



COUNCILLOR/CONSEILLER
RILEY BROCKINGTON

Councillor's Report



Carlington Community Association - February 16, 2021

Managing During a Pandemic

I hope you and your family have been well. It has been challenging for many each and every day to co-exist with the COVID pandemic. Many have lost their jobs, children and youth are in and out of school, today we climb out of a provincial lockdown that started on Boxing Day, and the federal vaccination strategy has been a giant disappointment.

There are some bright lights ahead. The number of COVID cases in Ottawa has steadily declined, including hospitalizations and those admitted to the ICU. With the lockdown lifted today, many businesses will re-open, employing thousands of workers across our City. Take it slow, take it easy. Follow public health guidelines to stifle the virus. We can do this Carlington, let's continue to work together.

More COVID information included on pages 3-4.

Development Updates

Alexander Community Centre—Draft Designs

The Parks and Recreation Dept at the City has worked in tandem with an independent consultant to produce a number of illustrations for the Alexander Community Centre renovation and expansion. Following the successful community survey, feedback was used to assist in the production of the three preliminary design concepts (see back page.)

Please note, these are basic concept drawings without extensive detail. Once a concept floor plan is selected, additional details will be provided as the design stage progresses. Presently, the expansion project is without funding and will require support from the provincial and federal governments to achieve this in the medium term. This project is a major priority for me, on your behalf.

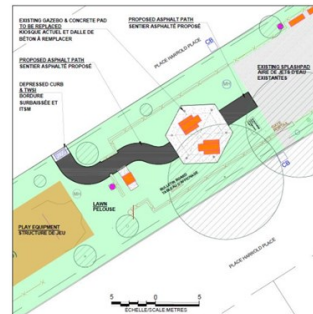
Harrold Place Park Gazebo

The gazebo in Harrold Place Park has come to the end of its



GAZEBO STYLE / TYPE DE KIOSQUE

lifecycle and is expected to be replaced this year. As part of the upgrade, two new paths will be constructed to the structure to make it more accessible. The biggest change will be that the new structure will feature metal posts compared to the old wooden posts as they are more durable. Installation is slated for Summer 2021.



Meadowvale Park Update

It has been my continued pleasure to work with Heather Douglas and her team of local residents as we identify a number of projects to tackle within Meadowvale Park. I have had discussions with Parks and Recreation, as well as Public works staff from the City, for a number of months regarding this park.

All assets in the park will be assessed this year to determine their physical condition to see whether or not they require replacement. Parks will be providing a list of the highest priority, separating what needs to be done soon and what can be delayed. The high priority assets will then be assessed for inclusion in the projected city budget for 2022.

Reasonable items are being sought such as a storage bin, installation of a message board, a pollinator/ community garden, and a mural on the fieldhouse. Forestry can add trees in about 18 months. Ottawa Public Health have confirmed that a storage bin can be installed, and this can be done in the winter. The message board has been ordered but there have been some significant delays in receiving this particular item. A stand-alone board is the requirement.

For the pollinator garden, the location previously indicated (the bump) is not a good location as this is a cap because of previously contaminated material and this keeps it neutralized. Staff will test soil conditions in the spring to find an optimal location. More details will come in terms of how many beds can be accommodated and also whether or not they should be raised. In order to fill the garden with plants some fundraising needs to take place. This will be a community partnership with Parks matching the funds raised.

Paint It Up, through Crime Prevention Ottawa would lead the mural project in Meadowvale Park. More details will be provided once Paint it Up confirms when they are up and running in 2021. The preference is the north wall (facing the wading pool), and staff have confirmed that it can sustain the mural.

Infrastructure Updates

Hydro Pole Replacement in Carlington

The project involves replacing aging hydro poles located primarily on the west side of Merivale Road (between Central Park Drive and Larose Avenue) and Mayview Avenue (between Merivale Road and Medford Street). This work is essential to maintain the reliability of the electricity distribution system in the area.

Work on this project was scheduled to commence in January 2021 and expected to continue until the end of May 2021.

