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Summer • CITY HALL UPDATE • 2007

Alderman

Diane Colley-Urquhart

Ward 13, Calgary

A QUARTERLY E-PUBLICATION OF ISSUES AND UPDATES AFFECTING RESIDENTS OF WARD 13 & THE CITY OF CALGARY

I often have the privilege of representing Mayor Bronconnier as Deputy Mayor at events throughout the city. I want to share with you in this and future editions of the City Hall Update, some of the speeches I have delivered at these important events. I am always inspired by the many tireless volunteers I meet at these events who dedicate so much time and energy to ensure that each and every detail is addressed. Each of you deserve kudos for caring enough to want to make ours the great city that it is! Please continue to contact me through my website with your comments and feedback or stop me on the street to say hello!

~ Dicu

Deerfoot Trail Safety Audit

Deerfoot Trail sees the highest number of collisions in our city. With our population explosion commuter traffic on the Deerfoot is worse than ever, and the number of collisions is rising. In the past five years there have been over 10,000 crashes and over 24 fatalities.

While many cite inattentive or overly aggressive drivers as the problem, poor road design and congestion are also factors. That is why I brought

before Council a motion requesting a comprehensive safety audit on Deerfoot trail.

The safety audit, to be completed next year, will involve the City, the Province and Calgary Police Service, and will examine and bring forward recommendations on the 3 'Es': education, engineering/design and enforcement.

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Deerfoot Trail at Glenmore Trail Interchange. Over 150,000 vehicles daily use Deerfoot Trail.



Are you prepared for a pandemic?

There has been a lot of concern recently about our unpreparedness in the event of a pandemic. To learn about how you and your family can be prepared in the event of serious outbreak visit www.aldermandiane.ca and follow the link to Dr. Pat Pistel's website. Dr. Pistel offers current information on pandemic concerns around the world and strategies for planning ahead and coping with a potential disaster at the community level.



LRT Stations: Getting an Extreme Makeover

Calgary Transit has plans to refurbish all the stations along the 7th Avenue Transit Corridor over the next 5 years.

Below is the official timeline of recent and future developments:

- 2005**
- ◆ 1st Street SW Station was completed.
 - ◆ Streetscape improvements between Centre Street S and 1st Street SW were completed.
- 2006**
- ◆ Pre-design for refurbishments on the west end of 7th Avenue between 9 Street SW and 11th Street SW were completed.

- 2007-2010**
- ◆ Design work for five new Stations in the 7th Avenue Transit Corridor between 2nd Street SW and 9th Street SW began this year at the following locations:
 3rd Street SW
 4th Street SW
 6th Street SW
 7th Street SW
 8th Street SW

The City will have completed refurbishing these five central LRT Stations by 2010. By 2012, the remaining blocks and stations will also be completed. The first phase will be the stations at 7th St SW and 8th St SW. These are scheduled to start in 2008.

The new Corridor Stations will have the same look and feel as the 1st Street SW Station, incorporating the same design elements. A major platform change will be the ability to accommodate 4-car trains which the City will start using in the near future to increase capacity. The new platforms will also be built to

provide a pedestrian-friendly environment with streetscape features including bus zone improvements, landscape elements, street and pedestrian light poles and benches.



Transit Investments:

- ◆ Council will be investing \$526 million in public transit capacity and service improvements over the next three years. The largest single investment commitment in the history of Calgary Transit.
- ◆ Some of this new investment will go to adding 40 new LRT cars and 53 new buses to the fleet, including 6-60 foot articulated buses.

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The Learning Meadows Completed

1 Escuela Canyon Meadows Elementary School has completed its *Learning Meadows Project*.

3 The project was taken on to create a friendlier, more enjoyable school ground by turning areas of concrete, bare dirt and tattered lawns into a lively park filled with trees, shrubs and flowers.

4 Students, staff, parents and members of the community worked together to design, create and maintain the new garden. They overcame infestations and vandalism to see the transformation completed.

5 The project has attracted a great amount of attention, and is nominated as a finalist for the Alberta Emerald Foundation Awards, that were handed out on June 6th at the EPCOR Centre.

