



Ottawa West Column – March 24, 2016

Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Review

The City of Ottawa is currently conducting a water, wastewater and storm water rate structure review which includes public consultations on various options being considered. The review's primary objective is to achieve fairness and equity for all beneficiaries while restructuring the system's financial sustainability. Public consultations commenced on March 21 to obtain input on the options being considered which will then inform the final recommendations to City Council. The rate structure changes and options being considered are as follows:

- 1) Fixed Service Charge for water and wastewater – Introduction of a fixed monthly service charge, for those that receive the service, which would reduce the volumetric charge.
- 2) Lifeline Rate – Introduction of a low rate for the first six cubic metres of residential consumption which is equivalent to the basic water requirements per household.
- 3) Inclining Tiered Rates - A two-tiered rate for residential customers (lifeline and standard rate). A separate three-tiered rate for Multi-Residential and Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional (ICI) which would include a low volume rate (up to six cubic metres), a standard rate, and a high volume rate (above 180 cubic metres).
- 4) Dedicated Stormwater Fee – Stormwater Revenues would be a separate charge added to the tax bill similar to the Garbage collection fee. The new charge would apply to all properties with the exception of farmland. The three proposed options for allocating stormwater fees to property owners are:
 - a. Flat fee – one single fee applied to all property owners
 - b. Assessment – fee allocation based on property value assessment
 - c. Impervious surface area – fees established per residential property category (i.e. single family homes, townhomes, apartments) based on average impervious surface. ICI properties would be charged on the basis of their actual impervious surface.

Local public consultation nights have been scheduled on Wednesday, March 30, 2016, 7pm at City Hall and Thursday, April 7, 2016, 7pm, Nepean Sportsplex.

Car Seat Clinic

I am happy to partner with Seats for Kids Canada by hosting a car seat clinic for 48 local families. It will be held on **April 2, from 9am-1pm**, in the parking lot of Canada Post, off Riverside Drive. Registration is online, and opens on **March 25** at 8am by visiting www.seatsforkids.ca. Transport Canada reports that on average, 10,000 children under the age of 12 are injured in collisions every year. Car crashes are the leading cause of death for children and youth according to the Canadian Hospitals' Injury Reporting and Prevention Program. SEATS for Kids Canada is committed to ensuring every parent or caregiver knows how to install and use their child's car seat safely every time they travel. As many as 90% of car seats are installed improperly.

Happy Easter, Best Wishes

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable Easter long weekend. Please note, there will be no garbage, green bin or recycling pick-up on Good Friday or Easter Monday, all collections are postponed one day.