

STÉPHANIE PLANTE

City Councillor / Conseillère municipale

Ward 12 / Quartier 12

Rideau-Vanier

Community Bulletin / Bulletin communautaire



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Autumn / Automne 2025

Dear neighbours and residents,

I hope you all had an enjoyable and safe summer. As we settle into a new school year, I wanted to check in.

This newsletter is a summary of some of the things I've been working on since I was elected in 2022. To save space, some of the articles are in English and some in French. You will find all of the articles in both languages, as well as supplementary information, on my website, at stephanieplante.ca.

I work very closely with our Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) Lucille Collard, and our Member of Parliament (MP) Mona Fortier to represent you effectively.

I am also a huge fan of our local community associations, and our local neighbourhood newspapers. I strongly encourage you to get involved with them!

Chères résidentes et chers résidents du quartier 12,

J'espère que vous avez passé un été agréable et en toute sécurité. Alors que nous nous installons dans cette nouvelle année scolaire, je voulais prendre de vos nouvelles.

Le présent bulletin communautaire est un résumé de certains éléments sur lesquels je travaille depuis mon entrée en fonction en 2022. Tous les articles sont disponibles dans les deux langues sur stephanieplante.ca.

Je travaille en étroite collaboration avec notre députée provinciale Lucille Collard et notre députée parlementaire Mona Fortier pour vous représenter le plus efficacement possible.

Je suis également une grande admiratrice de nos associations communautaires locales et de nos journaux de quartier, et je vous encourage à vous impliquer auprès d'eux !



Planting a tiny forest with EnviroCentre at Robert E. Wilson school in Vanier. I worked with the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates to fund two tiny forests at schools in the ward. With the help of the students, we planted this tiny forest in September 2024.

Plantation d'une petite forêt avec EnviroCentre à l'école Robert E. Wilson à Vanier. J'ai collaboré avec l'ambassade des Émirats Arabes Unis pour financer deux petites forêts dans des écoles du quartier. Avec l'aide des élèves, nous avons planté celle-ci en septembre 2024.

Social disorder and homelessness in Ward 12

As residents of Ward 12, we live among homeless people coping with drug addiction and mental illness.

Everyone who I have spoken to about this is compassionate and concerned about those they see struggling, and they are also concerned about the impact this has on themselves and their neighbourhood.

This is the most complicated file that my office deals with.

About 80% of the emails and calls I receive concern social disorder, homelessness, and open drug use.

I live in the ward, so this impacts me personally, too. I stress this point because many decision makers who contributed to the current situation do not live near these services and so do not feel their impacts every day. But we do.

This situation is not unique to Ottawa – every city, big and small, is struggling with intersecting opioid, mental health and housing crises.

What's unique about Rideau-Vanier is that the bulk of the city's shelters, injection sites, and safe supply clinics are concentrated here.

These organizations are almost all non-governmental entities, either for-profit distributors of drugs, or non-profit social agencies.

My goal is to balance compassion with best practices. The decades-long policy of packing social programs in Ward 12 must end.

At the same time, we must support those struggling with drug abuse disorders, chronic homelessness, and mental health issues. Those people need dignity, housing, and options for recovery.

Ward 12 residents are keen to support solutions, not more of the same. I support the Lowertown Community Association's call that all 24 wards in the City should have social services. As a resident, I delegated against, and still oppose, the proposed Salvation Army mega shelter in Vanier.

In French, "la cohabitation sociale" roughly means coexistence or getting along. We must all live together. Policies going forward must contribute to a vibrant, tolerant, clean, and safe community where everyone can thrive.



Meeting Catherine Vandelinde, Executive Director of Options Housing, formerly Options Bytown, while on tour with Bonnie Crombie in June 2024. Rencontre avec Catherine Vandelinde, directrice générale d'Options Housing, anciennement Options Bytown, lors d'une visite avec Bonnie Crombie en juin 2024.

Solutions for Rideau - Vanier

Deconcentrate Social Services: Spread out social services, such as shelters and injection sites, across the city. Concentrating them in one area is unfair to the residents of those neighborhoods, and the clients of those services.

Fund Supportive and Affordable Housing: The Federal and Provincial government must prioritize funding for supportive, transitional, and affordable housing. We have wonderful organizations in Ward 12 like Options Housing that provides low-barrier permanent housing, giving people the dignity they deserve.

