



COUNCILLOR/CONSEILLER  
RILEY BROCKINGTON



# Councillor's Report

## Carleton Heights Area Residents Association September 22, 2020

### Back to School Safety

I have been working with the City's Traffic and Bylaw Services units, emphasizing the need to ensure safe passage to school for students this fall. I am working with city officials and putting pressures on the Provincial Government to expand the scope and use of speed enforcement technology.

Bylaw Services have committed to focussing on school zones to ensure traffic flow and safety for the students during early September. With more families choosing to drive their children to school, Ottawa Police, Ottawa Bylaw, and Traffic Services are being vigilant in their enforcement of speed and parking regulations in school zones.

Take some time to consider the best transportation options for your family. If you are not putting your student on a school bus, please consider walking or biking to school.

### **Benefits of walking or biking to school**

Children need at least 60 minutes of physical activity each day. Finding ways to fit this into a daily routine is hard for busy families. Walking or biking to school helps solve this issue and both are easy ways for children to become more independent, spend time outdoors and, in many cases, save time.

Children who walk or bike to school on a regular basis also benefit in the classroom with:

- improved concentration
- better stress-coping abilities
- reduced feelings of isolation
- increased social interaction

Other benefits include reduced traffic congestion in school zones and reduced greenhouse-gas emissions. Visit School Active Transportation for more information.

### Supporting Schools During COVID

Ottawa Public Health (OPH) is working with local school boards to implement provincial standards and guidance to support the reopening of schools. Keeping COVID-19 transmission low at the community level will be key to preventing the introduction of the virus into schools. The primary goal is to make the return to school as safe as possible, balancing the risk of COVID-19 transmission with reducing other harms to the well-being of students, families and staff. OPH is partnering with school boards to address ongoing questions and concerns of families, school staff and students regarding COVID-19 and provide the most current information possible.

### **Ottawa Public Health's Role**

- Support School Boards in their reopening plans and provide public health information and support implementing provincial standards and guidance.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange through various platforms with stakeholders and the school community by ensuring ongoing engagement and active listening.
- Provide infection prevention and control advice to schools for both in-school and transportation scenarios.
- Manage COVID-19 cases and outbreaks, including providing guidance to schools on confirming and controlling outbreaks.
- Support testing and surveillance of the school population.
- Provide ongoing support through a dedicated Public Health School Nurse who will be assigned to an area of schools and can assist in responding to school specific inquiries and make regular visits to the schools.
- Provide age-appropriate resources on COVID-19.
- Provide Mental Wellness Support including the development of school resources and tools on topics like resiliency, positive coping skills, and reducing stress and anxiety. Facilitate linkages to resources and community supports available for school staff, students and their families.

## School Board's Role

- Develop and implement reopening plans following guidelines and recommendations from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Ottawa Public Health (OPH).
- Communicate with the school community about COVID-19 prevention measures and how cases and outbreaks will be handled, in collaboration with OPH.
- Support OPH, and other stakeholders as appropriate, with the investigation of cases, contacts, and outbreaks.
- Ensure accurate records of staff and students' attendance, as well up-to-date contact information for staff and students that can be accessed in a timely manner for investigations and communications.
- Facilitate training of school staff with respect to outbreak prevention and control measures and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

## Mask Bylaw Update



To help limit the spread of COVID-19 as schools and businesses reopen, City Council on Wednesday, August 26 extended, until the end of October, the temporary by-law that makes masks mandatory in indoor public spaces. Masks are also now mandatory in the common areas of condos and apartment buildings.

Council can extend the temporary by-law again at a future meeting.

For more information on the extension of the mask bylaw, visit <https://ottawa.ca/en/health-and-public-safety/covid-19-ottawa/temporary-mandatory-mask-law>.

## New Provincial Regulations for Social Gatherings

As of Thursday, September 17, 2020, the Provincial Government has mandated that private gatherings in Ottawa are limited to 10 indoors and 25 outdoors. The restrictions also apply to functions, parties, dinners, gatherings or wedding receptions held in private residences, backyards, parks and other recreational areas. This is a direct response to the recent increase in cases in Ottawa over the past few weeks. Failure to comply to these restrictions can result in a \$10,000 fine.

