



# CAPITAL WARD REPORT

# 2025

Capital-Councillor

**SHAWN**   
**MENARD**

Capitale - Conseiller



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Capital-Councillor

# SHAWN MENARD

Capitale - Conseiller



Ottawa

CITY COUNCILLOR  
CONSEILLER MUNICIPAL

## **| A Message from Shawn**

When I had the **honour to become City Councillor for Capital Ward**, it was with the vision of putting in the hard work to build a city that puts residents first and improving their quality of life. We've delivered new and renewed community spaces like the Heron Park Community Building, Grand Allee Park, Firehall Park and the Rideau Winter Trail extension.

**We've prioritized** basic services that make our neighbourhoods livable and enjoyable, including providing recycling in parks and snow-clearing bridges and staircases throughout Ottawa winters. We've delivered tangible improvements to pools, beaches and wading pools, including extended hours, and expanded access to bathrooms in the ward and across Ottawa. We saved the People's Park at 160 Lees from a four-lane highway (the AVTC).

**We've secured** new non-profit housing in the ward and led the charge to protect renters with multi-residential tax fairness. We've fought to maintain, restore and improve transit service on key local routes, and to stop fare hikes for seniors and students. We've seen more than 30 streets renewed in Capital Ward, and prioritized safer intersections, wider sidewalks, separate bike lanes, and converted every residential street to 30 km/hr.

**We helped** Ottawa declare a Climate Emergency in 2019. Since then, we've saved money by retrofitting municipal buildings, secured \$9 million in permanent annual funding for the Climate Change Master Plan, started the Zero-Emission Bus program, improved protection of trees, and modernized the Idling Bylaw.

**We've pushed back** against wasteful spending on issues such as Lansdowne 2.0 and Tewin. When a convoy occupation happened, my team and I intervened at the council table and at Billings Bridge to pressure authorities to act.

***Working hand-in-hand with you, we have been able to achieve so much. Looking ahead, our goal remains the same: Building a fair, affordable and livable city that serves people and improves your quality of life.***



*Shawn Menard*

**Shawn Menard**  
City of Ottawa Councillor  
Capital Ward



# PARKS AND RECREATION

We stopped a freeway from destroying Lees Field, a much-loved and well-used greenspace in Old Ottawa East.

We worked with the community to achieve the **Heron Park Community Building**, which is slated for completion by early 2026. After years of hard work and advocacy, this major piece of infrastructure features larger, upgraded community and recreation space.

We saw the **Springhurst dock** installed with new accessibility features. We continue to work with staff to ensure the **Brantwood dock** will be made accessible as well.

In 2023, we advocated to have **wading pools across the city open for more weekends in June**.

In 2025, we secured **\$140,000 to extend operating hours of wading pools, outdoor pools and beaches** across the city.

We also increased funding for parks maintenance by **\$2.4 million per year**, including \$350,000 for park repair projects.

For years, our office has led calls to **increase public bathroom access across the city**. In 2025, we nearly doubled the funding available to each ward for public bathroom access.

We established **Grand Allee Park and Fire Station Park** with extensive community engagement.

We helped **expand the three-stream waste in parks pilot** to Windsor Park and Brantwood Park, with more to come in Springhurst Park, Sylvia Holden, Brown's Inlet and the Grand Allee.

We worked with city staff to **resurface the Eugene Forsey Basketball court, expand the Rideau Winter Trail and consistently maintain a boarded rink in the Glebe**.



# CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

In 2019, we helped City Council **unanimously declare a Climate Change Emergency**. Every year since, we have secured additional permanent funding for the **Climate Change Master Plan**, from uncertain Hydro allocations of ~\$1 million to a permanent annual funding of \$9 million.

We helped **launch Ottawa's first electric bus pilot** in 2021. Since then, the program has purchased 74 electric buses and associated charging infrastructure.

OC Transpo reports that it is on track to receive a total of 350 Zero-Emission Buses

by the end of 2027, marking a major shift toward cleaner transit.

