



COUNCILLOR/CONSEILLER RILEY BROCKINGTON



Carlington Community Association September 19, 2024

Dear Members of the CCA and Residents of Carlington,

Welcome back!

May I offer my very best wishes to everyone in the school system, students, educators, and everyone else who are part of the team, I trust you will have a successful year ahead.

I would like to welcome and introduce Adele Stubbert who is my new office lead for Carlington (Carleton Heights and Central Park). Adele is a local resident and community leader and has fit in perfectly.

Mary Young was promoted and now leads Councillor Kavanagh's office in Bay Ward.

Two of my three staff were on medical leave this summer and some files took longer than normal to address. I apologize for any delays.

With more pedestrians and cyclists travelling to and from school, we all have a responsibility to slow down and watch for our most vulnerable. Please obey posted speed limits and respect on-street parking signage in school zones. Take time to practice travelling to your child's school and if you see issues with sidewalks or other infrastructure, let me know, your journey is important.

Trillium Line Opening Date and Remaining Tasks

At the special LRT Sub-Committee meeting on August 29, a detailed presentation was provided on the remaining tasks to complete before the Line is open for passenger service.

As of the end of August, there were 2-3 weeks left of pre-trial tasks to complete.

similar to a final exam. The trains and all components of the system must work perfectly. The post-trial run set of tasks will take another 2-3 weeks to complete.

Although the media were optimistically predicting a mid-October launch, I suggest a December 2024 date is more realistic.

At my request, OC Transpo staff have created a handy one-pager outlining the pending changes to bus routes that serve River Ward. It includes a listing of routes that will be modified, cancelled and added. It is attached to this report as an addendum.

Developments in Carlington

1354-1376 Carling Avenue (former Travelodge site)

Phase 1 is open and hundreds of units are now occupied, Phase 2 is under construction.

Local residents have detected a hum / noise from the rooftop HVAC system and Ottawa Bylaw has visited the site. The readings to date are not in excess of the permitted decibel reading and the noise is permitted past 11pm.

Ottawa Bylaw will reach out to the property manager and/or building owner to discuss potential mitigation initiatives.

917 Merivale Road

A site plan application has been received by the City of Ottawa, at the former Carlington Coffee House location.

A Site Plan Control application to construct a 6-storey, 20-unit mid-rise apartment building with a rear surface parking lot containing 5 parking spaces (4 resident and 1 visitor) and 22 interior bicycle parking spaces.

The site is located on the east side of Merivale Road between Crerar Avenue and Anna Avenue. The site is approximately 482 square metres and is rectangular in shape with 13.75 metres of frontage along Merivale Road. There is an existing 1-storey detached dwelling on the site that is proposed to be demolished. The abutting properties are zoned Minor Institutional Zone, Subzone A, Maximum Building Height 15 metres (I1A H(15)), Traditional Mainstreet (TM) and Traditional Mainstreet, Urban Exception 2190 (TM [2190]).

North of the site is a church; east of the site is an elementary school; south of the site is a 2-storey detached dwelling; and to the west of the site across Merivale Road is a church and automobile dealership and service centre.

A total of 22 interior bicycle parking spaces are proposed. Vehicle access is proposed from Merivale via a new access. Amenity area would be supplied by private balconies on the front and rear facades, a first floor common area and outdoor amenity area along the rear property line.

Alexander Community Centre

During my 2025 Budget discussion with the Mayor and City Manager earlier this month, first item on my list was the Alexander Community Centre. The main issue to date in proceeding forward with the renovation and expansion project is the realization of the needed funds to do so. The Mayor has told me he is committed to this project.

Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw Review

This autumn, the City is hosting a series of in-person workshops to discuss Ottawa's New Zoning By-Law. These workshops are designed to engage the community, gather valuable feedback, and ensure that the new Zoning By-law reflects the Official Plan and the needs and aspirations of all residents. There will be a Display Board Exhibition that dives into zoning basics and key concepts, and Roundtable Discussions for intensive engagement with planners and fellow residents. Your participation is crucial in shaping the future of our city!.

For more information about the in-person workshops, visit: engage.ottawa.ca/zoning.

Expanding Library Services in Carlington

I would like to once again thank members of the Carlington Working Group who I have met with and continue to advocate for additional services and programming in our community.

I hosted a meeting on July 11 with OPL officials, the Association and Working Group, to continue our efforts to acquire more local service and greater OPL presence.

