

Date: Friday 27 May 2011

Contact: Public Affairs (613-580-2450), medias@ottawa.ca **NR: City names field after community football coach John Smith**

Ottawa - Today, the City of Ottawa formally recognized the many contributions of Ottawa resident John Smith by naming the field at Raven Park as John Smith Field at a ceremony hosted by Mayor Jim Watson and Councillor Maria McRae.

“John Smith’s commitment to youth football in Ottawa is remarkable and it’s my honour as Mayor to be a part of the ceremony to recognize him,” said Mayor Jim Watson.

“For 40 years, John Smith has been an extraordinary role model for young athletes in our community,” said Councillor Maria McRae. “On behalf of the residents of River Ward, it is my pleasure to commemorate him.”

In 2002, City Council created a commemorative naming program to formally recognize individuals who give selfless, courageous or exceptional service to the residents of Ottawa, the Province of Ontario or Canada. The program lets the City honour these individuals through the naming of municipal streets, parks and facilities.

John Smith has coached with the Bel-Air Copeland Lions Football Club for over 40 years. During this time, he has touched the lives of countless youth through his leadership and high moral standards. He believes in helping players of all levels of skill, encouraging full participation both on and off the field.

As the President of the Bel-Air Copeland Lions Club since 1991, he is dedicated to coaching development and leading the league’s administration. John also serves as a member of the National Capital Amateur Football Association, where he represents the Bel-Air Copeland Lions Club and contributes to youth football in Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec. He is also a committed volunteer at the football club’s weekly bingo and other fundraisers that support local charities.

Much of John’s life has been dedicated to youth football and local charities. In recognition of John’s contributions to his community, the City of Ottawa has named the field at Raven Park as John Smith Field.