In 2024, we passed a **modernized Idling Bylaw** which had not been updated since 2007. The new rules apply year-round and now include city vehicles, which will provide fuel and cost savings to the city, in addition to the environmental benefits.

We moved a 2023 motion to **create an interdepartmental working group on environment and climate change**. We've also advocated to **divest city funds from fossil fuels** and to ban fossil fuel ads across Ottawa.





## TRANSIT

We increased service on routes 6, 7 and 56 to better meet demand. We also restored full service on routes 10 and 55 after they had previously been cut back.

We reversed cuts to routes 5 (now 18), 41, 111 and 292 proposed as part of the “New Ways to Bus” program, protecting essential service for the Glebe, Old Ottawa South, Old Ottawa East, Carleton University and Heron Park.

We also pushed back successfully against fare hikes for seniors and students in the 2025 budget, restoring free Sunday service for seniors.

To make transit more accessible, we reinstated bus stops at Sunnyside and Rosedale and at Main and Centennial.

We pushed for an investigation and public inquiry into the P3 LRT project, wherein Justice Hourigan made multiple recommendations to improve transparency and accountability.



## ROADS & SAFETY

We secured a new, safer design for the Bank Street Canal Bridge that added bicycle lanes and reduced vehicle lanes.



We worked closely with other Councillors to open a new footbridge over the Rideau River between Carleton University and Vincent Massey Park. Thanks to our collaboration with staff, the bridge will now be maintained for use throughout the winter.



We held a public forum on snow clearing, which led to a review of the city’s Winter Maintenance Quality Standards and improved winter maintenance on sidewalks, at bus stops and in intersections.



Our team has worked closely with staff to improve and execute extensive road renewals in Capital Ward, including on Bank, Bellwood, Belmont, Cimetidine, Colonel By, Concord, Echo, Ella, Ernie Brady, Fairbairn, Frobisher, Glebe, Greenfield, Grove, Grosvenor, Harvey, Havelock, Hawthorne, Lees, Lycée, Main, Monk, Montcalm, Oakland, Ralph, Tackaberry, Willard, Wilton and Woodlawn.



### DID YOU KNOW?

The majority of road renewals over the past several years in Ottawa have taken place in Capital Ward?

We made sure that every residential street in Capital Ward has a 30 km/h speed limit. We also improved pedestrian safety and experience by ensuring that automated walk signals, advanced pedestrian phases and traffic calming measures continue to be added throughout our community.

We worked with staff to install protected intersections at Sunnyside and Bronson near Carleton University and at Smyth by the Riverside Campus.

To give residents safer access to the Rideau Canal pathway, we implemented a new safe intersection with pedestrian and bicycle signals at Main and Colonel By.

We also added pedestrian crossings to improve safety on Place Lycée, Holmwood Avenue and Seneca Street.



## AFFORDABLE HOUSING & PROTECTING RENTERS

In response to the Heron Gate mass evictions, the very first motion I moved as a city councillor **allowed residents to have standing at the Property Standards and License Appeal Committee.**

**We doubled the city’s affordable housing target from 10% to 20%, and made changes to the Official Plan to ensure more of that target is directed toward those in greatest need.**

**We advocated for the new Vacant Unit Tax, which directly funds our capital budget for affordable housing, while discouraging unnecessary housing vacancies.**

We introduced **a regulatory system for Airbnbs** so that accommodations need to be contained within a principal residence, ending the ghost hotel phenomenon and freeing up more units for rent.

**We lowered rent for 70% of all Ottawa renters living in multi-unit properties** built before 2001 by directing staff to equalize the tax ratio for multi-residential properties, resulting in automatic rent reductions.

We allocated new money and set aside land in Capital Ward for **hundreds of units of non-market housing.**



## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

**We introduced post-employment lobbying restrictions for senior city officials.** We also formalized the regulatory framework for community benefit agreements in development applications.