Residents will notice increased construction presence throughout the duration of the project, including excavation activities and construction vehicles. Traffic control will be implemented when required to ensure that roads, sidewalks and driveways remain as accessible and safe to residents and businesses as possible.

All residents and businesses in the affected area will receive advanced notice of the project and be provided with a point of contact should they have any questions or concerns.

Planned power interruptions are expected to occur as a result of this project, and impacted customers will be contacted by Hydro Ottawa prior to the power interruption taking place, by phone, text, email and/or written notice delivered to their door.

Speed Humps Now Installed on Crerar Avenue

As part of a traffic calming initiative, speed humps were installed last year on Crerar Avenue. Almost immediately, local residents notified my office that the height of each bump seemed too high. Indeed, this was confirmed to be true as the bumps were not installed to the City's specifications. As a result, in late November, they were shaved down and are now more reasonable to drive over. Thank you to residents who noticed this anomaly and contacted me.

Carlington Hill Pumping Station

The City of Ottawa is planning to upgrade the Carlington Heights Pump Station (CHPS) starting this calendar year.

The main objective of the upgrade is to improve the reliability of water supply to roughly one third of the City's central water distribution system, and to provide additional capacity needed to accommodate future urban growth. The project is identified in the City's current Infrastructure

Master Plan.

The design is expected to be completed in Spring 2021 with construction anticipated to begin this autumn. The project is expected to take three years.

Stevenson Avenue Sewer Repairs

As part of the City's Pipe Repairs Project, they will be performing sewer repairs on Stevenson Avenue, between Carling Avenue and Crerar Avenue. The project is currently in design, with construction planned for summer 2021. This past October, residents may have noticed the geotechnical investigation being conducted on the street. This was part of the design work. Notices will be distributed to residents prior to construction in Summer 2021. Currently, staff are anticipating a one-week road closure with construction duration lasting 3 weeks. During the road closure local access will be maintained.

Public Consultations

Carlington Coffee House - Liquor Application

Residents are advised that the Carlington Coffee House has applied to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario for a liquor licence. Residents can file their comments on this application directly to the AGCO on their [website](#). Deadline for submissions is February 23, 2021.

Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Consultation

Jump in on the conversation from Jan 18 -Feb 28 for the **Community Safety & Well-Being Plan** consultations. Everyone has a role to play in the safety and well-being of our city and this is your opportunity to share your thoughts. Visit <https://engage.ottawa.ca/Community-Safety-Well-Being-Plan> to learn more.

Winter Road Maintenance—Your feedback is needed!

Everyone has an opinion about how the City of Ottawa maintains its roads in the winter, and residents have an opportunity to share that opinion with the City right now.

The City of Ottawa is reviewing its Winter Maintenance Quality Standards (WMQS). The standards determine when and where snow clearing, sanding and salting take place, how often and for how long.

Residents can visit engage.ottawa.ca/wmq and contribute to the review in three ways:

- Complete a survey, available until February 19
- Share an idea or ask a question in the discussion forum

If you need to complete the survey by phone or require other accessibility related accommodations, please call 613-282-2685 for assistance.

Have your say on the future of municipal parks and recreation facilities

What features do you want to see in parks & rec facilities? What gaps or barriers exist? Have your say at one of six virtual consultation sessions or via online surveys and help develop the City's 10-year Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan. Visit : <https://ottawa.ca/en/news/have-your-say-future-municipal-parks-and-recreation-facilities>

Addressing Systemic Racism in Ottawa

How can Ottawa's Anti-Racism Secretariat address systemic racism in Ottawa? How would you like to engage and collaborate with the City to ensure a safe and equitable city for everyone? Participate in the [online survey](#) or join one of the [virtual public engagement sessions](#). Take a stand against racism in Ottawa.

Ottawa Public Health Updates on COVID-19

The current situation around COVID-19 is constantly evolving and changes to guidance will be made based on the status of the situation in Ottawa with guidance and authority from the Government of Ontario. Please continue to visit ottawapublichealth.ca/coronavirus and OttawaPublicHealth.ca/WorkplaceCOVID19 for the most up-to-date information.

