



Michel BELLEMARE

Ottawa City Councillor
Conseiller municipal d'Ottawa

BEACON HILL-CYRVILLE



COUNCILLOR'S COMMUNIQUÉ

Leading our city

From May 6th to July 7th I had the honour of leading our city as Acting Mayor.

With the concerted efforts of City Council we accomplished a great deal in a very short amount of time. We adopted a new 20-year official plan to manage our growing city; passed new development charges; approved a future downtown subway route; reserved a key downtown property for a future central library; broke ground on a new convention centre; opened the new Shenkman Arts Centre; secured hundreds of millions of dollars worth of investments in city infrastructure over the next couple of years; and more.

Investing in Ottawa

With the global economy facing the most serious challenge in a generation, boosting our local economy and creating jobs is critical. And so I was happy to announce, along with the government of Canada and the province of Ontario, \$375 million in stimulus funding for infrastructure projects in our nation's capital. The money will accelerate work on such things as extending rapid transit, and improving libraries, roads, parks and recreation, and sewer and water mains.

One of the projects I am proud of securing is a \$3 million expansion of the Splash wave pool on Ogilvie Road.

During tough economic times, this massive investment for Ottawa will kick start many major construction projects during the next two years, generate thousands of jobs, strengthen our economy, and provide long-term benefits for all of our citizens.

I hope you find this newsletter informative. As always, I welcome your questions and ideas.

Sincerely,

Michel Bellemare

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Leading our city**
- **Improving rapid transit**
- **Delivering green bins**
- **Guarding against H1N1 flu**
- **Protecting the Ottawa River**
- **Rejuvenating Lansdowne Park**

Subscribe to e-news

Stay up to date with Michel's work on City Council and on issues of importance to our community.

Subscribe to e-news updates at
www.bellemare-ottawa.ca
or send an e-mail to
michel.bellemare@ottawa.ca



Acting Mayor Michel Bellemare launches new bicycle-share program with National Capital Commission Chief Executive Officer Marie Lemay and Gatineau Mayor Marc Bureau

City Hall, 110 Laurier Ave. West, Ottawa K1P 1J1 Tel: 613-580-2481 FAX: 613-580-2521 Michel.Bellemare@ottawa.ca

WWW.BELLEMARE-OTTAWA.CA

Delivering green bins

Almost half the waste generated by our households is made up of organics—things like food scraps, soiled paper, even pet litter. Ottawa's organic recycling program will take your kitchen waste and transform it into compost. This will save taxpayers money by extending the life of our landfills, and delaying the need to set up new ones, which are very expensive. It will also reduce the amount of greenhouse gases our landfills generate because of organic waste. The city is delivering green bins to homes throughout Ottawa. Collection will start in January 2010, so check your collection calendar (you will receive a new one this month).



Improving rapid transit

Ottawa now has a bold and effective rapid transit plan that follows my approach of converting the Transitway to light rail, with a tunnel downtown in order to avoid traffic tie-ups.

The key word here is "rapid," an adjective that highlights public expectations when it comes to commuting every day and getting around the city.

So much so that a previous plan ignored that key word at its own peril. Proposing to serve relatively few people and increase traffic congestion downtown wasn't such a good idea either.

Thus City Council voted overwhelmingly in favour of taking our world-class Transitway to the next level. That means converting it to light rail with a subway through downtown. Anything less just wouldn't be rapid transit.

International experts agree that, while Ottawa's

bus rapid transit system has served the city well, the time has come to convert it to light-rail and build a tunnel downtown. With Ottawa's growing population and downtown congestion,

now is the time to embrace the next generation of transit to serve Canada's capital for the 21st century.

Ottawa's metro will also spark the biggest

economic development of our downtown and key areas along the Transitway. It will lead to the creation of an underground city with hundreds of

millions of dollars in investment possibilities, create thousands of jobs in a time of global recession, and help make Canada's capital even more attractive, vibrant and prosperous.

The Ontario and federal governments are investing billions of dollars for rapid transit in other cities. I want to see Ottawa receive our fair share of funding, and build what is necessary for our city's long-term prosperity.

Guarding against the H1N1 flu

Dr. Isra Levy, Ottawa's Medical Officer of Health, says "the H1N1 vaccine has been approved and it is safe," and that "it is the best way to protect you and your family from the flu".

The city is providing free pandemic H1N1 flu vaccinations to residents at clinics across the region. All who need or want the H1N1 vaccine will be able to get it.

For a list of clinic locations and hours of operation, please visit www.ottawa.ca or call 311.



Rejuvenating Lansdowne Park

The debate continues surrounding a proposed public-private partnership to redevelop Lansdowne Park, and I want to know what you think.

For background information on the Lansdowne Park partnership proposal, visit www.ottawa.ca.

Some questions to consider include:

- Does Ottawa need a new sports stadium for professional football and/or soccer?
- If yes, is it a priority to invest \$129 million in public funds for a professional sports stadium?
- If so, is Lansdowne Park an appropriate

location for a stadium for the next 75 years, or should it be located instead near a rapid transit station such as Bayview, Le Breton Flats or Hurdman?

- If Lansdowne is the right location, what do you think of this particular proposal, including commercial and residential development on the site?
- If you like the plan, should the City approve it as a sole-sourced (non-competitive) contract?
- If yes, does the plan make good financial sense and protect the interests of taxpayers?

Have your say on the future of Lansdowne Park and share your ideas with me.

Protecting the Ottawa River

In Ottawa, well over 99 percent of all sewage conveyed through our city sewer system ends up at the Robert O. Pickard Environmental Centre where it receives full secondary treatment.

Following heavy rainfalls, however, less than one percent does overflow into the Ottawa River due to combined sanitary and storm water sewers in the older parts of Ottawa. This has been occurring for decades since the older system was designed to work this way. In fact over 700 municipalities in North America operate with similar combined or partially combined sewage collection systems that sometimes overflow. For example, cities such as Windsor, Toronto, Hamilton, Niagara, Sudbury, and Kingston all have combined sewer systems that overflow to a greater degree than in Ottawa.

That said, the city is funding a number of projects to help prevent sewage spills into the Ottawa River. Currently under construction is a \$30 million "real time control" project. Once fully commissioned in early 2010, it will reduce the existing less than one percent combined sewer overflows by two-thirds.