After pushing to address the derelict West Coast Video site on Bank Street, our office **led the creation of a better oversight system for vacant and derelict buildings.**

We led the charge for 11 councillors to call on provincial watchdogs to **investigate the province’s unilateral expansion of Ottawa’s urban boundary by 654 hectares** and brought a successful motion to council. The province reversed its decision shortly thereafter.

**We have always campaigned against developer influence at City Hall, and we continue to advocate for good planning.**

We have long **called for the city to introduce protections to ensure that when intensification happens, we aren’t just gentrifying.**

Existing affordable units should be replaced when they are demolished for new developments. The city is now reviewing this approach.

We have also supported the advancement of bylaws which would help prevent **“renovictions” and “demovictions”.**





# HEALTH & WELLBEING

Working alongside tireless community advocates, **we brought forward two motions for the city to launch the ANCHOR pilot in August 2024.** ANCHOR delivers culturally informed, community-led crisis support by dispatching trained teams to people experiencing mental health or substance use crises.

During its first year, ANCHOR received 4,464 calls, and 92% of crisis interactions were resolved without any police involvement. The ANCHOR program has since expanded to also include the Glebe Annex.

In May 2022, our office co-hosted an **Older Adult Forum with Seniors Watch Old Ottawa South (SWOOS)** to

highlight gaps in primary care and services for our aging population.

We continued this work with the Seniors Health Innovation Hub in 2025, and we remain committed to supporting advocacy for older adults in Capital Ward.

In 2021, **we passed a motion that called on the province for seamless access to five permanent employer-paid sick days**, extended to ten paid sick days with financial support from the province during declared infectious disease emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic.



# UPCOMING PRIORITIES

We will continue to **drive community action in the city's highest-emitting sectors**—housing and transportation—while strengthening climate resilience, tree preservation and planting, building retrofits, and better modal share. These can lead to both financial savings and emissions reductions.

We are working with staff to **explore funding options to renew the Windsor Park Fieldhouse.**

For the Deschâtelets building and Forecourt Park in Old Ottawa East,

we will ensure that the forthcoming **community centre, school and gym** get built while acknowledging the Oblate order and the difficult history of residential schools.

The Sunnyside Library remains one of the five most-used branches in the city, and **we continue to advocate for capital improvements to the facility and to extend hours**, including Sunday hours—a commitment we intend to realize.





## UPCOMING PRIORITIES (CONTINUED)

We will continue advancing new projects, including non-profit **housing at Bank and Chamberlain and 160 Lees Ave**. Ensuring more not-for-profit units in Capital Ward remains a top priority.

We will continue to be vocal opponents of costly and unnecessary road expansions, unjustified urban boundary growth and expensive projects that do not serve **community needs**, such as Lansdowne 2.0 and the Tewin development.

We are pursuing both **short- and long-term safety improvements for Bronson Avenue**, along with fixes at the intersection of Sunnyside and Bank. We also support the establishment of a **permanent bike share in Ottawa**, and we look forward to even more road renewals for Pretoria; Regent, Clarey, Howick, Melgund, Thornton and Morris; Riverdale; Toronto, Bullock, Rideau Garden, and Centennial; Ohio and Clementine; Clover and Aldea; Cameron and Seneca; Harvard, Chesley, Warrington, Wendover and Raleigh; and finishing Bank Street South.

We passed a budget motion to explore an **Under-18 U-Pass**, and we have had encouraging discussions about establishing free transit for those under 18 in the summer, on weekends and all weekdays after 5:00 pm.

We will also **secure new bus shelters** for Main Street and Bank Street at Lansdowne Park.

We continue advocating for the expansion of the **ANCHOR program** so that more residents can access mental health support.

As the Lansdowne 2.0 redevelopment proceeds, we will work to ensure transparency and strong stewardship during construction.



*Thank you for all your support and collaboration these past years. We've achieved a lot together, and there is so much more to come.*

*Shawn Menard*

Shawn Menard  
City of Ottawa Councillor  
Capital Ward

### KEEP IN TOUCH!

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