6 This program is a wonderful example of how communities can come together to make Calgary a great place to live.





Deerfoot Trail Safety Review

Continued from Page 1

Deerfoot Trail has been under Provincial jurisdiction since 2000.

Since that time, only one partial safety audit has been completed. The audit was done following a series of fatal crashes at the north end of the highway in 2005. The Province conducted

"It's a recipe for disaster" a safety review for Deerfoot Trail from the 16th Ave interchange to the city limits, determining that a better barrier was necessary for the grassy median, and recommended the installation of a post-and-cable barrier system along the 10km stretch. The new system has already seen success, being credited by some as having saved lives.

While this new post-and-cable barrier system has done well, I feel it is not enough. Everyday there are new accidents on Deerfoot Trail and already this year there have been 9 fatalities. Ignoring this problem is a "recipe for disaster."

The 2005 safety audit was a good start, but it was not comprehensive enough and it only covered a small portion of Deerfoot Trail. It is my sincere hope that this new review will make Deerfoot a safer road for all Calgarians.

CALGARY'S TOP 10 COLLISION-PRONE INTERSECTIONS

- 1: Deerfoot at Glenmore Tr.
- 2: Deerfoot at Memorial Dr.
- 3: Deerfoot at 16th Ave. N.
- 4: Crowchild at 50th Ave.
- 5: Deerfoot at Southland
- 6: Crowchild at Glenmore Tr.
- 7: Deerfoot at 32nd Ave.
- 8: Barlow at 114th Ave. S.E.
- 9: Deerfoot at 17th Ave. S.E.
- 10: Beddington Trail at Country Hills Boulevard

COLLISIONS WITH PROPERTY DAMAGE, INJURY OR DEATH	
2002: 2,037	2005: 1,987
2003: 1,888	2006: 2,174
2004: 1,936	TOTAL: 10,022
Source: Calgary Police Service	



Red-hot housing market means we pay more for everything

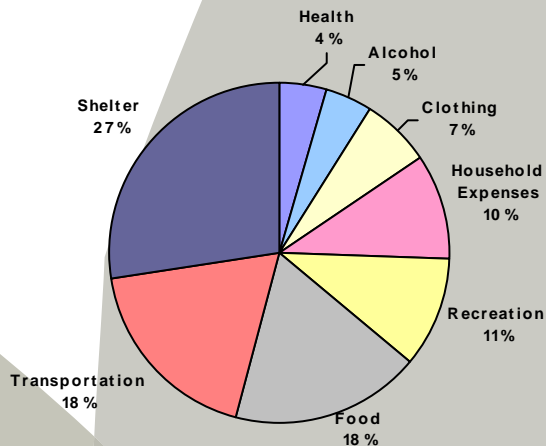
As of April 2007, Calgarians were paying 5.3% more for goods and services than they were last year. This measurement is based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket. The CPI is a price index that tracks the prices of a specified grouping of consumer goods and services, providing a measure of inflation.

The high price of housing is identified as a key factor for the high level of inflation. Housing is 27.3% of the CPI. Between April 2006 and April 2007, housing costs rose 14.9%. By comparison during the same 12 months, water, fuel, and electricity costs only rose 2.2%.

Calgary's strong economy was reflected by the levels of inflation. Alberta's inflation is at 4.4%, while nationally it is 1.8%. Meanwhile, Calgarians are experiencing an inflation rate of 5.3%.

The following is a breakdown provided by Statistics Canada:

Consumer Price Index Breakdown



Inflation Rates (12-Month-Moving-Average)			
	April-07	March-07	April-06
Canada: All-Items	1.8	1.9	2.3
Alberta: All-Items	4.4	4.2	2.7
Alberta: Core Inflation*	4.8	4.6	1.9
Alberta: Core/All-Items	1.1	1.1	0.7
Calgary: All-Items	5.3	5.1	2.7
Calgary: Core Inflation	5.8	5.6	1.9
Calgary: Shelter Inflation	14.9	14.4	5.0

*Core Inflation refers to all-items inflation rate excluding energy and food items.



