



Councillor's Report

Riverside Park Community Association February 3, 2021

Development Issues

There is no news within the last 30 days to share with you at this time, with the development projects in the community, mainly Brookfield Road, Canoe Bay, Norberry Residences and the Riverside Mall.

Since the last RPCA meeting, I have been in discussions with the contractor for the Mooney's Bay Childcare Centre (Springland) to agree on a new route for construction vehicles, lessening their time on local residential streets, and replacing one of the on-site construction vehicles which was causing noise and vibration issues for nearby residents.

Mooney's Bay Toboggan Hill

On January 22, the City of Ottawa closed Mooney's Bay Hill for tobogganing. While the decision was made based on the high numbers of attendees during the current lockdown restrictions, it also brought to light the need to find a way to make this hill a sanctioned tobogganing hill once again for the public to enjoy.

Following a safety assessment in 2017, the City posted signage at the top of the hill advising the public that the Hill is not sanctioned for tobogganing. As the City of Ottawa provided me with no notice about the closure, I formally provided a Notice of a Motion at the January 27 Council meeting, for debate/approval at the February 10 Council meeting. My motion directs Parks and Recreation staff to identify the safety issues, develop a plan to mitigate them and open the Hill for public use.

In a meeting with Dr Etches yesterday, she clarified for me that Mooney's Bay Hill is not capped at 25 people. The cap applies to people who congregate together at the top of the Hill, so when it reopens, I expect more than 25 people will be able to attend.

Coyote Awareness - Aidan Brown

Thanks to Linton Road resident, Aidan Brown (age 13) for his public advocacy and engagement with the local coyote

population and bringing greater awareness of their existence in our local environment.

Aidan was profiled on CBC Ottawa and I awarded him a certificate of appreciation for his initiative. Thank-you to the RPCA for your involvement as well.

Hydro One Transmission Line Upgrade Project

My office has been notified by Hydro One of an application to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) for permission to reconductor approximately 11.9km of a high-transmission line which includes the corridor that runs east to west across River Ward just north of McCarthy Woods and south of Southmore Drive.

They have advised that the work includes changing the line configuration of the circuits from a single circuit to a double circuit. They do not expect to build any new transmission structures and most of the work would be carried out within the existing transmission corridor. Where possible, access to the transmission structures will be gained using existing roads, transmission corridors, and trails. Temporary by-pass poles will be installed at two electricity junctions just outside the ward. Once the project is completed there will be little noticeable difference in this transmission line.

I will continue to share information on this project as it is received. At this time, there are no dates for the work to be completed as Hydro One is just at the application stage with the OEB.

After some communication with Hydro One on some possible local questions, I can provide the following FAQ responses:

Will there be large equipment working in the corridor?

Local residents may notice the use of bulldozers, bucket trucks, and cranes during construction. We do not anticipate the use of a helicopter for this project.

Will it be noisy?

Residents can expect typical construction noise during the our working hours Monday to Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Depending on the outage schedule, some weekend work may be required. Our crews and contractors will follow the provincial construction guidelines and noise by-laws.

Will you work overnight with large lights?

We do not anticipate overnight work and the use of lighting.

Will any trees or brush be removed as part of this work/ gaining access?

Select low growing brush may require trimming or removal to gain access to the transmission right-of-way. As we are in the early planning phase the access points have not yet been identified. We will be sure to contact your office should vegetation removal be required for this work.

Will my power go off at any time?

We do not expect any temporary power outages as a result of this project.

Why is this required?

This project is considered to be a transmission line refurbishment between Merivale Transformer Station (TS) and Hawthorne TS, approximately 12km, to ensure continued safe and reliable supply of power to the Ottawa area. The M30A and M31A circuits currently carry a 230 kilovolt single conductor and as a part of this project these circuits will be reconducted with a dual-bundle (two conductors per phase).

How will construction crews/equipment gain access to the project area?

Where possible our construction crews will use the closest street crossings to gain access to the transmission right-of-way. Some of these access points may be in residential areas and will require signage and public notification. As noted earlier, we are still in the early construction planning phase and access points have not yet to be finalized. In the event access to the transmission right-of-way is needed through a private property, a Hydro One Real Estate coordinator will work directly with the property owner.