The new limit will not apply to events or gatherings held in staffed businesses and facilities, such as bars, restaurants, cinemas, convention centres or banquet halls, gyms, and recreational sporting or performing art events. Existing rules for these businesses and facilities, including public health and workplace safety measures, continue to be in effect.

With the temporary mask by-law being in place for the past two months, the City's By-law and Regulatory Services will be stepping up its enforcement, moving away from warnings to issuing charges with fines. The decision to issue a ticket

will be based on whether a warning is deemed insufficient or if the individual or business is a repeat offender.

People who are not exempt from the by-law and fail to wear a mask can receive a \$240 fine, including a victim surcharge. Businesses or property owners who fail to comply with the by-law can receive a fine of \$490, including a victim surcharge.

## Expanded COVID-19 Testing Hours and Locations

At the September 9 City Council meeting, several Councillors, including myself demanded a more extensive testing regime, more testing centres, longer hours, protection for those in line from the elements and drive thru options for children.

On September 16, a meeting for members of Council specifically about testing, who should be tested and efforts by the Province to augment testing was shared with us.

With the return to school, more cases are being confirmed and the testing facilities as well as staffing levels to conduct the time consuming contact tracing must be fully resourced.

- The Brewer Arena Assessment Centre is now open from 8:30am to 7:30pm daily at 151 Brewer Way. At this site there is also a CHEO Assessment Centre, [by appointment only](#), for children over 2 months old and under 18 years old (same hours of service.)
- The Moodie and Heron Road COVID Care Clinics are open from 9:00am-3:30pm, Monday to Friday.
- There is also a Drive-Thru Assessment Centre on Coventry Road open from 11:30am—6:30pm daily by appointment only for those over 14 years of age.

The link to book your appointment (and further information on testing sites) is at

[www.Ottawapublichealth.ca/en/shared-content/assessment-centres.aspx](http://www.Ottawapublichealth.ca/en/shared-content/assessment-centres.aspx)

## Hog's Back Road Bridges

Work to repair and replace the major components of the NCC swing bridge on Hog's Back Road continues and is expected to be completed in October. Work continues on the Parks Canada fixed bridge over the Hog's Back falls with expected opening of that section of Hog's Back Road between Riverside and Colonel By to occur in December 2020. Final paving of the fixed bridge segment is expected to occur in Spring 2021.

## Cannabis Retail License Application in Carleton Heights

I was informed at the end of June that a cannabis retail application was received by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission in the Shoppers Drug Mart strip-mall on the southwest corner of the Prince of Wales and

Meadowlands intersection, with the civic address 888 Meadowlands Drive. I joined CHARA, the City of Ottawa, and local residents in submitting an official objection to the proposed location because it is within 150m of an active-use public park (Hog's Back, Rideau Canal Locks, and Rideau Canoe Club) and is also across the street from the Boys and Girls Club. At this time, the application is still under review by the AGCO and no retail license has been granted.

### **Road Closures Needed for Service Connections**

The City of Ottawa has notified my office of the following temporary road closures:

- Hudson Avenue from Lexington to Morley from September 22 to September 28 (or earlier). Closure required for the connection of new services at 237/239 Hudson Ave.
- Lexington Street from Hudson to Chandler from September 29 to October 6. Closure required for connection of sewer services at 237/239 Hudson.

Local and emergency vehicle access will be maintained.

### **Approved Future Road Modification on Fisher Avenue**

The City of Ottawa has approved road modifications on Fisher Avenue. The details of the modifications are as follows:

#### **Fisher Avenue (Deer Park Rd to south of Meadowlands Drive intersection)**

- Update existing sidewalks from asphalt to concrete material.
- Unidirectional asphalt cycle tracks on both sides.
- Remove channelized southbound right turn lane from Forest Park Avenue to Meadowlands Drive.
- Remove of northbound acceleration lane from just south of Forest Park Avenue to Meadowlands Drive.
- Protected intersection at Meadowlands Drive/Fisher Avenue.
- Remove northbound and southbound right turn channels at intersection with Meadowlands Drive.

#### **Fisher Avenue (Baseline Road and Malibu Terrace)**

- Unidirectional asphalt cycle tracks on the east side from Malibu Terrace to approximately 100m south of Baseline Road.
- Bicycle lane on the east side from Baseline Road to approximately 100m south thereof.
- Sidewalk modifications on the southeast corner of Baseline Road.

