



Ottawa West Column – July 14, 2016

Summer Spikes with Property Crimes

Please take necessary precautions to secure your house, vehicle and other possessions, as reports of increased property crime have been reported in River Ward. Consider locking bicycles, even when stored in your garage and ensure windows, patio doors and your front door are locked when you go to bed. Summer time provides too many easy opportunities for thieves.

Police to Focus on Cyclists and Red Light Runners

During the month of July, the Ottawa Police Service will focus their attention on cycling safety and red light running. Between 2010-2014, there were 1,541 reported collisions involving cyclists with 1,290 injuries and 16 fatalities. During the same time period, there were 3,186 reported collisions due to red light running, resulting in 1,478 injuries and two deaths.

Sustaining the Local Butterfly and Bee Population

The decline of the monarch butterfly population has been noted by scientists. Female monarch butterflies lay their eggs solely on milkweed and monarch caterpillars feed exclusively on it. The monarch butterfly is otherwise known as the “milkweed butterfly.” Milkweed provides the nourishment required for the change from caterpillar to butterfly. It is disappearing due to the loss of habitat stemming from land development and the wide spread use of weed killer. Local residents can help by planting milkweed. It’s easy to plant and there are many varieties that can thrive in full sun, dry or humid conditions. A hearty perennial, milkweed can withstand harsh conditions to come back year after year.

Bee populations require three simple items from nature to sustain their population: Nectar, which contains sugar, is their source of energy and pollen provides proteins and fats. Like every living creature, bees require water. To make a simple bee bath, place a saucer or plate at ground level surrounded by rocks. The rocks will serve as landing pads for the bees. Replenish the water frequently. Bees have good color vision and are especially attracted to the colors of blue, purple, violet, white and yellow. Residents can help to sustain bee populations by planting a variety of flowers and plants that bloom at alternate times of the year. Early season ideas include foxglove, crocus and heather. Mid season examples include chives, dahlia, sunflower, yarrow, mint or lavender and finally late season examples are aster, cornflower, goldenrod, pumpkin or squash.

Splash Pad Fun

All wading pools in the City will celebrate themed events on Fridays during the summer months. The themes are as follows: July 15, (birthdays), July 22 (super heroes), July 29 (teddy bears), August 12 (wet and wild) and August 19 (dance party). As well, each wading pool will have their own special festival day. In River Ward, the parks and dates are as follows: July 15 (Alexander Park), July 20 (Carleton Heights), August 4 (Meadowvale), August 15 (Rideauview), August 19 (Bellevue Manor) and August 24 (Raven Park).