Calgary Transit Strike Averted

Many Calgary residents are breathing a sigh of relief as a looming transit strike was averted at the last minute.

What happened?

The City presented their final offer to the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 583 on May 17th which was rejected. The Union, representing 400 C-train, bus and community shuttle operators, trades people, maintenance and office staff, was then considering what job action, if any, should be taken to address their concerns. On May 3, the Union had held a strike vote, giving the Union the mandate to strike if a reasonable compromise could not be found. Provincial legislation mandates that the Union has to provide the City with at least 72 hours notice before a legal strike could begin. The City always insisted its offer was 'fair and generous to employees'. As the strike loomed, the two sides still had many outstanding items to negotiate.

The Union eventually served the City with notice for a 24-hour strike that was scheduled to start at 12:30 pm Friday, June 1. The Union later rescinded the notice, having reached a tentative deal with City negotiators, and agreed to put the new deal to a ratification vote before its members for the same day it had planned to strike.

The members of the ATU voted to accept the new three-year deal with The City of Calgary on June 1st, and the City Manager, Owen Tobert ratified the contract shortly after. The contentious part on Shuttle buses will be sent to arbitration.

Shuttle Buses

Calgary Transit has been using community shuttles since 1986.

Shuttles have a maximum of 24 seats, about 50 per cent of the number of passengers of a regular bus. On average shuttles carry one-third the number of passengers of regular buses (16 passengers per hour on a shuttle vs. 49 passengers for a regular bus).

Currently, Calgary Transit cannot order shuttle buses identical to the ones already in use because engines for those vehicles are no longer available through the manufacturer and a replacement is not available. They also need to be more accessible.

Calgary Transit has

ordered 12 new shuttles for delivery in 2007. The new model of shuttle is more durable with a longer life expectancy than existing shuttles. They are low-floor and wheelchair accessible which makes these buses eligible for provincial funding.

The new model has a maximum of 24 seats. Two sets of seats, will be flipped up to accommodate up to two wheelchairs.

General Contract Details:

The new contract is retroactive from July 1, 2006, to July 5, 2009. It contains wage increase of 12%. The wage increase is comparable with most other systems in the Canadian transit industry, placing Calgary Transit workers second to Vancouver.

The contract also includes:

- ◆ An increase in the base hourly wage paid to shuttle drivers, who are part-time employees;
- ◆ Premiums for CTrain operators based on how long they remain on CTrain service;
- ◆ Permanent pay increases of 10 per cent for 11 trades groups. Nine of the 11 trades, including mechanics and electro mechanics, received an out of schedule increase to hourly wages in January based on the results of a market wage survey and City efforts to attract and retain employees.

Negotiations on the shuttle bus service have gone to arbitration.



Mayor Bronconnier and Alderman Diane discuss Transit concerns.

Calgary Transit has

Interesting Transit Facts:

- ◆ Calgary Transit offers 2.2 million hours of service annually.
- ◆ Calgary Transit carries over 250,000 customers every weekday on the CTrain and 260,000 every weekday on buses.
- ◆ There are 123 CTrain cars stopping at 36 CTrain stations along 42 km of track.
- ◆ There are 751 regular buses and 101 community shuttles on 161 routes covering 4,530 kilometres.



Alderman Diane chairing Land Use and Transportation Committee



Anderson Transit Orientated Development

Not that long ago, Anderson LRT Station was the end of the line. Today there are four stations past Anderson, and plans are in the works for more. It is impressive to see how Calgary has grown and changed so dramatically in recent years.

Today, Anderson Station is in need of a makeover. The City of Calgary has undertaken the Anderson Station TOD (Transit Orientated Development) Land Use Planning Study, and by working with residents in south Calgary, creating a plan for TOD at the Anderson Station.

TOD combines both public transportation with innovations in land-use planning to create a space where Calgarians can live, work, play, shop, and learn within a pedestrian environment; making our cars an option not a necessity.

TOD principles encourage a marriage between convenient transit service and planned higher density development with a variety of land uses that enrich the neighboring communities and the pedestrian experience, with a "main-street" ambiance.