Support Prevention: We need to prevent people from becoming homeless. One way to do this is to protect the affordable housing that

we already have. I was very proud to team up with the Ottawa Community Land Trust to purchase 366 Brant St. I contributed \$150,000 from Community Benefit charges towards the purchase of this building, which kept the rent affordable when the original owner sold it to the Trust.

Establish a Good Neighbours Agreement: The relationship between social service providers and the communities that host them is fraught. An agreement would help manage the relationship between neighbours and service providers through better consultation and increased responsibility. The Sandy Hill Community Health Centre and Action Sandy Hill have a liaison committee that is working on such an agreement.

Ward Hours

Once a month, I invite residents to join me in a small business in the ward (usually a cafe) for what I call "ward hours." Keep an eye on my website, social media, and newsletter for news about upcoming ward hours!

In 2023 and 2024, I visited these amazing local businesses:

Working Title	Anina's Café
Quelque Chose Pâtisserie	Bamm's Snack Shack
Brigid's Well	Asal Restaurant
Chez Lucien	Dhruvees
Safi Fine Foods	Café des Tours
Zoureen's Café	Chiqui Bakery
Ideal Coffee	Luxe Blooms
Peace Garden	Melaku Ethiopian Café
Happy Goat	Planet Coffee

Let me know where I should hold future ward hours! I love visiting and supporting small businesses in the ward, whether it's discovering new spots, or revisiting old favourites.



Ward Hours at Anina's in Vanier.
Une rendez-vous du quartier chez Anina à Vanier.

Mise au point du projet de mégarefuge pour hommes de l'Armée du Salut sur le chemin de Montréal

Comme beaucoup d'entre vous le savent, l'Armée du Salut (AS) a fait une demande de déménagement de son refuge de la rue George au chemin de Montréal.

Cependant, l'AS a obtenu un permis de construire d'une valeur de 2 millions de dollars pour rénover son bâtiment existant situé au 325, chemin de Montréal.

Le permis autorise des « Modifications intérieures et extérieures et l'aménagement d'un bâtiment commercial d'un étage (magasin d'occasion de l'Armée du Salut, café et bureaux). »

L'accord relatif à la construction du mégarefuge reste valable suite à une demande de prolongation déposée par l'AS et approuvée par la Ville en septembre 2025.

Je continue à m'opposer fortement à ce projet. Le modèle de méga-refuge est obsolète par rapport aux besoins de notre communauté. J'encourage l'Armée du Salut à s'éloigner de ce modèle pour consacrer ses efforts aux logements abordables de transition et en milieu de soutien.

A Doctor Recruitment Strategy for Ottawa

Across Canada, there is an extreme shortage of medical professionals. People are struggling to find family doctors, waiting hours to be seen in the emergency room, and waiting months and even years to see specialists or receive surgery.

In Ottawa, there are an estimated 150,000 people without a family doctor.

To address this problem, some municipal and provincial governments in Canada offer incentives to physicians to work in their communities.

The most common incentive is some kind of financial bonus in exchange for remaining and practicing in the community in question for a certain number of years.

Further financial assistance can be offered in the form of student loan forgiveness and reimbursement of relocation expenses.

These programs have had great success. For example, Kingston, Ontario offers an incentive of \$100,000 to any family doctor who agrees to start a full-time practice and stays for five years.

Since 2022, Kingston's program has brought 25 doctors to the city. 17 of these replaced doctors who were about to retire.

The program has been so successful that the city just approved another \$600,000 for it.

The solutions are out there. They are simple, and they are working.

Ottawa has no such incentives, and residents are feeling the impact.

Very shortly after being elected, I met with Mayor Mark Sutcliffe to discuss the need for Ottawa to have a strategy to recruit and retain doctors. This is a policy we both spoke during the election.

He was willing to work together on this file. First, we formed a committee including doctors and representatives from local hospitals and the University of Ottawa.

We met to discuss and understand the issue better, and to brainstorm ideas that would lead to a direction to City staff develop such a strategy.

This spring, I passed a motion at Council which was seconded by the Mayor, that directs city staff to study the measures in place in other municipalities and report back with short- and long-term recommendations for a recruitment and retention strategy.

My hope with this motion is to take the first steps towards meaningful action and a resolution to this issue, by encouraging the City to research and determine the best solution for Ottawa. I will share the report when it is ready.

Subscribe to my newsletter!

Inscrivez-vous à mon bulletin d'information!

Following my newsletter is the best way to stay up to date about news and events in the ward. Scan the QR code or visit my website at stephanieplante.ca, and scroll to the bottom of the homepage to subscribe.