When is construction anticipated to begin and end?

Although we initially anticipated to begin construction in 2021, the new start date for construction is moved to early 2022. We will be happy to contact you once again and offer an update prior to the start of construction. We anticipate completing this work by the end of 2023.

Who can residents contact if they have project related questions?

If residents have questions about the project or would like additional information, they are welcomed to contact Hydro One Community Relations at 1-877-345-6799 or Community.Relations@HydroOne.com.

Is it safe to live near transmission stations and lines?

Electric and magnetic fields (EMFs) are invisible forces that surround all electrical appliances and equipment, power cords and wiring, and outdoor power lines and equipment operated by utility companies. These fields are at extremely low frequency. The field strength is strongest close to its source and fades rapidly as you move away from the source.

Health Canada does not consider that any precautionary measures are needed regarding daily exposures to EMFs at extremely low frequencies. There is no conclusive evidence of any harm caused by exposures at levels found in Canadian homes and schools, including those located just outside the boundaries of power line corridors.

How are electric and magnetic fields along the transmission corridor expected to change?

The modifications will be done according to the Canadian Electrical Code that meets the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) requirements accounting for public safety. The second circuit will be installed on the existing transmission structures and based on our EMF calculations we project that the electric and magnetic fields along the transmission corridor would not substantially change.

At a meeting with Hydro One today, I was reassured that there will not be a net increase of EMFs that could impact people's health as a result of this project. Currently the line emits a reading of 16 milligauss and the reconducting could see the reading increase to 18 milligauss (mG). This is a measurement of magnetic induction/of the density of a magnetic field, which Hydro One reports is negligible.

Internationally, voluntary exposure guidelines recommend a residential magnetic field exposure limit of 2,000 mG and an occupational exposure limit of 10,000 mG. The World Health Organization endorses these guidelines set out by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection, and both organizations regularly review them.

www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/health-risks-safety/radiation/everyday-things-emit-radiation/power-lines-electrical-appliances.html

www.HydroOne.com/EMF

Hydro One Corridor Maintenance

Over the coming weeks, you may see Hydro One crews in the north-south hydro corridor that crosses through both the Riverside Park and Hunt Club communities from just south of Quesnel Drive and Riverside Drive and goes

across Uplands Drive, Paul Anka Drive, Bennet Street, and Lillico Drive. They are doing annual maintenance to control fast-growing trees and shrubs in order to maintain clear access to the hydro corridor. There are a number of trees directly under the power lines that will be trimmed, but some may have to be removed. They have committed to keeping removals to a minimum. If you have any questions, please contact my office.

Walkley Road O-Train Bridge Rehabilitation

The City of Ottawa will be undertaking the rehabilitation of the Walkley Road O-Train Bridge starting in 2021. The structure is safe for public use, however, rehabilitation is required to restore the structure and extend its useful service life.

The preliminary design for the rehabilitation of the bridge has been completed and you are invited to review and comment on the plans. You can find this information on the new web page at [Walkley Road Overpass O-Train Bridge Rehabilitation | City of Ottawa](#)

The bridge rehabilitation will include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:

1. Repairs to the underside of the bridge and its supporting structure;
2. Concrete removal and repairs to deck, sidewalks, and median;
3. Widening of the existing south sidewalk on the approaches and over the structure;
4. Installation of new crash-tested barriers;
5. Waterproof and pave the deck wearing surface; and
6. Removal and reinstatement of approach guide rails.

Construction is expected to start in Summer 2021.

Walkley Road at Airport Parkway (northbound offramp)

A local resident contacted me raising valid safety issues with vehicles turning right (eastbound) on to Walkley Road on a red light, due to the lack of sightlines and the number of pedestrians. I requested City staff assess the intersection.

The assessment validated the concerns and the request for a 'No Right Turn on Red' restriction will be implemented. This will go in to effect on February 22.