Some of the land-uses could include a mix of residential development types, offices, hotels, health clubs, retail shops, restaurants, grocery stores, entertainment and cultural facilities making Anderson Station a destination and not just a means to get elsewhere.

TOD will help to address the demands of the unprecedented growth in the south by creating more opportunities for residents to leave their

cars at home; thereby reducing our footprint on the environment as well as our carbon emissions.

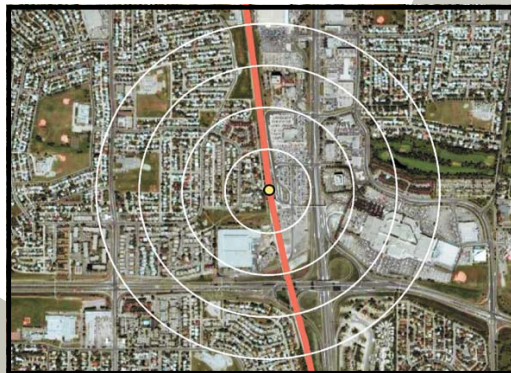
Anderson Station TOD needs your input and feedback to ensure that we get it right. Your input is important to ensure suitable land use, density, pedestrian pathways, and eye-catching design that is inviting and welcoming to Calgarians.

On Wednesday, June 20 from 4:00pm – 8:00pm I will be hosting an information session at the Southwood Community Centre (11 Sackville Drive SW). Your attendance is very important.

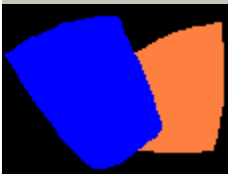
Please also view the Anderson TOD brochure, *Destination Anderson Station*, listed on my website www.aldermandiane.ca. The pamphlet provides more detailed information on the planned timeline of events and on the project in general.



Alderman Diane offering some explanation on proposed TOD plans.



The average person is willing to walk around 600m, or 5 minutes, to take transit. It is in this radius that TOD should occur.



Calgary Commuter Challenge: Calgary Number One in Canada!

The Calgary Commuter Challenge was started to encourage 'healthier' commuting practices, reducing the reliance on single-occupancy vehicles for trips to and from the workplace.

During the week of June 3-9, individuals and corporations recorded their modes of transportation. Each person who walked, ran, skated, cycled, telecommuted, rode transit or car-pooled was counted as a "healthier" commuter.

The results are in and 5421 Calgarians from

138 companies participated this year, **making Calgary, the number one 'green conscious' city in Canada**, beating out reigning champion Vancouver.

While several smaller companies achieved an astounding 100% participation amongst their staff, ConocoPhillips lead the way for large corporations with an incredible 60% of its staff making green commutes.

If you want to participate in 2008, visit www.calgarycommute.ca





Property Assessments

On January 30, the City sent out the 2007 property assessments to Calgarians and the numbers are staggering. The average residential property value increased 43% in 2006, setting a new record for Calgary.

While the average single family home was valued at \$250,500 in 2006, the assessment skyrocketed in 2007 to \$361,000. Meanwhile, the average condominium price saw a similarly huge jump from \$151,000 in 2006 to \$225,000 in 2007.

As a result of the 2007 property assessment; those properties whose value rose by **more** than the average increase (43%) will see an increase in their property taxes, however, those properties whose value increased by **less** than the average increase will see a decrease in their property taxes. Remember however, that this is based on the assessment only, and is said before any decisions have been taken at City Council to establish the final tax rate for 2007.

taxes by allowing changes in the market to be reflected as they occur each year, rather than accumulating over longer periods of time.

The market value of your property is thus determined by a comparison and analysis of: similar properties that have sold; the rental income properties generate; and the replacement cost of a building plus a value for land. The supply and demand for property of particular types or locations determines market value. Here are some factors that may affect market value:

- ◆ Location (community, access, views) of community and within community;
- ◆ Lot size;
- ◆ Size of home;
- ◆ Basement development;
- ◆ Quality of home;
- ◆ Age of home;
- ◆ Existence and type of garage;
- ◆ Traffic influences; and
- ◆ Nearness to green space, golf courses, utility corridors, etc.