Suivre mon bulletin est la meilleure façon de se tenir au courant des nouvelles et des événements dans le quartier. Scannez le code QR ou rendez-vous sur stephanieplante.ca, puis faites défiler jusqu'au bas de la page d'accueil pour vous inscrire.



Helping Pets and Pet Owners in Ward 12

During the pandemic, we were reminded just how important our four-legged friends are as a source of comfort, happiness and routine, especially for those who live alone. Sadly, Rideau-Vanier has one of the highest rates of animal surrender, where people find themselves in a difficult situation and are forced to give up their pets. The Ottawa Humane Society does amazing work helping animals that have been surrendered.

I was thrilled to have the opportunity to make a difference in this situation when Community Vet Outreach contacted me looking for a space to provide accessible vet services to those in need.

I helped them find their current space at the community police station on MacArthur. They now offer monthly vet clinics to clients referred by caseworkers who fall below a certain income threshold. Thanks to all the amazing vet techs and volunteers who make this possible!

The cost of pet food can sometimes be a barrier to people keeping their pets. Operating out of Partage Vanier, the Kibble Cupboard is like a food bank for pets, where people can go to get donations of pet food. In partnership with Oxygen Yoga & Fitness on Rideau Street, in May 2025, I organized a fundraiser that raised over \$500 for the Kibble Cupboard. This was a wonderful example of the community coming together to support those in need.

My hope is that with increased affordable resources such as the vet clinics and the pet food bank, more people will be able to keep their animals that are so important to their wellbeing.

Our dog, Diego, brings us so much joy. We are so grateful to have him in our lives and we know others want to keep their pets in their lives, too. If you know anyone who is struggling to care for their pet, please reach out to my office and we will connect you with these services.



Community Events in Ward 12

Since 2022, I have proudly organized events across the ward that celebrate culture, promote inclusivity, and give residents meaningful ways to connect.

Drag Queen Bingo supporting St. Brigid's Centre for the Arts ~ \$4,000 raised!

This event started as a fundraiser to help St. Brigid's repay their legal fees from when they were occupied during the convoy protest. Our annual Drag Queen Bingo has brought joy, laughter, and dazzling performances to Lowertown, all while supporting local artistry and talent. This event has uplifted the community and offered a vibrant platform for Ottawa's drag performers and 2SLGBTQIA+ artists.

Sandy Hill Food Truck Festival

The Sandy Hill Food Truck Festival is a celebration of local food, small business, and community spirit. By closing the street to cars, this event creates a safe, welcoming environment where neighbours can connect, and families can enjoy outdoor activities.

With a rotating lineup of local food trucks, this event offers something for everyone. Events like this support my goal to have safe and secure streets that put people first.

Vanier 5k Race supporting Muséoparc ~ \$5,000 raised!

Each year, runners, walkers, and families gather in Vanier for our 5 km community race in support of Muséoparc, North America's only urban sugar shack. Thanks to the energy and enthusiasm of participants and sponsors, this event has raised approximately \$5,000 over the past three years, and attracts more runners each year!

Children and Youth Summit

Held in collaboration with CHEO, this groundbreaking event brought together youth leaders, families, educators, and community organizations to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing children and youth in Ottawa.

The summit created a space where young people could share their experiences, and shape the conversation on issues like mental health, education, safety, and equity.

By centering youth voices, this summit marked a powerful step toward more inclusive and responsive city-building.



With runners at the 2025 Vanier 5 km charity race. La course caritative de 5 km à Vanier en avril 2025.

More Housing for Rideau - Vanier

It's not news that we are in a housing crisis, and that all levels of government must act to fix it.

While the City of Ottawa does not build homes, it has a role in facilitating new home construction. For example, the City approves zoning by-law amendments, building permits and occupancy permits.

City Planning staff are currently finalizing a new zoning by-law to implement the Official Plan approved by Council in 2022, with the goal of increasing housing and intensification in all wards. You can learn more by visiting Engage Ottawa online.

There is some good news. Across the city, housing starts are up 68% as of August 2025, compared to the same period in 2024. In comparison, the national average increase is just 4%.

In Ward 12, since the first quarter of 2023, 4,539 new homes were approved, and 1,096 building permits were issued. During that time, 26 homes were demolished.

In the same time period the City approved 54,000 new dwellings and issued 19,026 building permits.

I'm doing my part to increase those numbers in Rideau-Vanier specifically, especially to increase affordable housing where possible.

In the past three years, the City invested a total of \$82 million into affordable housing. We are on track to surpass \$100 million in this term of Council, a huge increase over the \$45 million that was invested last term.

