



COUNCILLOR/CONSEILLER
RILEY BROCKINGTON



Councillor's Report

Riverside Park Community Association

March 3, 2021

RIVER WARD PARKS

Mooney's Bay Hill

I am pleased to report that City Council unanimously approved my motion on Feb. 11 directing Parks and Recreation staff to assess the safety issues associated with tobogganing at Mooney's Bay Hill and identify options to assist in mitigating risks in order to allow tobogganing on site. The hill was closed to sledding on Jan. 21 due to excessive crowds. The hill poses a number of safety issues in the winter that were identified through a safety audit in 2017. It was then removed from the City's list of sanctioned toboggan hills. I will report back once staff complete their review of the hill.

Mooney's Bay Park

I am working with Safer Roads Ottawa and Parks and Recreation staff on improved pathway safety at Mooney's Bay Park. As you know, the park is a popular destination year-round for people from across Ottawa. This summer will again be no exception, particularly with work scheduled to continue at Britannia Beach and Westboro Beach. I am currently focusing my efforts on implementing painted pathway messaging, wayfinding signage and bicycle parking, which will improve safety but also enhance the experience for all park-goers no matter their mode of transportation. Another meeting with Safer Roads and Parks staff is in the works.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Mooney's Bay Childcare Centre

On February 16 I met with the Project Manager of Thomas Fuller Construction and the Executive Director of Andrew Fleck Children's Services regarding construction of the Mooney's Bay Childcare Centre. The backfilling at the site was scheduled to wrap up at the end of February. The cold weather has been a challenge for crews as they worked to pour concrete. You can expect to see a boom truck on site to lift panels. If you have any concerns with truck traffic, please reach out to my office. The good news

is that the new childcare centre is still on track for a mid-August completion.

Norberry Residences

On February 19 I met with Norberry's planner and apartment administrator as well as the construction manager and vice-president of development at Great Wise Developments about their plans to construct three low-rise apartment buildings. The site plan for the project was approved in December and is now in the process of being formally registered. A virtual public information session is tentatively scheduled for late April. This will give the community some time to digest the construction plans and provide input to me before the work begins. I will work closely with the Norberry Residences to ensure current users of the covered parking garage will be accommodated during the transition period, which will include the garage teardown and rebuild.

LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Hydro One Transmission Project

Residents along the southern border of Riverside Park South who live near the Hydro One corridor should have received a flyer at their home recently outlining the proposed Hydro One transmission line upgrade. Hydro One's transmission line upgrade is planned to begin in early 2022. They anticipate securing approval of the project from the Ontario Energy Board in the second quarter of 2021. I want to host a community meeting, either virtually or in person depending on public health guidelines, at the end of 2021 before construction begins. I will keep you informed about that engagement session. If you would like a copy of the FAQ flyer, please contact my office.

Hydro One Vegetation Maintenance

Hydro One has completed the vegetation maintenance work it needed to do in 2021 along the hydro corridor from Riverside Drive towards Hunt Club Road in both the Riverside Park and Hunt Club communities from just south of Quesnel Drive and Riverside Drive, and across Uplands Drive, Paul Anka Drive, Bennet Street, and Lilloo Drive. The work

involved removing or trimming trees and other vegetation in the corridor that were identified as posing a risk to the electrical infrastructure now and in the future.

STAGE 2 LRT (TRILLIUM LINE)

At last night's FEDCO meeting, Councillors received their first briefing since September 2020 on the Trillium Line progress. Significant work along the Line has occurred, with much still to do. Senior staff from Stage 2 LRT believe there are 'scheduling pressures' on the Line, particularly the Brookfield Junction (Ellwood Diamond), the Hunt Club Rail-over-Road bridge and at the South Keys Station. While staff won't say this project is behind its September 2022 targeted delivery date, the CBC today estimates the project is 4 months late.

Riverside Drive Trillium Line Overpass Rehabilitation

Three bridges in Riverside Park that span the Trillium Line – at Riverside Drive, Heron Road and Walkley Road – are all being worked on this year. The focus will first be on the Riverside Drive light-rail overpass where work is set to begin this month. The plan is for construction to start in early April and continue until mid-July, and for the second stage to happen from mid-July to late December. Substantial completion is anticipated in late November 2021. Construction will be done overnight so as to avoid LRT conflicts, but this is not expected to impact the surrounding community given the location of the overpass. There will be some lane closures on Riverside Drive during both stages and there will be periods in which the complete closure of the bridge is needed overnight, requiring some traffic detours.