Those efforts are paying off.

As part of the 2025 Budget process, I will be requesting dedicated funds for under-served communities be further increased. The complementary approach from the Working Group and myself is very much appreciated.

Water Infrastructure Renewal Projects in Carlington

Viscount, Harrold and Veteran

A public information session was hosted by the City at the Alexander CC on June 17, 2024 to provide an overview of the project.

The City is replacing the existing sanitary, storm and watermain infrastructure in the area and upgrading the roadway to include traffic calming measures. The majority of the existing sanitary and storm sewers were built in 1946.

The project will include:

- Replacement of sections of the existing watermain and sanitary and storm sewers to accommodate level of service requirements in the area. Watermain replacement on Viscount Avenue, Harrold Place, and Veteran Avenue.
- Sanitary sewer replacement on Viscount Avenue and Harrold Place. Abandonment of sanitary between Harrold Place and Merivale Road. New sanitary on Veteran Avenue between Harrold Place and Viscount Avenue.
- Storm sewer replacement throughout except for Harrold Place storm sewers, which are in good condition and will be protected during construction.
- Water and sanitary service lateral replacement to City property line.
- Full road reconstruction, including installation of new wider concrete sidewalks.

- Improve public safety with installation of traffic calming measures to achieve the City's 30km/h operating speed design objective for local streets including: intersection narrowing, raised intersections, raised pedestrian crosswalks, curb extensions and speed humps.

A second public information session will be hosted by the City before the anticipated Spring 2025 construction start (pending budget approval).

If you would like a copy of the powerpoint presentation, please contact my office.

Anna and Crown

City staff plan to host a public information session in late 2024.

The scope of work will be to replace aged water infrastructure and a road redesign.

This will include Anna from Carling to General Avenue (North) and Crown Crescent.

I have requested that staff include the possibility of making Crown a one way, as part of the public engagement process.

Archibald at Carling

A small section of water infrastructure is to be renewed under Archibald Street from the Carling intersection, southbound.

This work has been slightly delayed and expected this calendar year.

Since the intersection at Carling will be closed, the City must reopen the Archibald/Thames intersection for a short duration. This project is not expected to be long, once it starts.

Merivale Road (Carling to Anna)

A public information session will be hosted in 2025 to inform local residents about the scope of work on this project. Since Merivale is a traditional main street, extra staff resources will be included for public engagement and outreach.

I am excited about this project as this will be the first true phase in redesigning Merivale Road, and making it a more vibrant, safe and aesthetically pleasing street, our neighbourhood's main street.

Carlington Community Safety Night

I am in the preliminary stages of planning a Carlington Community Safety Night that will bring together the Ottawa Police Services and local partners to discuss and address chronic issues in the community related to crime and as importantly, crime prevention.

Earlier this week, on Monday night, I hosted a similar discussion in Central Park to a standing room audience, that covered a number of issues. It was good to see many Carlington residents in attendance as well. Regrettably, the Ottawa Police Services did not attend but the CEO of the Shepherd's of Good Hope did and addressed a number of questions.

Carlington Neighbourhood Response Team (NRT)

On September 17, I wrote to the Superintendent and Inspector who oversee the Carlington Neighbourhood Response Team (NRT).

I clearly stated my disappointment with issues regarding lack of proactive outreach with my office and other community leaders, lack of discussion about local priority setting or feedback about issues in the neighbourhood, no data sharing on local enforcement and feedback from the public about lack of local engagement.

While I strongly support a dedicated unit for Carlington & Central Park, they are frequently redeployed out of community to address competing priorities and there needs to be a rethink on how the NRT communicates, sets priorities, shares information and engages the community.

Traffic Calming

I appreciate members of the Association who volunteer their time to serve on the Traffic Calming and Transportation committee and who have provided me with many initiatives to pursue and follow-up with City staff. Their focus on increasing overall community safer is appreciated and I will continue to work with them and the broader community, to make projects a reality.

The Traffic Calming unit at the City that serves a number of wards, including River Ward is once again without a Manager. This year has seen substantial delays in getting calming measures reinstalled this spring and implementing new

measures in 2024. To add insult to injury, road painting across the City is delayed due to rainy weather and equipment problems. Many painted markings and messages are quite faded and need to be refreshed.