These numbers are encouraging, but there is still more to be done. I have

Problematic Properties

An update on the pilot program in wards 12 and 14

Every neighbourhood has that one house – one that has been abandoned for years, with boarded-up windows, overgrown weeds, and a growing collection of debris and graffiti.

Residents complain, and despite issues being addressed as they arise, the underlying problem remains.

These properties don't just drag down the appearance of the neighbourhood; they can pose a real risk in terms of fire safety, public health, and community wellbeing.

These are what we call problematic properties, defined by the City as specific addresses, whether occupied or unoccupied, that are a consistent source of disturbances and complaints. These properties are often linked to repeated issues around crime, disorder, and neglect.

In April 2024, I brought forward a successful motion at City Council to create a Problematic Properties webpage, to help residents easily understand what qualifies as a problematic property, how to report issues through 3-1-1, and what City departments are involved.

This work has evolved into a pilot project focused on Wards 12 and 14 that brings together Property Standards Officers, Ottawa Police, Ottawa Fire Services, and Community and Social Services in a coordinated effort to tackle the most serious properties.

So far, 11 high-priority sites in Vanier, Sandy Hill, and Lowertown have been targeted for joint enforcement.

This pilot has already shown positive results, with increased accountability, quicker response times, and regular updates to community partners.

In Vanier, for example, the pilot has led to the demolition of an abandoned house at 140 St Paul Street that was a well-known drug den.

I'm committed to continuing this work to improve safety and quality of life in our neighbourhoods. I am working to have this instituted as a permanent program that can benefit the entire city.

Visit [Ottawa.ca/living-ottawa](https://ottawa.ca/living-ottawa) and click on the Problematic Properties link to learn more.



With Queens Maddy Longlegs and Bianca Allen at the 2025 Drag Bingo fundraiser. Avec les queens Maddy Long Legs et Bianca Allen lors de la collecte de fonds Drag Bingo 2025.

been part of some creative solutions.

Brownfield Program - The Brownfield Program gives developers a repayable grant from the City to cover the costs of remediating land that is not suitable for construction due to contamination from past uses, for example, if the land was used as a gas station or a dump site.

From the first council meeting after I was elected in November 2022, I introduced a number of successful motions to allow several brownfield applications to proceed that had been held up because of a suspension of the Community Improvement Plan. These projects allowed for the construction of up to 2,700 new rental units in the ward, and 5,000 more across the rest of the city.

One of the projects at Montreal Road

and North River Road is now renting units, and rental projects at Laurier and Nicholas and at 2 Robinson are under construction.

These projects, once completed, will also generate a \$7.6 million a year in revenue for the City from increased property tax.

Ottawa Community Land Trust Acquisition - I gave \$150,000 from the ward's development charges to the OCLT to fund the purchase of 366 Brant Street in Vanier.

This acquisition kept the rent affordable for the tenants living in this building. We must protect the affordable housing that we already have.

Learn more, and support the Ottawa Community Land Trust if you are able, at www.oclt.ca.

Remplacement de la piscine Genest au parc Optimiste

La Ville d'Ottawa est heureuse d'annoncer la construction d'une nouvelle piscine extérieure de 25 mètres qui sera située à côté de la bibliothèque Vanier, dans le parc Richelieu-Vanier, au 300, avenue des Pères-Blancs, dans le quartier 12.

Cette toute nouvelle installation est rendue possible grâce à un partenariat avec le gouvernement du Canada et la province de l'Ontario, dans le cadre du Programme d'infrastructure Investir dans le Canada.

À l'origine, le projet visait à remplacer la piscine Genest existante, située à six pâtés de maisons du parc Richelieu-Vanier.

Cependant, les essais géotechniques

et les analyses de sol préliminaires ont révélé que les conditions actuelles exigeraient des mesures trop coûteuses pour permettre à la Ville de remplacer l'infrastructure à son emplacement actuel.

La Ville a examiné d'autres sites potentiels et a déterminé que le site Richelieu-Vanier était le seul emplacement viable disponible.

Veillez noter que les modifications apportées au site actuel de la piscine du parc Genest feront l'objet d'un projet distinct à l'avenir.

La nouvelle piscine extérieure Richelieu-Vanier devrait être opérationnelle à temps pour la saison estivale 2027.



Raising the City of Ottawa flag at the Eastview Cenotaph grounds in Vanier. Thanks to the Legion with whom I met several times to ensure improvements were done on time for the Remembrance Day parade. From left to right: Raymond Hotte, 1st Vice President, Andrew Stevenson, co-chair and Sergeant at Arms of the Eastview Legion, Mayor Mark Sutcliffe, me and MPP Lucille Collard.