#### **Meadowlands Drive (Ortona Avenue to Ness Street)**

- Unidirectional asphalt cycle track, 1.5m wide, along the north side from just west of Ortona Avenue to Ness Street.

- Unidirectional asphalt cycle track 1.2m-1.5m wide along the south side from Ortona Avenue to approximately 70m west of Fisher Avenue.
- Sidewalk modifications, including upgrades from asphalt to concrete material, where applicable.
- Remove eastbound and westbound right turn channels at intersection with Fisher Avenue.

Two open houses were held for this file in 2018 and 2019.

### **Prince of Wales Drive Asphalt**

Work to install new skid resistant asphalt is now complete on Prince of Wales Drive in the northbound lane on the bend north of the Kochar/Normandy intersection. The new asphalt was implemented as an added safety measure to help avoid cars leaving the road on the bend.

### **Fraud charges to Ottawa-Based Snow Removal Companies**

The Ottawa Police Service (OPS) Fraud Unit conducted investigations into three Ottawa-based snow removal companies - Snow Vaporizers, Faul Properties and Altitude Snow Removal, from the winter of 2019/2020 in relation to fraud allegations made from members of the public.

The investigations revealed that the companies fraudulently obtained money for snow removal services. Funds were obtained by cash, cheque, e-transfer and credit card. According to the reports made to the OPS, little to no snow removal service was provided after payment was made.

The OPS has issued charges against the companies and individuals.

There is concern that there are additional victims that have not made reports to the police. If you or somebody you know were a victim of Snow Vaporizers, Faul Properties, or Altitude Snow Removal, please file a report to the Ottawa Police Service.

### **Noise Exemption Granted on Fisher Avenue**

A noise exemption application has been granted for Taggart Construction to complete pavement markings on Fisher Avenue between Dynes and Baseline. Work needs to be performed overnight to minimize traffic disruption and potential safety hazards to the public and staff by working at the time where traffic and pedestrian congestion is greatly reduced. The work is expected to be completed between by the end of October and should only take 3 nights to complete.

### **Bookmobile Has Returned**

The Bookmobile is now offering a return and holds pickup service at 10 stops, with a modified schedule. No appointment is needed to return items or pick up holds at the Bookmobile. Unfortunately, browsing



the collection on the Bookmobile in person is temporarily not possible. In River Ward, the Bookmobile schedule is as follows:

- Carleton Heights Community Centre, Thursdays, 2-3:30pm

### **Improvements to OC Transpo Community Pass Application Process**

OC Transpo has introduced an enhancement to the Community Pass application process, making it easier for customers to apply or renew their pass.

The Community Pass provides discounted rates for Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) beneficiaries. Customers are now able to complete their application remotely over the phone (613-741-4390), eliminating the need to travel to a customer service centre. The option to apply in person will remain available at the Rideau Centre location.

### **Glad Cleaning the Capital Program Fall Campaign**

The annual GLAD Cleaning the Capital Program Fall Campaign received the green light to go ahead as part of Phase 2 of the City's Recovery Plan and kicked off with Early Bird Registration which opened August 15.

With gatherings permitted of 100 people when outdoors, while maintaining physical distancing, the program was able to proceed. Registered participants will receive the necessary documentation regarding health & safety procedures for COVID-19 to ensure a safe process is followed. Register your cleanup projects online at [Ottawa.ca/Clean](https://ottawa.ca/Clean) or by calling 613 580-2424, extension 13458. The campaign will run from September 15 – October 15.

### **Tree Planting this Autumn**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Forestry's Spring 2020 planting season was postponed and new planting requests were put on hold. Tree planting has resumed this fall. St. Pius X High School is getting six new trees as part of the fall planting. If you have a request in for a new tree through 311 and want to confirm if you are on the list for a tree planting this fall, feel free to call my office to verify if your address is on the list. Tree planting requests for 2021 are now being accepted. Planting program information can be found at [Ottawa.ca/forestry](https://ottawa.ca/forestry).