School Bus Driver Recruitment – Ottawa Student Transportation Authority

Find a meaningful job as a school bus or van driver with one of our many operators in the Ottawa area! Driving a school bus is a fulfilling opportunity. If you have an interest in working with children and youth, this may be the right job for you. Approximately 1,200 school buses and school purpose vehicles travel 75,000km in Ottawa every school day. These trained professionals provide 15 million safe rides during the school year.

Answer the call. Be a Driver.

School bus drivers enjoy regular part-time employment which can be a great fit for many families, retired persons and the self-employed. OSTA contracts over 10 local bus Operators who are responsible for the hiring and training process. Professional training is often provided by the school bus company at little cost to drivers. Training includes safe driving techniques, bus evacuation, student management, and other specialized training dependent on the applicants' needs.

Meet the minimum age requirements to hold a school bus driver's license in your province (and the company standard minimum of 21 years of age)
Hold a valid (non-probationary) driver's license and a very good driving record

Undergo & pass a Ministry prescribed medical examination, criminal record search, vulnerable sector clearance and other background checks
Complete a government-approved School Bus Driver Improvement Course

Pass a road test using a vehicle that meets the requirements

Have a sound knowledge of the region of the assigned school route and surrounding areas

OSTA: 613-224-8800

or admin@Ottawaschoolbus.ca

Registration is now open for the fall Cleaning the Capital campaign

Nothing is more spectacular than the fall colours in and around Ottawa. This September, help make those views in your community even more enjoyable by registering for Cleaning the Capital. Thanks to nearly 42,000 participants, the spring campaign was a big success with 1,034 projects registered and approximately 33,000 kilograms of waste collected. Since Cleaning the Capital began in 1994, over 1.5 million volunteers have participated, and it is estimated that over 1.2 million kilograms of waste has been removed from our public spaces.

Registration is now open until Tuesday, October 1. You can choose from a variety of public spaces to help clean up, such as community parks, roadsides, and shorelines.

Here are some important dates for the fall campaign:

Thursday, August 15: Registration opened

Sunday, September 15 to Tuesday, October 15: Fall Cleaning the Capital campaign

Tuesday, October 1: Registration closes

Friday, November 1: Deadline to submit your online cleanup report

Starter cleanup kits are available upon request. To learn more about the campaign or register your project, visit ottawa.ca/clean.

Ottawa is facing financial crisis – Mayor Sutcliffe

On August 8, Mayor Mark Sutcliffe launched a campaign calling on residents to join him in demanding fair funding from the provincial and federal governments. Highlighting a severe financial crisis, the Mayor emphasized Ottawa's unique position and the critical need for equitable support.

Mayor Sutcliffe outlined two significant areas where Ottawa is disproportionately burdened compared to other cities: federal payments in lieu of taxes (PILTs) and transit funding.

As the most significant example, Mayor Sutcliffe pointed to significant reductions in federal payments to Ottawa for property taxes. Over the past eight years, while Ottawa residents and

businesses have seen increases in their property taxes, the federal government has unilaterally decided to reduce its payments from \$194 million to \$164 million per year. City finance staff estimate that the federal government's plans to exit 50% of its Ottawa properties will significantly impact the City's finances, resulting in lost property tax revenue of approximately \$445 million over the next ten years.

The Mayor also highlighted inequities in transit funding. Ottawa built a transit system largely to serve our largest employer, the federal government. The decline in downtown ridership from federal public servants has cost the city \$36 million a year in lost fare revenue, contributing to a \$140 million annual shortfall in the transit budget. Ottawa does not receive the same capital funding for transit projects as other cities like Toronto.

To address these issues, Mayor Sutcliffe outlined five key requests to the federal and provincial governments:

1. Reimburse unpaid payments in lieu of taxes (PILTs): The federal government must pay what it owes for the past five years, approximately \$100 million.
2. Ensure fair PILTs: The federal government should stop unilaterally reducing payments and pay its fair share of property taxes.
3. Guarantee PILT levels during transition: Maintain PILT payments at the appropriate amount while exiting up to 50% of its Ottawa properties.
4. Restore fair transit funding: Reinstate the one-third funding model for transit projects so local taxpayers aren't burdened with 56% of capital costs.
5. Support sustainable transit: Provide operational funds for the next three years to ensure Ottawa's transit system can recover from recent challenges and sustain operations for the future. At the September 4 City Council meeting, Council unanimously endorsed the Mayor's campaign

Rat Prevention

With reports of rats in some sections of the neighbourhood, it is wise to review a few tips.