Heron Road Trillium Line Bridge Rehabilitation

Repair work is slated to occur this year on the Heron Road Trillium Line Bridge. The consultant firm, Parsons, has been hired to provide a preliminary design for the overpass, 0.1 kms west of Bronson Avenue. The scope of the Heron Road Trillium Line overpass rehabilitation will be confirmed through the design process, but will include repairs to the soffit, abutment walls, wingwalls, retaining walls, applying sealer, concrete removals, concrete reconstruction and a new steel railing. I am currently working with staff to mitigate impacts to the temporary relocation of the OC Transpo bus stop on Heron. This rehabilitation is anticipated to be completed during the planned shutdown of the O-Train for the construction of Stage 2 LRT in 2021.

Rideau River Multi-Use Pathway Detour

A new pedestrian and cycling bridge will be constructed over the Rideau River connecting Carleton University and Vincent Massey Park next to the existing Trillium Line bridge over the river which will be upgraded. Before the work on that pedestrian/cycling bridge begins, I met last week with LRT Stage 2 senior staff and Councillor Shawn Menard regarding

the planned MUP detour along the Rideau River. We reviewed other options that will provide greater safety and are reconvening this week to continue the discussion. I have heard the concerns from the pathway users and am working with staff on finding a solution.

Mooney's Bay LRT Station

Civil and utility work for electrical services is complete at this site. Crews have started work to upgrade the station and the platform extension will soon begin. Some localized noise and traffic impacts can be expected with increased truck traffic. The platform extension is on track to be complete this summer. Once the entire line opens, there will be bicycle parking and new bus connections in the vicinity of this station. The pathway between the Brookfield roundabout and the multi-use pathway south of this station will be widened, properly lit and will feature accessible standards.

Walkley LRT Station

Excavation for the foundation of the future Walkley Station is underway. Site-access roads, the laydown area for equipment and a temporary secure storage area for work equipment have been constructed. The placement of concrete, formwork and rebar is expected to be begin soon. A detour remains in effect for a section of the multiuse pathway until this fall. The timeline for completion is not yet known because the project is just getting underway now and due to the foundation work being done in the middle of winter. This new station will feature stairs, 2 elevators, bus connections and 20 extra bicycle parking spots. The existing path from Walkley Road to the parking lot south of the station will be rebuilt and widened. With the foundation and structural work, some increased truck movements and noise can be expected.

CITY UPDATES & CONSULTATIONS

Bylaw Enforcement

I recently met with the head of Ottawa's Bylaw and Regulatory Services to discuss enforcement in school zones. There have been significant traffic issues in school zones across the city with more parents and guardians driving their children to and from school. The department's parking operations unit is facing record demand, especially when coupled with their previous redeployment for COVID enforcement. As well, they are fielding higher call volumes related to school zones where there has been an upswing in traffic. Still, school zones are a focus area for bylaw officers. The director assures me that tickets are being issued as there is zero tolerance for school zone infractions.

Interim Tax Bill

The interim property tax bills will be mailed out to residents between February 22 and February 26, with taxes due on March 18, 2021. The interim tax bill is the first tax installment for the year and represents 50% of the previous year's taxes. Residents and businesses financially affected by the pandemic can find support available to them from the provincial and federal governments on [Ottawa.ca/taxes](https://ottawa.ca/taxes).

Engage Ottawa Consultations

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

Survey on Residential Vacant Unit Tax

The City also recently launched a Residential Vacant Unit Tax survey. In December Council approved a motion directing City staff to study the power to impose an optional property tax on the assessment of vacant residential units, which are homes that have been unoccupied for 6 months. According to 2016 census data, there were more than 20K of these in Ottawa. Compounding this is the demand for rental housing and that vacant homes can become a community eyesore, impacting property values. Homeowners who want their properties to remain vacant would be subject to the tax. Any revenues from such a tax would be used to finance a portion of affordable housing in the city. The survey is at engage.ottawa.ca, and the deadline is March 31. Resident inquiries about the Vacant Unit Tax can be emailed to VUT_ILV@ottawa.ca.

Anti-Racism and Ethnocultural Relations Survey

The City of Ottawa continues to solicit feedback from residents in order to inform its Anti-Racism and Ethnocultural Relations survey. A number of virtual public engagement sessions were held throughout the month of February for stakeholder groups made up of communities most targeted by hate crimes in Ottawa. Next steps now include scheduling additional engagement sessions to ensure all residents can be heard. More information can be found at engage.ottawa.ca.

