



Ottawa West Column – Dec 1, 2016

St Elizabeth Christmas Bazaar

St Elizabeth Parish (1303 Leaside Avenue at Merivale) will host their annual Christmas bazaar this **Saturday, December 3** from 10am-2pm. In addition to lunch being served from 11am-1pm, there will also be a bake sale, knitted and crochet goods, crafts, white elephant table, Christmas cakes and a raffle. All are welcome, free admission, Lunch \$5, \$3 for children.

Draft 2017 Budget Hearings

The 2017 draft City of Ottawa budget was released on November 9 and will be before City Council on December 14 for a final vote. Standing committees meet in the interim to hear from public delegations and to allow members of Council or debate and discuss the content of the budget that impacts each committee. Here is a partial list of public meetings that remain:

- Dec 5, Transit Commission, 9:30am, City Hall,**
- Dec 5, Board of Health, 4pm, City Hall,**
- Dec 6, FEDCO, 9:30am, City Hall,**
- Dec 7, Transportation Committee, 9:30am, City Hall,**
- Dec 8, Community and Protective Services, 9:30am, City Hall**

If you have any specific questions or comments about the City's budget, recommended areas for additional resources, or areas where the City can make reductions, please contact me, I am interested in hearing from you.

River Ward Christmas Social

All residents of River Ward are invited to attend my annual Christmas Social, to be held on **December 13** from 6-8pm at the Carleton Heights Community Centre (1665 Apeldoorn Avenue). Mayor Watson has confirmed he will also be in attendance. Food, refreshments and entertainment will be on hand. Please consider bringing a non-perishable food item to donate to the Ottawa Food Bank. Drop in any time.

NCC Recommends Tunney's Pasture for Hospital

On November 24, the Board of Directors of the NCC voted to recommend the western section of Tunney's Pasture as the site for the new location of the Civic Hospital. The vote follows a second, and open and transparent process that identified multiple sites in Ottawa and used a set list of criteria to rank each location. Thousands of public comments were received. The Ottawa Hospital is not bound to use the Tunney's Pasture location, however, if federal land is to be used, Tunney's Pasture is the recommended location.

In a statement released last week, the Ottawa Hospital replied: "In our 2016 report, we did raise concerns regarding access delays due to traffic volume heading north on Parkdale Avenue from the Queensway. We also raised concerns about the cost and timelines for demolishing existing facilities and relocating federal government departments.

We have not yet had an opportunity to review the NCC's report released today. Over the coming weeks, we will work with our partners in the municipal, provincial and federal governments to plan a way forward. Until that review is complete, the hospital is not in a position to comment further".

Reading the tea leaves indicates that the Hospital is not overly enamoured with the Tunney's site. I will continue to immerse myself in this issue as it progresses, as I have done since the day I took office.