- [Business Reopening Toolkit](#)
- [Economic support and recovery](#)
- [Mental Health and COVID-19](#)
- [Ottawa Public Health](#)

Keep up with your health and seek medical care when you need it

Our hospital partners have highlighted that older adults who test positive for COVID-19 are sometimes waiting too long before going to the emergency department, which can lead to more severe illness and death. If you have COVID-19 symptoms, please get tested.

If you have been diagnosed with COVID-19:

- Monitor your symptoms carefully (try keeping a journal)
- Don't delay getting medical care if your symptoms worsen
- Remember that your condition can change rapidly
- If your symptoms progress, help is available by booking an appointment at the COVID-19 care clinics, which are out-of-hospital clinics specifically for this virus
- If you need urgent care, go to the nearest emergency department, or call 911 immediately.

If you have symptoms of COVID-19 and are concerned that

you may need more than just a swab, please consider making an appointment for a physician care visit at one of Ottawa's four care clinics. At a COVID-19 Care and Testing Centre, you can see a physician and, if medically appropriate, get the following tests:

- Chest X-ray
- EKG
- Basic blood work
- Throat culture
- COVID testing

Again, if you are in distress (e.g., significant trouble breathing, chest pain, fainting, or have a significant worsening of any chronic disease symptoms), do not go to a COVID-19 Assessment Centre or a COVID-19 Care and Testing Centre. Call 9-1-1 or go to the nearest emergency department.

For locations and hours of the COVID-19 Assessment Centres and COVID-19 Care and Testing Centres, please [visit the OPH website](#).

Health care providers have also noted that fewer people are going to their medical appointments or seeking medical help out of concern of getting COVID-19. Even during a pandemic, one thing that should not change is seeking medical care when needed. Waiting too long to get medical help can have serious consequences. Take care of yourselves and look out for one another.

Vaccination Update

OPH has launched a COVID-19 Vaccine page at OttawaPublicHealth.ca/COVID19Vaccine with information on the Ottawa context, how the vaccine works, as well as precautions and considerations for residents to be aware of.

The City's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), in collaboration with Ottawa Public Health (OPH), the Ottawa Hospital (TOH), and other health care partners are working together to vaccinate eligible residents against COVID-19, as quickly as possible, in accordance with the Provincial framework.

According to data from the OPH COVID-19 Ottawa Database, as of February 14, **40,013 doses** of the vaccine have been administered in Ottawa. All residents in the city's Long Term Care facilities have been vaccinated and the city has started vaccinating the residents of at-risk retirement homes in the city, as well as continuing the vaccinations of health care and support staff.

I know that there is a lot of anxiety and questions around when the vaccine will be made available to older adults living in their own homes and the general public. The City of Ottawa Task Force is following the sequence of vaccinations by demographic as established by the

Province of Ontario and the Canadian Government.

OPH has developed both a [COVID-19 Vaccine webpage](#) as well as a [Frequently Asked Questions webpage](#) to help provide residents with information on vaccine roll-out, availability, and distribution.

Mental Health

It's so important to check in with ourselves and our loved ones to see how things are going and to make sure we are using good coping skills to support our mental health.

For some, this can mean getting back to good habits like getting enough sleep, being more active and eating well, or developing new habits such as mindfulness to add to your coping tool kit. For others, this can mean checking in with some of the many local [supports and professionals](#) to talk about our mental health and ways to manage through these challenges.

I would like to remind everyone that there are resources available to help.

- The [Walk-in Counselling Clinic](#) at (613) 755-2277 offers free in person sessions as well as video or phone counselling sessions in English, French, Arabic, Somali, Spanish, Mandarin, and Cantonese at a variety of locations.
- The [Counselling Connect](#) service in Ottawa offers free access to a same-day or next-day phone or video counselling session.
- If you need immediate help, call the [Distress Centre Ottawa and Region](#) 24/7 at (613) 238-3311 in English or [Tel-Aide Outaouais](#) at (613) 741-6433 in French.