OTTAWA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Ottawa Public Library Branches are Now Open

On February 22, the Ottawa Public Library welcomed customers back inside branches across the City. The Bookmobile has also resumed offering a small collection for browsing at all its stops, as well as contactless returns and holds pickup. I recently received confirmation that the

Hunt Club-Riverside Park Community Centre will not be reopening to the public in the short term, which means the library kiosk service will not yet reopen. Library kiosk customers are encouraged to redirect their holds to other branches or the recently resumed Bookmobile stops. The Bookmobile offers holds pickup and return services and is equipped with WiFi. And depending on which vehicle arrives at each stop, there can be 3,500 to 5,000 items of newer material in every format available for your browsing pleasure.

The Bookmobile weekly stop closest to you is:

- the Ridgewood Mall at 747 Ridgewood Ave.
Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

To confirm the hours of your nearest branch, visit <https://bibliottawalibrary.ca/en>

OTTAWA PUBLIC HEALTH COVID-19 UPDATES

Bookings available now for eligible residents to receive the COVID-19 vaccine

Bookings are now available for COVID-19 vaccinations for some Ottawa residents.

Residents who were born in or before 1941, or who are adult recipients of chronic home care, and who live in the following communities are eligible to receive their vaccine starting Friday, March 5:

- Emerald Woods
- Heatherington
- Ledbury
- Heron Gate
- Ridgemont
- Riverview
- Sawmill Creek

To confirm that you are eligible for vaccination, please visit Ottawa Public Health's [COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Screening Tool](#).

If you are eligible, please call 613-691-5505 to book your appointment. Service providers can take your call between 7:30 am and 6 pm, Monday to Friday, and 8:30 am to 4 pm Saturday and Sunday. Service is available in multiple languages.

Walk-ins will not be accepted, so please call in advance to book your appointment.

We are asking residents who are not eligible for this week's vaccine pop-up clinics not to call this booking phone line, as it is only for eligible residents. Please help us keep phone lines open for those who are eligible to receive a vaccine.

Pop-up clinics will be operating in these locations. Dates and times will be confirmed when you make your appointment.

- Albion Heatherington Community Centre, 1560 Heatherington Road
- Sawmill Creek Pool and Community Centre, 3380 D'Aoust Avenue
- Assunnah Muslims Association Community Centre, 1216 Hunt Club Road

Accommodations will be made for residents who need help with accessibility and all sites are accessible. If you are a Para Transpo user, you can book your ride to the pop-up clinic like you would normally do. If a transportation option is not available to you, you can request a ride to and from the clinic when you book your vaccine appointment.

If you were born in or before 1941 or are an adult recipient of chronic home care and do not live in these neighbourhoods, you are not eligible for a vaccine at these pop-up clinics. This is due to the limited supply of vaccines. Additional pop-up clinics in more neighbourhoods will be announced next week.

Community clinics are also expected to open later in March for all other Ottawa residents who were born in or before 1941, or who are recipients of chronic home care, pending vaccine delivery. Booking for these appointments will begin in mid-March. More information will be available in the coming weeks on how to book these appointments. Please do not call the booking phone line regarding these appointments at this time.

Background

Due to the current limited supply of vaccine, those who are at the highest risk are being vaccinated first. Rates of COVID-19 in the neighbourhoods where residents are at highest risk of the virus are on average five times higher than in the rest of Ottawa. In some cases, they are 16 times higher. Risks for hospitalization and death are also higher. Limiting hospitalizations will help the whole community and protect our health care system.

More Neighbourhoods to be Added

Pending vaccine availability, vaccinations will be rolled out in the coming weeks to more neighbourhoods where residents are at the greatest risk of COVID-19. At its meeting of Wednesday, February 24, Council requested the list of high priority neighbourhoods that would be offered COVID-19 vaccines through pop-up clinics. Further to this request, and based on the evidence-based approach and rationale provided by Dr. Etches, the neighbourhoods are listed below

alphabetically:

- Bayshore – Belltown
- Britannia Village
- Carleton Heights - Rideauview
- Carlington
- Carson Grove - Carson Meadows
- Emerald Woods - Sawmill Creek
- Greenboro East
- Hawthorne Meadows - Sheffield Glen
- Hunt Club East - Western Community
- Hunt Club Park
- Ledbury – Heron Gate - Ridgemont
- Lowertown
- Manor Park
- Overbrook - McArthur
- Parkwood Hills - Stewart Farm
- Riverview
- Sandy Hill
- Vanier North
- Vanier South
- West Centretown
- Whitehaven - Queensway Terrace North

Residents of all ages who are not yet eligible for the vaccine are encouraged to follow announcements on the City of Ottawa and OPH websites and social media channels, and from your local news media to learn when they can receive their vaccine.

