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## Ottawa West Column – December 17, 2015

### **Major Changes to OC Transpo Routes**

Starting Sunday, December 20, the next phase of OC Transpo service adjustments to accommodate O-Train Confederation Line construction will take effect. These service adjustments require the closure of the Transitway between Lees and Hurdman stations. Additional adjustments will start Sunday, January 17, and will require the closure of the Transitway between Empress Avenue and Merton Street (Scott St will be used). Some River Ward customers will have longer travel times and may see changes at stations and with connections. Hurdman Station will no longer be served by Routes 95, 114, 192, 401 and 602, but new Route 104 will maintain connections from the east end. Stops in the station will be adjusted, which may affect where customers catch their bus. West end morning rush hour routes will be shortened to end at Mackenzie King Station instead of Campus (University of Ottawa). New Route 104 will offer a direct connection between Orléans, Hurdman, Billings Bridge and Carleton University, seven days a week, with 24-hour service between Hurdman and Blair stations.

For more information about O-Train Confederation Line construction, visit [ontrack2018.ca](http://ontrack2018.ca). Seasonal schedule adjustments will also go into effect Sunday, December 20. New timetables are available in print and online at [octranspo.com](http://octranspo.com).

### **Police Budget to Address Speeding**

I have been the most outspoken member of City Council when it comes to addressing the chronic issue of speeding in our community. On November 12 when the draft 2016 budget was released, at the November 30 Ottawa Police Services (OPS) Budget Meeting and again at the December 9 City Council Budget Meeting, I repeatedly called upon the Police Chief to make more resources available to address traffic and speed enforcement. In 2016, the OPS will receive 25 new officers and their plan is to augment the Force by another 25 officers for the next two consecutive years. Given that the Police Chief identifies speed enforcement as one of his top three priorities, I call upon the Chief to put the resources where they are needed. The traffic enforcement units that were depleted in 2015 to address other priorities will be reinstated to full levels in 2016.

### **The Spirit of Christmas**

It isn't too late to help those less fortunate by donating to your choice of local charities. If you, yourself, need some assistance, please contact my office and we will connect you to one of the local service providers.

Christmas Carollers stroll through the ByWard Market on weekends in December. Head on down this weekend to soak up the festive air that makes December in Ottawa such a great place to be.

Don't forget! All indoor arenas offer free skating until March 2016. Contact your local arena for skating times. The (outdoor) Rink of Dreams at City Hall is also open.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a safe and Merry Christmas.