Pandemic Parenting

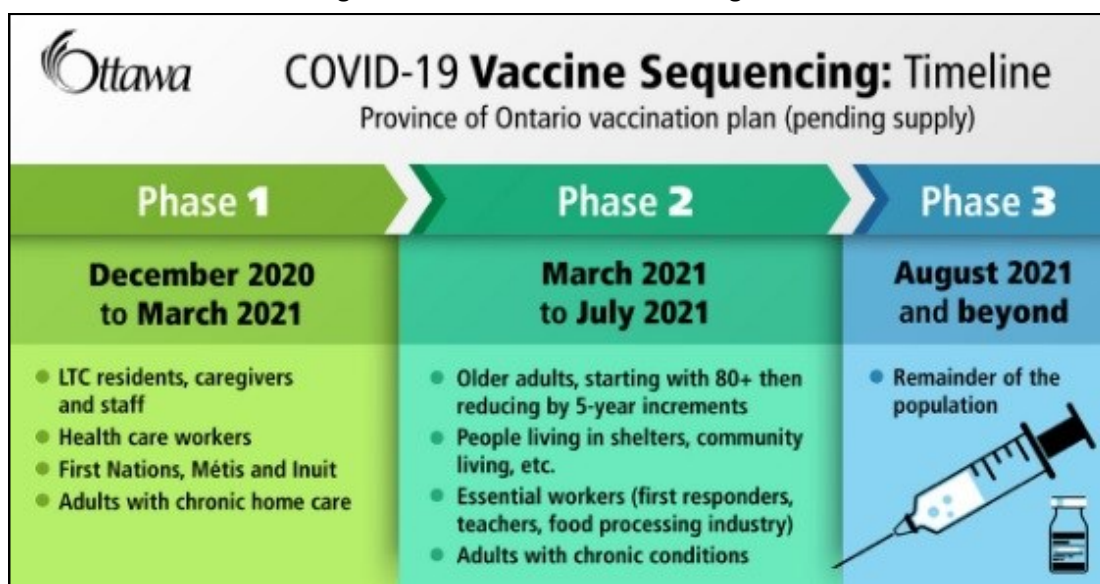
Given the ongoing Provincial restrictions and repeating school closures, life is challenging for parents and guardians who have children learning from home as they try to balance that with work obligations, projects, deadlines, meetings and so on. Parents and guardians are encouraged to speak to their employer to ensure they are aware of their situation and to discuss their options. Employers are asked to be considerate of employee's family situations during this challenging time.

In order to be able to take care of others, parents need to take care of themselves. OPH would like to remind parents that their mental health and well-being are as important as ever and that it's okay to not be okay.

I know parents and guardians are doing their best right now to keep children safe, healthy and entertained. As we try to reduce the currently high levels of COVID-19 in our community, OPH is asking parents to keep the following in mind:

- At this time, playdates and recreational activities with other households are not recommended. We all need to take steps to reduce transmission of the virus in our community, including limiting close contacts with those from outside our immediate households.
- Parents and guardians should be limiting their children's contact with other children except for childcare needs. Licensed centre and home-based childcare remains open with enhanced health and safety measures and emergency child care is available. If required, families would be permitted to have an exclusive contact with another household for the sole purpose of providing support.
- Daily screening of children for COVID-19 symptoms continues to be important, even if children are not attending school in person. If ANYONE in the home has symptoms of COVID-19, everyone must stay home while waiting for COVID-19 test results. Parents can screen their children for symptoms by accessing [OPH's daily screening tool](#).

Ottawa Public Health knows parents/guardians are doing their best right now to balance work and home obligations, their children's virtual learning and their own personal care and well-being. The stress caused by this situation is significant and OPH asks the community to be compassionate, accommodating, and supportive of parents, guardians and one another during this difficult time.



Around the Community

Be a Snow Mole!

