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Ottawa South Column - February 11, 2016

Riverside Park Winter Carnival

The Riverside Park Community and Recreation Association invites local residents to their winter carnival to be held in Pauline Vanier Park on Harkness Ave on **Sunday February 21 from Noon to 3pm**. Skating, a horse-drawn wagon ride, a firetruck and refreshments will be available. I look forward to seeing you and your family at the park.

River Ward Movie Night

The next River Ward Movie Night will take place on **Saturday February 20** at the Carleton Heights Community Centre located at 1665 Apeldoorn Ave. The doors open at 6pm and the movie (Rio 2, rated G) starts at 6:30pm. This is the second of three movie nights I am hosting across the ward in the winter. Feel free to bring a blanket and yoga mat to sit on. The Carleton Heights and Area Residents Association will be hosting their winter carnival in the late afternoon to piggyback on the movie night. Come early and enjoy the outdoor festivities and enjoy a hot dog and cocoa before the movie starts. There will also be a concession stand available during the movie.

Pot Holes are Back

With the seesaw temperatures this winter above and below the freezing point, more and more potholes are springing up on our roads. The best way to alert the City to a local pothole is to call 3-1-1. If you don't see any improvement after calling, please contact my office.

Walkley Road Bridge Work

Starting this week for an estimated four weeks, the Walkley Road Bridge will require immediate work to install expansion joint seals along the bridge surface. In order to minimize the impact on traffic, this work will be performed through rolling lane closures. The plan is to close one traffic lane and install the seal in that lane and then move to the next lane to repeat the same process. The lane closure is only required when the contractor is working. I have insisted that all lanes remain open when work is not being performed.

Syrian Refugee Update

As of the end of January 2016, the City of Ottawa has welcomed 706 refugees from Syria. 636 are federal government sponsored and 70 are privately sponsored. The City continues to work with the Catholic Centre for Immigrants and Refugee 613 to help support newcomers' needs, including access to recreational activities and library services. Ottawa Public Health is continuing to provide health assessments, immunizations and dental screening.

Tree Canada Grants Available

Tree Canada is offering grants up to \$4,000 to community groups that are interested in a tree planting program that will grow fruit and nut bearing trees that will be used to share within the community. If you would like to learn more about this project, please contact my office. The deadline to apply is February 27.