



Ottawa West Column – June 30, 2016

Happy Canada Day

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very Happy Canada Day! As we celebrate Canada's 149th birthday, let us never take for granted how fortunate we are to live in the greatest nation on Earth, and the sacrifices made on our behalf to ensure we enjoy the life we have today. Please note that free public transit will be offered on all OC Transpo and Para Transpo routes on July 1, ending at 3am on July 2. There are many free events across Ottawa, enjoy the day.

Wading Pool Schedules have been Amended

The City of Ottawa has adjusted wading pool hours to allow for evening water fun on Tuesdays and Thursdays, city wide. Depending on the site, the pools may be open from Noon- 7pm. These revised hours are to allow families more time, particularly in the early evening, to enjoy the local wading pool together. For a detailed list of River Ward's wading pools, hours, and summer festivals at our pools, please contact my office for a complete listing.

Hellenic Community Commemorative Blades

In the June 2, 2016 edition of this newspaper, I informed readers that the Hellenic Community of Ottawa had approached me seeking permission to install permanent commemorative street sign blades on utility poles along Prince of Wales Drive between Hog's Back Drive and Baseline Road. Following consultation, that request was not granted, however a revised request to erect the street sign blades over a shorter three blocks and for the month of August only will be considered by Ottawa City Council on July 13. The proposed design has the Greek flag on the left, the Acropolis on the right and text in the middle that reads, "Reflections of Greece/Reflets de la Grece".

Coach Houses Consultation

The City is undertaking a comprehensive zoning study that will determine the appropriate zones and standards to permit secondary dwelling units within accessory structures, in residential neighbourhoods. These types of dwelling units are essentially a small apartment or suite in the backyard of a home or along a laneway. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing made changes to the *Strong Communities through Affordable Housing Act* in 2011 requiring municipalities to develop or enhance policies in their Official Plans to allow secondary dwelling units. This new provision requires municipalities to permit secondary dwelling units within single detached, semi-detached and townhouse dwellings as well as ancillary structures.

The City currently allows secondary dwelling units within primary residential use buildings but not within ancillary structures. The City is therefore proposing Official Plan policy, Zoning Bylaw performance standards, a Site Plan Control Bylaw amendment and a Development Charges Bylaw amendment to allow for these units within Ottawa's residential communities.

A discussion paper, results of past consultation, as well as draft recommendations for autumn 2016 decision making are available online by visiting <http://ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/public-consultations/planning-and-infrastructure/secondary-dwelling-units-accessory>