The Council on Aging of Ottawa is looking for volunteers to be Snow Moles in their communities. A Snow Mole is a volunteer who reports on what it is like to walk outside on a winter day in Ottawa. They are looking for all types of walkers, including seniors, children, and residents using mobility aids, to participate in this project. The results from the winter's reporting will be submitted to the City of Ottawa as part of the Winter Maintenance Quality Standards Review. You can learn more about this program at <https://coaottawa.ca/snowmoles/>.

Scam alert

Home inspections are not required to qualify for the COVID19 Energy Assistance Program, nor does the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) conduct home inspections or call customers directly to promote the program. Learn more about a recent scam at <http://oeb.ca/newsroom/2021/consumer-alert-no-home-inspection-required-covid-19-energy-assistance-programs>

Summer Jobs for Students

Join the City's team and help support essential services! Application deadline for most positions is February 26. For more info go to [Ottawa.ca/Jobs](https://ottawa.ca/jobs)

Coming Events

Carlington West Virtual Open House - Thursday, February 18

Carlington West residents are invited to a virtual open house to receive updates on many local issues

and provide you with an opportunity to ask questions. You can RSVP for the meeting link by going to <https://tinyurl.com/CarlingtonWest> or by calling 613-580-2486. A call-in option will be available for the meeting (long-distance charges may apply.) A mailed invitation was sent to you with the topics to be covered. I look forward to seeing you then!

Women's Day Speaker Series — March 10,

Mark your calendars for the annual River Ward Women's Day Speaker Series on Wednesday, March 10 at 6:30pm. Watch for the March e-newsletter for a list of my special guest speakers and the registration link. If you don't want to forget, send me a note today at Riley.Brockington@Ottawa.ca to be put on the RSVP list.

Earth Day Electronic Waste Depot - April 24

Please hold the date for an electronic waste collection depot at the Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre parking lot (3320 Paul Anka Dr.) The event will be held with Junk That Funk from 10am-4pm following public health guidelines.

Raven Park Summer Event

I am working with the Ottawa Market to see if it is possible to host a farmer's market at Raven Park this summer in conjunction with a community event. Plans are still very preliminary and dependant on COVID restriction. I am open to suggestions and welcome your feedback as we plan for a community event this summer.

River Ward Office is still open!

During the last 11 months, my office has continued to work and I have been in the office each and every day to assist residents with their concerns. Please reach out if you need my assistance. You can call 613-580-2486 or email me at Riley.Brockington@Ottawa.ca.



SAVE THE DATE!

