

FEBRUARY 2019



IT'S THE LAST DAY OF JANUARY, AND LIKE MOST OF YOU I AM ANXIOUS FOR THE SHORTEST MONTH OF THE YEAR. HELLO FEBRUARY!

ASIDE FROM BEING AN EXTREMELY BUSY MONTH, JANUARY 2019 WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR SEVERAL REASONS, FIRST AND FOREMOST FOR THE TRAGIC OC TRANSPRO CRASH AT WESTBORO STATION THAT KILLED THREE PEOPLE AND MAIMED SO MANY MORE. OUR HEARTS GO OUT TO ALL THOSE AFFECTED.

WE ALSO HAD EXTREME COLD AND RECORD SNOW. OUR OFFICE HAS BEEN DEALING WITH NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS THAT STREETS AND SIDEWALKS ARE NOT BEING PLOWED, OR ARE NOT BEING PLOWED WELL ENOUGH.

I CAN TELL YOU IS OUR SNOW REMOVAL CREWS WORK AROUND THE CLOCK AND THEY GENUINELY CARE. I SPENT A MORNING IN THE CAB OF A SNOW PLOW LEARNING ABOUT ROUTES, HOW MANY TIMES THE ROADS ARE PLOWED AND SOME OF THE CHALLENGES OF DOING THE THANK YOU

BEST JOB POSSIBLE. THANK YOU TO GREG CILIBERTO, A SNOW PLOW OPERATOR WITH 21 YEARS EXPERIENCE WHO WORKS OUT OF THE RIDEAUVALLEY GARAGE. PRIMARY ROADS ARE PLOWED FIRST AND I BELIEVE THEY ARE WELL MAINTAINED. RESIDENTIAL STREETS ARE A CHALLENGE. THEY ARE PLOWED AFTER 7 CENTIMETRES OF SNOW HAS FALLEN. THAT LEADS TO SNOW PACKED CONDITIONS THAT MANY RESIDENTS DON'T LIKE. ANOTHER PROBLEM, TOO MANY RESIDENTS IGNORE THE OVERNIGHT PARKING BAN BECAUSE THEY KNOW THE LIKEIHOOD OF BEING TICKETED AND TOWED IS SLIM. STILL, BYLAW IS OUT EVERY NIGHT A BAN IS IN EFFECT. 31 HUNDRED VEHICLES WERE TICKETED DURING THE LAST SNOW STORM. HAVING CARS PARKED ON THE STREET MAKES PLOWING THEM NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE. WE STILL HAVE PLENTY OF WINTER AHEAD, SO PLEASE BE RESPONSIBLE AND FIND A PLACE FOR YOUR VEHICLE TO PARK OVERNIGHT.

I AM WORKING WITH CITY CREWS ON STREETS AND SIDEWALKS THAT NEED MORE ATTENTION. REMEMBER WE HAVE HAD A RECORD SNOW FALL AND OUR COMMUNITY IS LARGE AND GETTING LARGER. OTTAWA HAS CHRONICALLY UNDERFUNDED OUR SNOW CLEARING OPERATIONS FOR YEARS. WHAT WE ARE EXPERIENCING NOW IS THE RESULT. HAPPILY CITY STAFF SCoured THE BUDGET AND HAS FOUND MORE MONEY FOR ROAD CLEARING NEXT SEASON.

BUSSING FROM THE SUBURBS OF CHAPMAN MILLS, HAVENLEA AND RIVERSIDE SOUTH CONTINUES TO BE A NIGHTMARE. WE KNOW THE BUSES ARE LATE, OVERCROWDED AND SOMETIMES DON'T EVEN COME AT ALL.

IT'S UNACCEPTABLE, ESPECIALLY IN CANADA'S CAPITAL IN WINTER. BOTH BARRHAVEN COUNCILLOR JAN HARDER AND I ARE WORKING WITH OC TRANSP0 TO HIGHLIGHT ROUTE DEFICIENCIES IN THE HOPES OF FINDING SOLUTIONS. SIMPLY WAITING FOR LRT IS NOT AN ANSWER. AND WE ARE PUTTING PRESSURE ON CITY HALL. WE NEED YOU, THE TRANSIT RIDERS WHO ARE SUFFERING, TO DO THAT TOO.

