

# BUYING YOUR HOME

## 14 THINGS TO DO WHEN YOU FIRST MOVE TO OTTAWA

Here are some things to do that will help in your transition to your new home.

1. **Get all the utilities set up** for your house – heat, light, water, telephone, cable
2. **Get local newspaper delivery**
  - a. Ottawa Citizen
  - b. Ottawa Sun

3. **Get ready to sign up for Ontario Health**

4. **Driver's Licence**

<http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/dandv/driver/drvlicen.htm>

There are only two locations to get an Ontario Licence. Once you have it, you can renew at a number of locations. Not all licences are provided at both locations so call ahead.

Ottawa Canotek	5303 Canotek Rd., Unit 14 Ottawa, ON K1J 9M1	(613) 842-5374	Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Ottawa Walkley	1570 Walkley Road Ottawa, ON K1V 6P5	((613) 731-3731	Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

5. **Find a doctor, a dentist and a veterinarian**

- a. Do find doctors taking new patients a listing is available on the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons website: [http://www.cpso.on.ca/Doctor\\_Search/dr\\_srch\\_hm.htm](http://www.cpso.on.ca/Doctor_Search/dr_srch_hm.htm)  
Please note that it is very difficult to find a doctor so please be patient (pun intended) and note that there are many walk-in clinics available. <http://www.ottawakiosk.com/doctors.html>  
[http://www.cheo.ca/english/pdf/ottawa\\_walk-in\\_clinics.pdf](http://www.cheo.ca/english/pdf/ottawa_walk-in_clinics.pdf)
- b. For dentists, there are dentist offices available in most neighbourhoods. There are also offices open on weekends and for holiday emergencies.
- c. The **Ottawa Veterinary Hospital and the Alta Vista Animal Hospital** provides 24 hour urgent veterinary care. Both clinics provide emergency services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including holidays.

6. **Locate schools for the kids**

- a. To find out the rating for the school in the neighbourhood you are considering:  
<http://www.fraserinstitute.org/reportcards/schoolperformance/ontario.htm>

7. **Find a contractor** if you have any plans to change or improve your home.
8. **Find a mechanic** for your car(s). This, like contractors, is normally through word of mouth recommendations from neighbours and coworkers.
9. **Get snow tires.** Yes you really need them. Ottawa has a lot of ice in the winter. Streets are very slippery.
10. **Find a reputable snow removal service** – even if your driveway is only a few metres long – it is not the driveway but the plough row left when the street is cleaned. One hint is to ask the neighbours who they are using. The more people who use the same service in a concentrated area, the more likely you are to have the service arrive before areas with only one or two customers. This is a case of numbers matter.
11. Find a hair stylist – the best way to find what you want is to ask. Look for someone who seems to have the same type of hair as you and ask them if they would recommend their stylist.
12. Go to Winterlude and the Tulipe Festival [http://www.ottawa.ca/visitors/events\\_festivals/index\\_en.html](http://www.ottawa.ca/visitors/events_festivals/index_en.html)
13. Visit Parliament Hill – especially on July 1
14. Finally: Get out and enjoy all the parks, beaches, ski slopes, bike paths, cottage areas, balloon rides, festivals, etc.

**Ottawa is a vibrant and healthy place to live.**

