



*From the desk of Rawlson King, Councillor, Rideau-Rockcliffe Ward*

## Rockcliffe Park Updates

My office has been working hard on many issues during this public health crisis. After a joint appeal with other Councillors to consider the partial re-opening of green space to help with the physical and mental health of residents, the City will now allow use of some areas in City parks and beaches. I also urged the province to re-categorize community gardens as essential services and was successful. However, as the Province makes moves to begin a phased approach to opening up, I do want to encourage residents, as enticing as the weather is, to continue to remain vigilant and practice physical distancing, continuing with hand hygiene and, where appropriate, wearing a mask in public where it may be difficult to maintain that separation.

Food security is an ongoing priority during this emergency, and I hope that you will consider supporting our local food bank, the **Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre**. We have seen levels of food bank use increase by more than 50 percent over the same time last year, with many people heading there for the first time as a result of job losses. A new initiative started by one of your own residents is “**Local Food for the Local Food Bank**,” where your dollars go to buying food from great local businesses like **Epicuria** and **Bread and Roses Bakery**, which is then delivered to those in our neighbourhood in need. To donate to this cause, head to [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org), search for “Rideau Rockcliffe,” and in the drop-down menu select “Local Food for our Local Food Bank.”

By the time you read this, City Council will have voted upon its growth management strategy, which includes a proposed expansion of Ottawa’s urban boundary. I wish to let residents know that I am intending to vote against expansion. I also want residents in our ward to understand what “holding the line” will mean. A policy position paper outlining my thoughts is up on my website at [www.rideau-rockcliffe.ca](http://www.rideau-rockcliffe.ca).