Clean Up

Cleaning up and getting rid of clutter is an easy and effective way to prevent rats.

Rats communicate and attract each other through their urine and droppings.

- Sweep up droppings, and clean up dark greasy track marks. Wash down the area with water and a mild bleach solution (one part bleach, 10 parts water).
- Talk to your neighbors and work together to clean up, so rats don't move from one place to another.

Get Rid of Clutter

Clutter gives rats lots of places to hide, sleep, nest and reproduce.

- Remove (and recycle) piles of newspapers, paper bags, cardboard and bottles.
- Clear out your basement and yard.
- Store items away from walls and off the ground.

Control Weeds and Shrubs

Rats are often found in burrows under bushes and plants.

- Keep tall grass, bushes, shrubs and mulch away from building foundations.
- Pull out ivy around burrows.
- Keep ground bare six inches from buildings, and trim under shrubs.
- Make space between plants, and avoid dense planting.
- Keep gardens free of weeds and trash.

Starve Them

Rats only need one ounce of food each day. Don't make your garbage their food.

Manage Your Garbage

- Bring garbage cans and bags to the curb as close to pickup time as possible. Leaving them out overnight invites rats.
- Make sure you have enough garbage cans to hold trash between pickups.
- Use hard plastic or metal cans with tight fitting lids.

- Insist that tenants put garbage *inside* cans

Keep Food Away

- Keep all food in tightly sealed containers.
- Don't put food out for stray cats, pigeons or squirrels.

Shut Them Out

Rats chew holes into buildings, and can squeeze through cracks and holes as small as 1.25 cm (1/2 inch). To keep rats out for good, seal all holes and cracks in foundations, walls, floors, underneath doors and around windows. Most repairs can be done by maintenance staff, superintendents, handy persons or pest control professionals. Materials are inexpensive and available at most hardware stores.

Seal Cracks and Small Holes

- Seal cracks and small holes with caulk. Or use roofing cement – it's durable and easily applied with a caulking gun.
- Close gaps under doors with rodent-resistant metal door sweeps.
- Close window gaps with metal flashing
- Put screens on vents, especially on lower floors.

Fill Large Gaps and Holes

- Use mortar or ready-mix cement to fill gaps and holes in cement and stone foundations. Cover large holes with metal lath or screening, then seal with mortar or cement.
- Cover floor drains and vents with heavy-duty metal screening, secured with masonry nails or cement.
- Install sheet metal kick plates on the lower exterior of doors where rats have been gnawing or entering the building. Install metal thresholds underneath.
- Use door sweeps to keep gaps under doors smaller than a quarter inch.
- Consider installing heavy gauge sheet metal between foundations and the ground.
- Seal pipes leading into walls with escutcheon plates ("pipe collars"). Check pipes regularly for leaks.

An inactive burrow will often have leaves, cobwebs or other debris around the entrance.

These burrows should be closed so rats can't get back in.

- Close burrows in soil by filling with soil and tamping down with a shovel, or by stepping on them.
- Close burrows in cracked or broken sidewalks with metal filler and cement.

Rodent Baiting

Rodent bait is a common way of controlling rats but applying these poisons is a job for professionals. If you use a pesticide to control your pest problem, read the label to make sure you are choosing the right product for the right pest. Follow all label directions and warnings carefully. Always look for a Pest Control Products (PCP) number on the label so you know the product has been approved by Health Canada <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/pest-control-tips/rats-mice.html>

Make sure your pest control company follows these guidelines:

- Always read and follow the manufacturer's label, and use the smallest effective amount of bait.
- Use disposable gloves when handling bait, and wash your hands afterwards.
- Use secured bait chunks (called bait "blocks") inside tamper resistant bait stations. Secure or anchor bait stations to the ground or fence with cement, caulk or wire.
- Place bait stations on the same path as rats normally travel – often along building walls and fence lines. Since rats always travel on the same path, they're more likely to eat from stations along it.
- Store and place bait stations where children and pets can't get to them.
- Replace bait after it's been eaten. Leave bait stations and bait in place for at least two weeks after all rat activity has stopped. Monitor on a monthly basis.

Looking Ahead

Wednesday November 13, Draft 2025 City Budget Released (a 4-ward Budget consultation

and information session is being planned for
the second half of November)

Thursday December 19, River Ward Holiday
Dinner