The Ontario government has identified adults aged 80 and older and adult recipients of chronic home care as priority groups to receive COVID-19 vaccinations during Phase 1 of the vaccine distribution plan. Please refer to [Ontario.ca](https://www.ontario.ca) for details on other priority groups within Phase 1 of the plan. Caregivers, partners or roommates who were born after 1941 are not eligible at this time.

Visit ottawa.ca for more information on the [City's vaccination distribution plan](#).

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.

River Ward Coming Events

Women's Day Speaker Series - March 10

Don't forget to sign up for the River Ward Women's Day Speaker Series on March 10. Guest speakers include the Australian High Commissioner to Canada, Her Excellency Natasha Smith, Suzanne Obiorah, the City's new Director of Gender and Race Equity, and

Kathleen Wynne, the former Premier of Ontario and current MPP for Don Valley West. [Register ONLINE](#) or by calling 613-580-2486.

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.

Community Events

Income Tax Clinics

South-East Ottawa Community Health Centre will again be offering Free Tax Clinics to residents of low income with simple tax situations in their catchment area. To book an appointment please call 613-737-7195 ext. 6009. <http://www.seochc.on.ca/>

Ottawa ACORN Tenants Rights Info Session

Ottawa ACORN is hosting bi-weekly tenants' rights information sessions to inform tenants about their rights during COVID-19. They will cover details around rights/



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

Women's Day Speaker Series

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

6:30pm On **Zoom**



Guest Speakers:



Suzanne Obiorah

Director of Gender and Race Equality, Inclusion, Indigenous Relations, and Social Development Services
City of Ottawa



**Her Excellency
Natasha Smith**

High Commissioner to Canada
Australian High Commission



Kathleen Wynne

Ontario Provincial Parliament, Don Valley West
Former Premier of Ontario



City Councillor Theresa Kavanagh, the Council Liaison for Women and Gender Equity, will co-host the event with Councillor Riley Brockington.

All are welcome! Please join us on Wednesday, March 10
RSVP at tinyurl.com/RiverWardWomensDay or by calling 613-580-2486

**Riley
BROCKINGTON**
City Councillor | Conseiller Municipal
River Ward | Quartier Rivière



protections related to rent, evictions, maintenance/repairs, and Bill 184. There will be time for questions and discussion after each section.

Upcoming sessions:

- Tuesday, March 16, 6pm
- Tuesday, March 30, 6pm.

Those who are interested can RSVP here: <https://bit.ly/3bStYTp> or by calling Ottawa ACORN at 613-746-5999 ext. 2.

Council on Aging of Ottawa - Upcoming Online Workshops

The Council on Aging is offering new workshops in March. Older adults are invited to attend as many as they like, courses run from 10am to noon on the dates listed.

- Exploring Online Shopping and Banking - March 10
- Taking Care of Your Emergency Preparedness - March 22
- Understanding the Recipe for Healthy Eating - March 24
- Smart Aging Core Program - currently full. Get on the waiting list [HERE](#).

If you need access to technology to be able to participate in these programs, please contact Stephanie Cadieux at 613-789-3577 x.4 or s.cadieux@coaottawa.ca.

Register at <https://coaottawa.ca/cat/coa-events/>

April Break Camp eGuides (Formerly March Break Camps)

March Break has been rescheduled to April, so the city has moved its popular in-person camps as well. They have also added virtual activities that you can mix and match while participating from home.

Check out the April Break Camps eGuides at ottawa.ca/recreation and get ready to register on **Thursday, March 4** at 9 pm. For more info, visit RileyBrockington.ca.

Gardening webinar

Your neighbours with Get Growing Hunt Club are hosting a Seed and Seedlings Zoom webinar for all aspiring green thumbs on March 16 from 1-2 p.m.

Renée-Claude Goulet, a science advisor at the Canada Agriculture Food Museum, will be sharing her expertise on 'starting seeds indoors with science.' Everyone is welcome. Register at hunt-club.ca/event/start-seeds-with-science.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Summer Student Job Opportunities

Ottawa Community Housing has posted numerous summer student job positions on their [website](#). The postings close on March 14.

Statistics Canada Hiring for Canadian Census

Statistics Canada is currently hiring approximately 32,000 people for census enumerator and crew leader positions across Canada.

For more information on the jobs available for the 2021 Census and the hiring process, please visit <https://census.gc.ca/jobs-emplois-eng.htm>