



Councillor's Report

Ridgemont Community Association - September 30, 2020

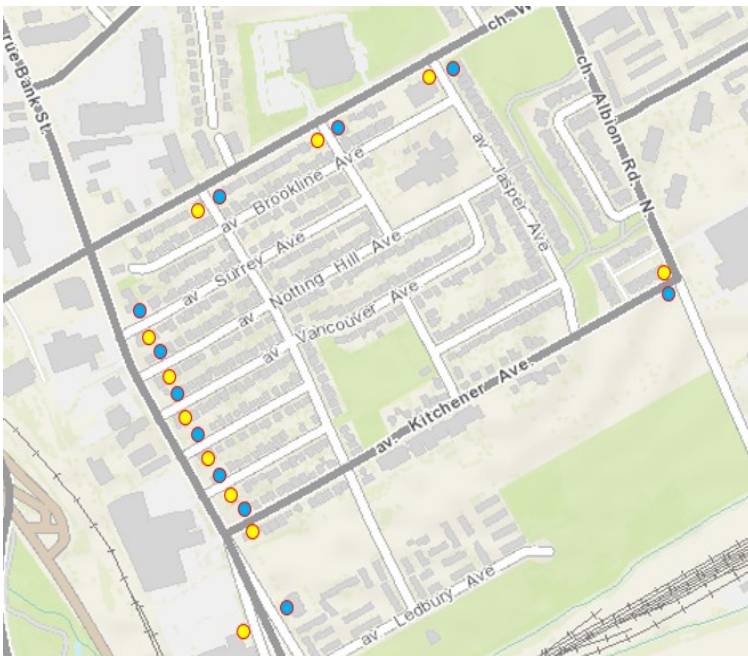
Gateway Speed Limit Signage Coming to Ridgemont

As of May 1, 2018, Ontario municipalities can use new gateway speed limit signs to designate roadways within residential areas with a reduced speed limit of 40 km/h.

Gateway speed limit signs are posted at each entry and exit point to a community where lower speeds are in effect. The Entry Gateway Speed Limit Sign identifies the beginning of a legal speed limit that applies to all roadways within an area. The Exit Gateway Speed Limit Sign marks the end of the lower speed limit. All streets that fall within the posted entry sign and exit sign are designated with the same speed limit identified on the gateway signs.

I recently discussed a proposal with the City's Transportation Services Department to implement Gateway Speed Limit signage in the Ridgemont Community.

I discussed the proposal with the Board President and Gary Howard who endorsed the program for implementation. I also agreed to circulate a flyer in the community to advise residents what is coming and to help them understand the intent of the program. The community notice will also show the locations for signage which will be at the 10 entry and exit points of the community as noted in the map below. Residents can expect to see a community notice in the coming weeks.



Demolition Permit – Petro Canada at 1847 Bank Street

On September 28, the City of Ottawa issued a demolition permit to Petro Canada for their location at 1847 Bank Street at Walkley Road.

Petro Canada will rebuild the gas bar with a new convenience store, canopy, paved parking lot and light standards.

Jim Durrell Recreation Centre

On May 2, Housing Services staff repurposed the Jim Durrell Arena as temporary shelter and physical distancing centre. The site supported up to 80 individuals with capacity fluctuating around 35-45 users at a time.

The program has ended at the Jim Durrell Recreation Centre and the arenas will be reverted back to its use as a community facility. Ice is expected to be available again for bookings in mid-October.

Renovations at 1240 Walkley Road

A building permit was issued this summer to allow alterations for the interior and exterior to convert the single family dwelling at 1240 Walkley Road to a personal service business (hair salon).

You may recall earlier this year I met with the Ridgemont Board and property owner of 1248 Walkley Road who had a plan to build a new commercial space with apartments above at the vacant property at 1248 Walkley Road, next door to this property. Despite repeated attempts seeking an update for the development of 1248 Walkley Road, I have not received any information for any attempt to develop that property at this time. I will keep the community informed as I learn more.

New Starbucks Open on Bank Street

The new Starbucks at 1910 Bank Street is now open. The multi-use pathway that is supposed to be constructed through the parking lot to connect with the crossing on Bank Street and the pathway system through to the future Walkley LRT station has been postponed for the time being as. When the future connection points are closer to being implemented the MUP on the property will be constructed as per the approved registered site plan.

Online Consultation - 2021 City Budget

I am co-hosting an online discussion with my fellow Councillors Deans, Cloutier and Menard on the 2021 City Budget. The online discussion will take place on **Thursday October 22 from 7:00pm - 8:30pm.**

Please join us for an informal discussion of the 2021 City of Ottawa Budget on your priorities. To register, please contact my office. You will receive the Zoom link by email, prior to the meeting.

Short term Rental Regulations Update

City Council was briefed on September 24 with an update on the timelines for bringing forward the framework to regulate short-term rentals in the City, further to Council's approval of the Report on Rental Accommodations Study and Regulatory Regime in November 2019.

A short-term rental by-law and a companion zoning by-law amendment with a three-year term are currently being developed through various City Departments.