Hissage du drapeau de la Ville d'Ottawa à l'Eastview rénové, dans le quartier Vanier. Merci à la Légion, avec qui je me suis réunie à plusieurs reprises pour m'assurer que ce projet soit terminé à temps pour le défilé du jour du Souvenir. De gauche à droite : Raymond Hotte, premier vice-président, Andrew Stevenson, coprésident et sergent d'armes de la Légion Eastview, le maire Mark Sutcliffe, moi-même et la députée provinciale Lucille Collard.

Safer intersections for pedestrians and cyclists

Sadly, this summer there have been far too many serious collisions between vehicles and pedestrians or cyclists in Ottawa, some of them fatal. Almost all were preventable tragedies.

We need to prioritize the safety of those using active transportation. I support Councillor Troster's call to limit right turns at red lights at specific intersections.

Have you experienced close calls or visibility issues at any intersections in Rideau-Vanier? I want to hear from you.

Please send your suggestions to stephanie.plante@ottawa.ca.

Help us build a safer, more walkable community together.

Saint Patrick St. Bridge Renewal update

The Saint Patrick Street Bridge is undergoing a lifecycle renewal. Construction started in winter 2024/2025 and should be completed by 2026.

In September, I met on site with directors of the project to discuss safety concerns that I've been hearing from you.

City staff have advised me that they will install a temporary stop sign at the right turn from Saint Patrick Street onto the Vanier Parkway for the duration of the bridge renewal work.

Staff will also reduce the speed limit by 10 km/h on the Vanier Parkway between Beechwood Avenue and Montreal Road for the duration of the project.

City staff will be monitoring the effects of these measures throughout the construction period.

Mise à jour sur l'aréna Bernard-Grandmaître

La Ville a discrètement mis fin aux activités du refuge de l'aréna Bernard-Grandmaître cet été et a entamé le processus de réouverture de l'aréna en tant que centre communautaire.

Il s'agit d'un changement attendu depuis longtemps. L'aréna est fermé au public depuis 2020.

Une consultation publique aura lieu au printemps prochain afin de discuter des utilisations communautaires de l'aréna.

La ville prévoit d'investir environ 3 millions de dollars pour moderniser l'aréna dans les années à venir (2026-2031).

Au printemps prochain, la construction du premier terrain de basket extérieur de Vanier débutera également à l'aréna !

Lors d'une récente tournée de porte-à-porte dans ce quartier, vous avez fait part de votre sentiment qu'il n'y avait pas suffisamment d'installations sportives pour les familles et les enfants.

Grâce à une subvention de 100 000 \$ de l'Ottawa Sports and Entertainment Group et aux redevances sur les parcs, nous espérons que la construction sera terminée à l'automne 2026.

Qui sait ? Peut-être que le prochain Shai Gilegous-Alexander sera issu de Vanier !



I was thrilled to receive the Civic Appreciation award from the Eastview Legion for my role in the restoration of the Eastview Cenotaph grounds. Guy Cousineau, the last Mayor of Vanier, presented the award. Pictured here is Cecil Thomas, former 3rd Vice President.

J'ai été ravie de recevoir le prix du mérite civique décerné par la Légion d'Eastview pour mon rôle dans la restauration du cénotaphe d'Eastview, qui était envahi par la végétation et attirait des activités indésirables. Guy Cousineau, le dernier maire de Vanier, m'a remis le prix. Sur la photo, Cecil Thomas, ancien troisième vice-président.

Report, Report, Report!

Did you know that the City is complaint-oriented?

This means that in most cases, you must report issues for them to be addressed. If you see something that needs to be fixed, like a pothole, a dead tree, or needles on the ground, please report it to 3-1-1.

Reporting issues in Ward 12 helps the city collect accurate data, which in turn helps allocate resources here.

Signalez, signalez, signalez!

Saviez-vous que la Ville fonctionne selon un système basé sur les plaintes ? Cela signifie que dans la plupart des cas, vous devez signaler les problèmes pour qu'ils soient réglés.

Si vous voyez quelque chose qui doit être réparé, comme un nid-de-poule, un arbre mort ou des aiguilles sur le sol, signalez-le au 3-1-1.

Le signalement d'un problème dans le quartier 12 aide la Ville à recueillir des données précises, ce qui permet d'affecter les ressources là où elles sont nécessaires.