

The Independent COMMUNITY

Locations for new fire and police stations announced



LET'S TALK BARRHAVEN

by Jan Harder

Boy, this has been a busy week!

Monday, we announced the location of the new Barrhaven Fire Station just south of Cambrian Road on Greenbank Road! Tuesday, because of the awesome work that all of you have done over the years "cleaning up our capital" at both the spring and the fall campaigns, guess what? We, Barrhaven, had the honour of hosting this year's fall launch at South Nepean Park. Then later that day we unveiled the location of the proposed next police station which was not surprisingly on Lodge Road beside Carleton Lodge off Prince of Wales at the Strandherd Bridge. Later that evening, we held an Open House for Safety and we did this the week before most schools start to send the message home, to have the "family chat". We did this in order to street smart our kids whether they were babies first attending schools or hot shot grade 6'ers or new drivers in grades 11 and 12.

We will see whether there is a chance for a cost-sharing partnership with the National Capital Commission (NCC) for five proposed new off-road pathway projects for use by cyclists, pedestrians and non-motorized vehicles.

Expansion of the pathways supports the City's objective of strengthening existing communities and developing new environmentally sustainable smart growth communities. The Ottawa Cycling Plan, approved by Council in 2008, identifies the need to improve existing off-road multi-use pathways and on-road cycling facilities and to complete missing

links in the City's cycling network. The single big issue is money. We don't know how we will find the money to implement this proposal. That is okay; if we have to wait for a year at least we have the plan. This will be a good investment.

The City and the NCC are working to increase access to pathway and cycling networks and to develop the system in a collaborative way. It just makes sense to work together. Several projects to that end are planned for 2011. It is interesting to know the STEP program with the Ottawa Police this month is focussed on "back to school" and in particular school bus and school zone safety and additionally tailgaters.

In 2009, tailgating caused 4,973 rear-end collisions - the most frequent type of collision accounting for one-third of Ottawa's total collisions. These collisions resulted in one death and 1,373 injuries - 17 of them life-threatening.

School zone and school bus safety are also serious issues. Over the past five years, 39 collisions occurred on Ottawa roads involving school bus traffic control violations, resulting

in 15 injuries - one of which involved a school-age child exiting the school bus.

The penalties for a driver passing a stopped school bus with its upper red lights flashing include fines ranging from \$400 to \$2,000 and six demerit points for a first offence. A second offence yields the driver a fine between \$1,000 and \$4,000, six demerit points and a possible jail sentence of up to six months. Penalties may not be limited to the driver. The vehicle owner may also be charged for school bus traffic control violations, with fines ranging from \$400 to \$2,000.

Police officers are not required to witness the vehicle passing a stopped school bus with its upper red lights flashing in order to lay charges against the vehicle owner. Citizens who witness such occurrences can contact the police and provide the make, model, colour of vehicle; license number; location, date and time of the incident; and, if possible, a description of the driver.

You don't want to be one of those caught for any of these altercations. It is about safety, it is about our kids. Drive safely everyone, school is back in! Talk to your family about street smarts. We have twenty schools in Barrhaven. This week will be crazy as all the schools are open for business.

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