ON JANUARY 25 STONEBRIDGE RESIDENTS ATTENDED THE FIRST FACILITATED SESSION ON THE FUTURE OF THE GOLF COURSE. MATTAMY HAS NOT SUBMITTED AN APPLICATION TO BUILD MORE HOMES, BUT MOST AGREE IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME. NO ONE WANTS OR LIKES CHANGE, ESPECIALLY TO A LIFESTYLE YOU'VE PAID A PREMIUM TO ENJOY. FOR THE FIRST TIME THE CITY OF OTTAWA HAS HIRED AN OUTSIDE FACILITATOR TO HELP BOTH SIDES THROUGH WHAT COULD BE AN UGLY PROCESS. NICOLE SWERHUN IS EXPERIENCED AT HELPING OPPOSING SIDES UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER AND REACH COMPROMISE. IT'S ESSENTIAL FOR STONEBRIDGE RESIDENTS TO UNDERSTAND THAT UNDER THE MUNICIPAL ACT MATTAMY, AS THE LAND OWNER, CAN DO WHAT IT WANTS WITH THE GOLF COURSE. WHETHER IT'S MORALLY RIGHT TO BUILD MORE HOUSES IS BESIDE THE POINT. BUT THE FACT MATTAMY WANTS TO HEAR FROM RESIDENTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A POSITIVE SIGN. ANOTHER MEETING WILL BE HELD IN FEBRUARY WHEN IT IS EXPECTED MATTAMY WILL HAVE ANSWERS FOR THE MANY QUESTIONS THAT WILL BE ASKED BY THE COMMUNITY.

CONSTRUCTION OF PHASE TWO OF LRT INTO THE HEART OF RIVERSIDE SOUTH WILL BEGIN THIS SPRING, AND WHILE IT HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED YET I AM GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND SHOVELS WILL GO INTO THE GROUND AT THE SITE OF THE FINAL TERMINAL AT LIMEBANK AND EARL ARMSTRONG. THAT'S RIGHT, EXACTLY WHERE THE FUTURE CITY CENTRE FOR RIVERSIDE SOUTH WILL BE LOCATED. IT'S NOT HARD TO IMAGINE THE EXCITEMENT THIS WILL GENERATE. IT WILL SEND OUT A STRONG SIGNAL THAT RIVERSIDE SOUTH IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS. MORE IMPORTANTLY IT WILL MEAN FEWER VEHICLES ON THE ROAD AND VASTLY IMPROVED COMMUTE TIMES.

IN THE MEANTIME, I CONTINUE TO PRESS OUR CITY GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNIZE THE NEED TO INVEST HEAVILY IN OUR ROAD

INFRASTRUCTURE. WE ALL NEED AND USE ROADS. WHILE RAIL WILL SOLVE SOME OF OUR CONGESTION PROBLEMS, IT WON'T BE A MIRACLE CURE.

WE NEED TO IMPROVE AND WIDEN ROADS TO INCLUDE MORE RAPID BUSES. I BELIEVE OTTAWA SHOULD CONSIDER ALTERNATE MODES OF TRANSPORTATION TO FILL GAPS IN THE SYSTEM. THE RIDE SHARING SERVICE LYFT IS PROPOSING SOME INTERESTING SOLUTIONS AND WE SHOULD BE OPEN TO DISCUSSIONS.

THE DRAFT BUDGET WILL BE PRESENTED THIS MONTH, AND THE POLICE SERVICES BOARD HAS BEGUN STRATEGIZING ON HOW TO BEST REPLACE RETIRING POLICE CHIEF CHARLES BORDELEAU.

PLEASE WATCH THIS WEBSITE FOR UPDATES.