While an original reporting-out date of late 2020 was planned, some delays in the development of the by-laws have occurred due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting effects on the industry and availability of the municipal accommodations tax (MAT) as the funding source for these regulations.

At this time, City staff anticipate reporting in early 2021, with the potential implementation of the new regulations in mid-2021.

The short-term rental regulations currently being developed will provide options for residents to operate short-term rentals within their principal residence, or within vacation homes in rural areas, provided they obtain a permit first and comply with certain conditions aimed at protecting public safety and reducing community nuisances. Short-term rental of investment properties will continue to be prohibited throughout the urban area of the City. The permit system will make it easier to identify illegal listings and will include measures to revoke permits for problem addresses.

Bank Street Redesign Working Group

As part of the Bank Street redesign project's next steps, working group meetings which were previously cancelled this past April, will be organized again in each Ward with representatives of several municipal organizations and community associations. The meetings will be hosted online and will allow respective community associations to discuss topics such as the road geometry, intersections, streetscaping, utility work, road safety and construction staging. The working group meetings are tentatively scheduled to take place in October. No date has been set aside at this time.

Future construction of this project is still at minimum three years away. I will keep the community updated as this infrastructure project moves forward.

Walkley Station and Walkley Maintenance Facility

Work is expected to ramp up this Fall at the Walkley LRT Station as part of the Stage 2 LRT expansion work. The main focus for the first several months will be utility and foundation works. Work is currently planned to take place during the day at this time.

Work on the maintenance facility which is located within the rail corridor south of Ledbury Avenue is ongoing. Concrete crews completed the underground concrete structures as part of the main building's foundation. Civil works for the underground utilities are advancing, including watermain networks, storm drainage, and the installation of a twin storm attenuation tank. Structural steel erection for the main building is ongoing and exterior shell work will commence in October to the end of the year. Signage is installed to ensure trucks obey haul routes within the residential community.

I recently received an update from the Stage 2 team for the ongoing works along the Trillium Line. A PowerPoint presentation that was provided as part of my briefing is available for your review at the following link <http://rileybrockington.ca/o-train-stage-2-lrt-extension-update/>

655-755 Anand Private Construction

Construction is ongoing at 655-755 Anand Private west of Bank Street between the Shoppers Drug Mart and the Walkley transit station. The approved project is for two 17 storey residential apartment buildings connected via a six-storey podium.

Over the next several months residents can expect to see the following work occur - continued site excavation to be completed in October, Enbridge Gas temporary service installation, concrete parking garage structure to ground level. Next year we will see the construction elevate beyond ground level.

Final Household Hazardous Waste Depot for 2020

The final extended Household Hazardous Waste Depot for 2020 will be held at the Barrhaven Snow Disposal Facility (Strandherd Drive and Dealership Drive from Wednesday, October 21 to Sunday, October 25 between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Pharmacies Begin Testing

The Province has announced that select pharmacies can begin providing testing for asymptomatic residents as of Friday, September 25. Here in Ottawa, 13 pharmacies were listed including the Shoppers Drug Mart stores at 1180 Walkley Road (at

Bank Street) and 1309 Carling Avenue (Westgate Mall.) These tests will be performed by appointment only.

Expanded COVID-19 Testing Hours and Locations

Members of City Council continue to demand the province the local health agencies and the Ottawa Hospital for a more extensive testing regime, more testing centres, longer hours, protection for those in line from the elements and drive-thru options for children.

With the return to school, more cases are being confirmed and the testing facilities as well as staffing levels to conduct the time-consuming contact tracing must be fully resourced.

- The Brewer Arena Assessment Centre is now open from 8:30am to 7:30pm daily at 151 Brewer Way. At this site, there is also a CHEO Assessment Centre, by appointment only, for children over 2 months old and under 18 years old (same hours of service.)
- The Moodie and Heron Road COVID Care Clinics are open from 9:00am-3:30pm, Monday to Friday.
- There is a Drive-Thru Assessment Centre on Coventry Road open from 11:30am—6:30pm daily by appointment only for those over 14 years of age.

The link to book your appointment (and further information on testing sites) is available at www.Ottawapublichealth.ca/en/shared-content/assessment-centres.aspx.

Mental Health Support

The COVID-19 pandemic is a very difficult time for many of us. It is normal to feel stressed and worried. Please know that there is help available in our community.

If you or someone you know is having a hard time coping, please reach out for help. Visit www.counsellingconnect.org to talk to a counsellor by phone or video. This is a free service for all ages and you can get help for many different problems. You can get an appointment the same day or the next day. Services are also offered specifically for First Nations, Inuit, and Metis people. You can also call The Walk-in Counselling Clinic at 613-755-2277 or go to www.walkincounselling.com. They have services in English, French, Arabic, Spanish, Somali, Cantonese and Mandarin at different locations.

City's Fall Recreation and Arts eGuides Now Online

The City's Fall Recreation and Arts eGuides are now online with registration starting on Monday, October 5 at 9 pm. This year's guide features COVID-modified programs for the young and the young-at-heart. Browse activities for all ages: preschoolers, children, youth, families, adults and adults 50+, including options for programs in French.