### **Enforcement of on-street parking limits resumes**

The City has resumed enforcement of parking in excess of time limits in all areas of the city, including those that are not marked with signs. Parking limits in unsigned areas are three hours, Monday to Friday, between 7 am and 7 pm, and six hours on weekends and statutory holidays, between 7 am and 7 pm.

Initially, parking control officers will issue warning notices to vehicles that are parked longer than the allowable time limits. Officers will begin to issue tickets on Thursday, October 1.

Enforcement of overtime parking on streets without posted signs only occurs on a complaint basis.

## **COMING EVENTS**

### **River Ward E-Waste Depot: September 26**

You are invited to bring your old electronic devices to the Hunt Club – Riverside Park Community Centre on Saturday, September 26 from 10-4pm. Anything with a battery or plug is accepted. I am partnering again this year with Junk that Funk for this annual Earth Day event that had to be postponed due to COVID-19.

COVID-19 protocols will be followed strictly at this event. Please stay with your vehicle, wear a mask, and follow all directions by staff on site.

- The Junk that Funk crew will be wearing masks and gloves for your protection.
- Customers must stay with their vehicle and follow directions of staff on site for where to park.
- Junk that Funk staff will remove items from your vehicle.
- Wear a mask if you must exit your vehicle.
- Drive away when vehicle cleared.
- Conduct a self-assessment before attending the event <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/>.
- Do not attend the E-Waste Depot if you do not feel well or have been in recent contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

River Ward is the reigning champion for greatest volume of e-waste collected at these annual events. Let's ensure we continue to hold the title!

## **Did you receive my monthly e-newsletter?**

Sign up to receive it directly to your inbox by sending me an email at [Riley.Brockington@Ottawa.ca](mailto:Riley.Brockington@Ottawa.ca)

My newsletter contains updates on city decisions, planning files, community initiatives and more.



## Older Adult Summit—Autumn 2020

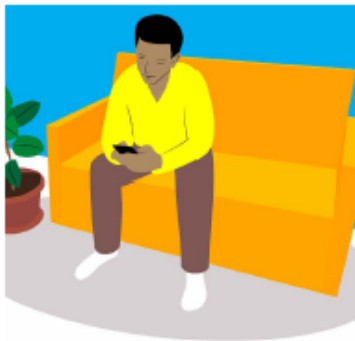
My office is reviewing and planning to host the Annual River Ward Older Adult Summit in some capacity in late October or early November. We will work with Ottawa Public Health to ensure all COVID-19 protocols are in place. The event would be scaled down from previous years and would be limited to two guest speakers in a 90-minute session.



# Mental Health Support

## You are not alone!

The COVID-19 pandemic is a very difficult time for many of us. It is normal to feel stressed and worried. Please know that there is help available in our community.



### Help is available

If you or someone you know is having a hard time coping, please reach out for help.

Visit [counsellingconnect.org](https://counsellingconnect.org) to talk to a counsellor by phone or video.

This is a free service for all ages and you can get help for many different problems. You can get an appointment the same day or the next day.

**Services are also offered** specifically for First Nations, Inuit, and Metis people.

You can also call The Walk-in Counselling Clinic at 613-755-2277 or go to [walkincounselling.com](https://walkincounselling.com). They have services in English, French, Arabic, Spanish, Somali, Cantonese and Mandarin at different locations.

If you need to talk to someone right now, these services are here for you 24 hours a day, every day of the week.

- **Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region** at 613-238-3311 in English
- **Tel-Aide Outaouais** at 613-741-6433 in French
- **Crisis Line** at 613-722-6914, if you are 16 or older (Bilingual)
- **Youth Service Bureau** crisis line at 613-260-2360 or chat at [chat.ysb.ca](https://chat.ysb.ca), if you are 12 to 18 years old or parent (Bilingual)
- **Kids Help Phone** at 1-800-668-6868 or text 686868 if you are under 20 years old (Bilingual)

For more resources and supports please visit [OttawaPublicHealth.ca/COVIDMentalHealth](https://OttawaPublicHealth.ca/COVIDMentalHealth)

### Financial Support

If you or someone you know is struggling financially due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is information and support available from the Federal, Provincial, and Local governments. For more information visit [ottawa.ca/support-and-assistance](https://ottawa.ca/support-and-assistance) or call 311.



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