawa.ca/health\\_safety/living/dat/tobacco/pub\\_consultation\\_en.html](http://ottawa.ca/health_safety/living/dat/tobacco/pub_consultation_en.html)

## **City Council Approves 2012 Budget**

On November 30, 2011, City Council approved the budget for 2012. Budget 2012 will allow the City to proceed with much needed city-building infrastructure projects. Ottawa on the Move will see roadwork and bridge repair, sidewalk upgrades, sewer and culvert improvements and cycling infrastructure investment across the length and breadth of Ottawa. The plan will advance the work by many years and help prepare the City to host Canada's sesquicentennial.

### **Bronson Avenue Renewal Project**

The City of Ottawa is undertaking a detail design of Bronson Avenue. The project will involve the replacement of aging underground infrastructure, reconstruction of the roadway, improvements to pedestrian corridors and revitalization of the street through landscaping initiatives. On November 24, 2011, the City hosted a Public Open House to share design plans and discuss the project in a casual environment. I will ensure that your feedback is received by staff.

### **City of Ottawa Agrees to Waste Disposal Deal with Plasco**

On Wednesday, December 14, 2011, City Council approved a 20 year deal with Plasco Energy Group to convert the City's waste into energy using a "plasma gasification process". Council approved the deal by an overwhelming majority of 22-1, making Ottawa the first city in Canada to adopt plasma gasification technology on a commercial scale. The Plasco deal embraces the City of Ottawa's goal to both foster new technology and encourage sustainability.

### **Mercer Survey Says Ottawa is Among the Best Cities in the World**

Ottawa has placed among the Top 15 Cities in the world for quality of life out of a field of 221 in the most recent 2011 Mercer Quality of Living survey. The annual report looks at living conditions in 221 cities worldwide and ranks them against New York as a base city on 39 items in 10 categories such as socio-cultural environment, health services, public transport, the economy, politics, education, housing and recreation. Ottawa was lauded for its high-tech sector, federal agencies, foreign embassies, and having the most highly educated workforce in the country. While a high quality of life is often associated with a high cost of living, as in most cities on the list, Ottawa defied that trend, being crowned this year as the least expensive Canadian city in which to live.

### **Integrated Road Safety Program**

#### ***January 2012 Initiatives***

Tailgating and stop sign running are on the City's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) radar in January.

#### ***November 2011 Results***

The City of Ottawa's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) targeted motorists improperly using reserved transit lanes and distracted driving last month, resulting in 289 charges being laid. Distracted driving was the prevalent charge with 227 tickets being issued, while 62 charges were laid for improper use of reserved transit lanes.

#### ***October 2011 Results***

Police charged 487 motorists for running stop signs and failing to buckle up or comply with child car seat requirements as part of the City's Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) in October. Stop sign running accounted for 277 charges being laid, while 210 motorists were caught failing to properly buckle up.