Explore the eGuide to select the program that interests you and follow these simple steps:

1. Go to Ottawa.ca/recreation and click on fall 2020 recreation programs.
2. Click the relevant barcode – it will take you to Join.ottawa.ca and the course page, with details about the number of spaces available, fees and dates.
3. Add the class to your cart and then proceed through the check out. We'll email you your receipt.

Visit ottawa.ca to see the COVID-safety protocols and measures that are in place – including mask requirements, frequent cleaning, reduced capacity and physical distancing.

Drop-in fitness classes and activities are now available at our recreation facilities. You can book up to two days at advance. Visit ottawa.ca for the full list of activities.

Fraud charges to Ottawa-Based Snow Removal Companies

The Ottawa Police Service (OPS) Fraud Unit conducted investigations into three Ottawa-based snow removal companies - Snow Vaporizers, Faul Properties and Altitude Snow Removal, from the winter of 2019/2020 in relation to fraud allegations made from members of the public.

The investigations revealed that the companies fraudulently obtained money for snow removal services. Funds were obtained by cash, cheque, e-transfer and credit card. According to the reports made to the OPS, little to no snow removal service was provided after payment was made. The OPS has issued charges against the companies and individuals.

There is concern that there are additional victims that have not made reports to the police. If you or somebody you know were a victim of Snow Vaporizers, Faul Properties, or Altitude Snow Removal, please file a report to the Ottawa Police Service.

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Enforcement of On-Street Parking Limits Resumes

The City has resumed enforcement of parking in excess of time limits in all areas of the city, including those that are not marked with signs. Parking limits in unsigned areas are three hours, Monday to Friday, between 7 am and 7 pm, and six hours on weekends and statutory holidays, between 7 am and 7 pm.

Transportation Master Plan—Public Engagement Opportunity

Until October 23, you have an opportunity to provide input into the Transportation Master Plan Update and Active Transportation Plan by completing an online questionnaire on active transportation, on what a fair and equitable transportation system looks like, and on the new technologies that are changing the way we move around the city.

The questionnaire will be available online at www.ottawa.ca/TMPUpdate along with an introductory video, a discussion paper on new mobility technologies, and information on what was heard in Phase 1 of public engagement about your priorities and the vision for the future of Ottawa's transportation system.

Ward Boundary Consultation Update

Following discussions with local Community Association this summer whereby we discussed the ward boundary preliminary options, some of which are very intrusive on the geographic boundaries and communities of River Ward, I immediately picked up the phone and arranged a conference call with the consultants to underline the need to keep Carlington and Hunt Club intact and the desire of Ridgemont to stay within River Ward. The consultants listened and when they developed Option 6, the ward is more or less as we know it today with my requests honoured. The noted changes are refining the southern boundary to Hunt Club Road, eliminating the residential, commercial and airport from the ward along the south side of Hunt Club and including the Westgate Shopping Centre lands, currently in Kitchissippi Ward.

Since the last major review in 2005, Ottawa's population has grown significantly – especially in suburban wards. This has resulted in substantial population imbalances between wards that affect fair and equal representation for voters and their communities.

As a result, City Council directed staff in June 2019 to retain an independent consultant to conduct a comprehensive, impartial, and unbiased review and establish ward boundaries that could be used in at least three municipal elections in 2022, 2026 and 2030, and possibly a fourth election in 2034. The consultant team of Beate Bowron Etcetera Inc., in association with The Davidson Group and Hemson Consulting Ltd., developed six options for a new ward boundary model – which are available online at ottawa.ca/wardboundary.

Here are brief highlights of the options:

- Option 1** increases the number of wards to 25, with 13 urban wards, nine suburban wards and three rural wards. More or less keeps River Ward as is.
- Option 2** increases the number of wards to 24, with 12 urban wards, nine suburban wards and three rural wards. More or less keeps River Ward as is.
- Option 3** maintains the current number of wards, 23, and includes 11 urban wards, nine suburban wards and three rural wards. Splits River Ward at Heron Road. Merges northern half in to Capital Ward, merges southern half in to Knoxdale-Merivale Ward. Ridgemont goes to Gloucester-Southgate.
- Option 4** also maintains the number of wards at 23. It also includes 11 urban wards, nine suburban wards and three rural wards. The boundaries for each ward are different than those in option three. Splits River Ward at Heron Road. Merges northern half in to Capital Ward, merges southern half in to Knoxdale-Merivale Ward. Ridgemont goes to Gloucester-Southgate.
- Option 5** reduces the number of wards to 17, with nine urban wards, six suburban wards and two rural wards. Splits River Ward in to four different wards.
- Option 6** increases the number of wards to 24, with 12 urban wards, nine suburban wards and three rural wards. It minimizes ward boundary changes. More or less keeps River Ward as is (changes noted above).

My preferred Option at this time is Option 6.

Did you receive my monthly e-newsletter?

Sign up to receive it directly to your inbox by sending me an email at Riley.Brockington@Ottawa.ca

My newsletter contains updates on city decisions, planning files, community initiatives and more.