City Councillor Riley Brockington invites you to be his guest at his annual

Women's Day Speaker Series *Wednesday, March 10, 2021*

6:30pm to 8:30pm
Online on **Zoom**

**Join Councillor Brockington for an informative evening
with special guests speakers from home and abroad!**

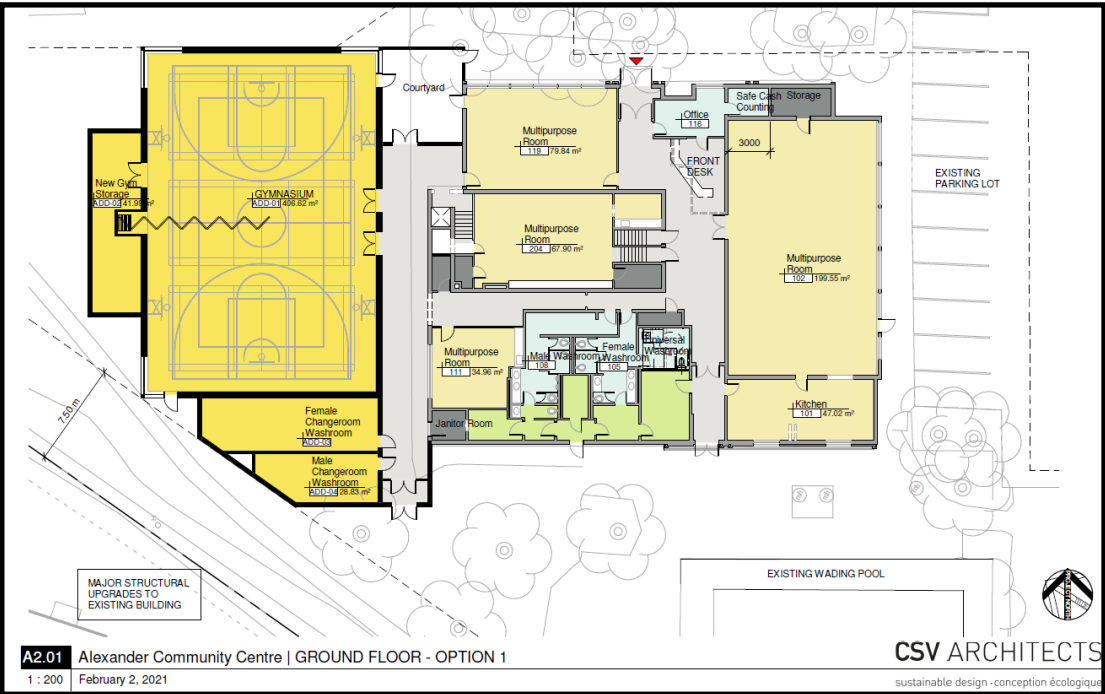
Email Andrea.Ward@Ottawa.ca to get on the RSVP list today.



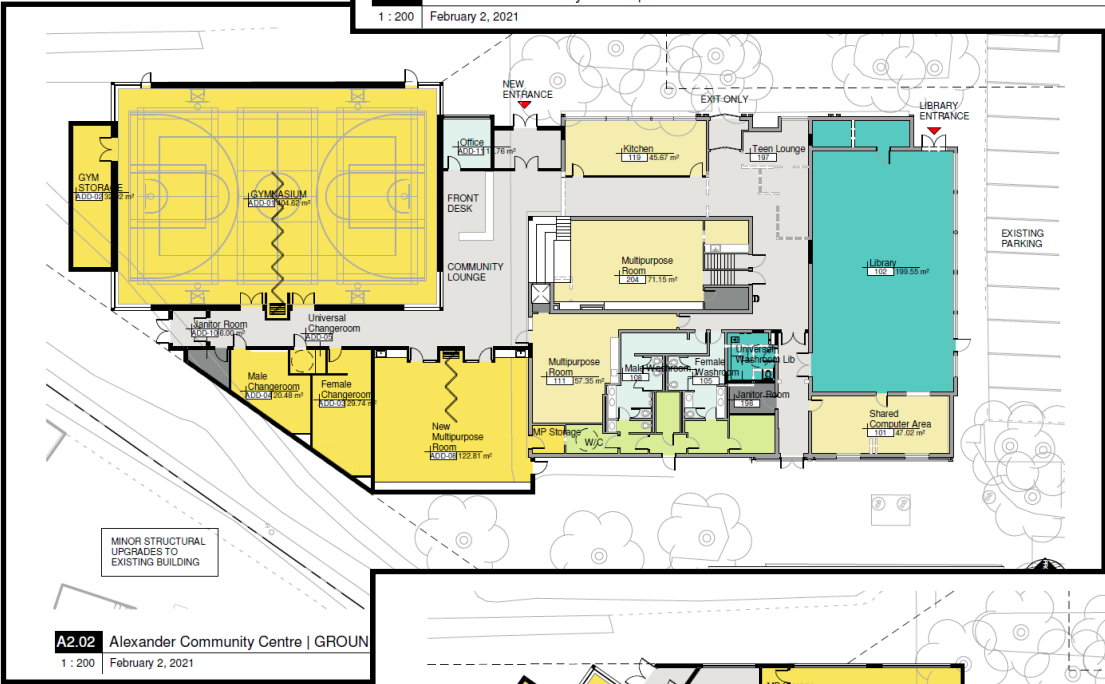
Alexander
Community Centre

Design options

Option 1



Option 2



Option 3