CITY UPDATES & CONSULTATIONS

Engage Ottawa is Ottawa's one-stop for all community consultations in the city. Bookmark the page at [Engage.Ottawa.ca](#) and visit often to see what is being discussed. Here are a few current consultations that are underway:

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.

Sidewalk Standards Review

The City of Ottawa is reviewing the two adopted sidewalk standards (ramp vs traditional) and is seeking feedback from residents on their experiences when navigating the sidewalks. A Zoom meeting will be held on February 9. Email StandardsSection@Ottawa.ca to join. The outcome of this review will be considered for the City of Ottawa's design and construction specification documents. Visit <https://ottawa.ca/en/city-hall/public-engagement/projects/sidewalk-standards> for illustrations of the two designs and the registration information for the meeting on February 9.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Consultation

What type of park/recreation facilities do you and your family use or are interested in seeing added?

The City is looking for your feedback on the first Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan. The plan will provide a framework to help the City determine what municipal parks and recreation facilities we will need in the next ten years to serve the needs of residents. This master plan will be part of the City's New Official Plan, which will be adopted in October. Learn more and participate at [Engage.Ottawa.ca](#).

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 COVID-19 UPDATES

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 our 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



COVID-19 Vaccine Sequencing: Timeline

Province of Ontario vaccination plan (pending supply)



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](https://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.

Since the week of December 14, 2020, TOH has received a fairly small supply of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. To date, Ottawa has not received any of the Moderna vaccine. According to data from the Ottawa Hospital, 25,350 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine have been received and 23,883 doses have been administered to date.

By January 15, all workers, residents, and essential caregivers at the city's 28 long-term care homes had received their first dose of the vaccine. A great accomplishment.

I know that there is a lot of anxiety and questions around when the vaccine will be made available to seniors 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. I have posted the answers to some of the frequently asked questions on my website at RileyBrockington.ca.

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.

Youth Mental Health and Addictions Virtual Town Hall

On **Thursday, February 11** at 7:00pm, CHEO and the Kids Come First Health Team are hosting a virtual event for parents of youth to discuss youth mental health and addictions. Parents can sign up and submit questions in advance to the panel of experts.

The panel of speakers includes:

- Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO)
- Ottawa Public Health
- Parent's Lifeline of Eastern Ontario (PLEO)
- Rideauwood Addictions and Family Services
- Le Cap
- Valoris
- CHEO's Youth Partner

Host: CHEO and the Kids Come First Health Team

Date/Time: Feb 11, 2021 7:00 PM

Be a Hydrant Hero this winter!
Keep your local hydrant clear of snow.

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Appel à tous les héros des bornes-fontaines!

Assure-toi, cet hiver, de bien déneiger la borne-fontaine près de ta demeure.

1.5 m 1.5 m

Send a photo of your cleared hydrant to hydrants@ottawa.ca and receive your Hydrant Hero certificate.

Students: You can also request confirmation of your community involvement hours.

Safety first! Please ensure proper adult supervision at all times.

N'oubliez surtout pas de nous envoyer une photo de ta borne-fontaine déneigée à l'adresse bornes-fontaines@ottawa.ca afin de recevoir ton certificat « héros des bornes-fontaines ».

Étudiants : Tu peux aussi demander une copie des heures de service communautaire que tu as cumulées.

La sécurité d'abord! Veillez à ce que le participant soit surveillé adéquatement et en tout temps.

OTTAWA FIRE SERVICES
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TTY/ATS 613-580-2401

2019-19_06

Register to attend: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hWovGTLgTWyhlHhiz11_SQ?x_zm_rtaid=af7ATUyHT8WxwVylec40Q.16122782241.99.09f0f441aff37fd9ccee85516d926be3&x_zm_rhtaid=201

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.

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/>.

Summer job applications are now open for students looking to support essential Ottawa services!

Yes, looking for summer employment is a winter activity, so don't delay. The deadline to apply for most jobs is February 26. For details and to apply: <https://ottawa.ca/en/news/city-ottawa-summer-student-recruitment-now-open-0>

Coming Events

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 7pm. 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.

River Ward Office is still open!

During the last 10 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.

Do 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