Affordability can always be an issue, so if you feel you cannot manage your property taxes, the City of Calgary may provide a credit/rebate for up to the increase in residential property taxes. More information on the Property Tax Assistance Program can be obtained by calling 311 or emailing propertytaxassistanceneogram@calgary.ca.

The Government of Alberta also operates the Education Property Tax Assistance for Seniors Program, and they can be contacted at 1-800-642-3853 for more information.

Market Value Assessment

MVA is the most probable price that a property would sell for on the open market as of a given date. An assessor reviews and measures the real estate market to establish typical market rates. Your property assessment is based on the real estate market as of July 1, 2006 and the physical characteristics and condition of your property as of December 31, 2006.

Assessments are done annually using a mass appraisal technique and the market value standard as prescribed in the Municipal Government Act. Since 1999, the City of Calgary has employed this method, as it stabilizes

How are my property taxes calculated then?

Using a revenue neutral calculation, property taxes are calculated so that the City Council only collects what it needs for its' budget. Based on the premise that there is no increase in the budget, the tax rate is adjusted up or down to account for the year to year change in market value. Revenue neutral adjusts the previous year's tax rate to account for the increase or decrease in assessments due to the changing market values. If the market value increases then the tax rate decreases; and if the market value decreases then the tax rate increases.

In the end, your annual assessment shows what your taxes will be based on City Council's budgetary decisions.





2007 Property Taxes

City Council has approved an overall combined property tax rate increase of 2.6% for residential properties and 3.0% for non-residential properties.

This means that for a residential property assessed at median value (\$361,000 as of July 1, 2006) the tax hike will raise the annual bill by \$49 to \$1,972.

	<u>2007</u>	<u>% of residential tax bill</u>
Municipal portion	\$1,041	53%
Provincial portion	\$931	47%
Total Tax Bill	\$1,972	100%

Property tax is an integral part of the City's overall revenue sources.

Property taxation on both residential and non-residential properties amounts to \$1.26 billion annually, however the City must give \$497.7 million to the Province. The remaining \$758.2 million is used for municipal services. This revenue makes up about 36 per cent of the overall City operating budget of \$2.1 billion, with the remainder of the funding coming from other sources, such as the sales of goods and services, licenses and permits, fines, franchise fees, business taxes, grants, and subsidies from other levels of government.

Why the tax hike?

Calgary is Canada's fastest growing city, and City Council must respond to economic, social and environmental pressures associated with the changing landscape.

The good news is that despite the increase in population and the associated need for City Services and infrastructure, rising costs, and labour market challenges, City Council has managed to stick to the 2007 municipal property tax increase of 4.0% originally approved in

2005.

The City has been able to manage these changes through their annual business plan and budget adjustment process. I voted against these tax increases.

What about people who might not be able to afford tax increases?

Fortunately there are two programs in place to help residential property owners:

The City's residential *Property Tax Assistance Program* is available for those experiencing financial hardship who meet the minimum income guidelines. This program is open to any property owner who has lived in the

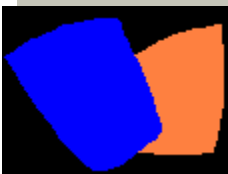
home for more than one year. For more info, call 234-7480.

The Province, through Alberta Seniors and Community Supports, also provides an annual rebate to seniors to cover any increase over their 2004 provincial portion of their property taxes. Seniors remain responsible for paying the full amount of the provincial property tax requisition by the due date indicated on the municipality's property tax notice. Senior homeowners may then be eligible for a rebate to cover any increase over their 2004 education property tax.

For information, call the Alberta Seniors Information Line toll free at 1-800-642-3853.



Alderman Diane speaking out against the property tax increase.



11 Principles of Sustainability

With the revision of the Land Use Bylaw (LUB), which Council approved this year, 11 new Sustainability Principles were brought in. These Sustainability Principles outline the parameters of any new development in Calgary.

The 11 principles are:

1. Create a range of housing opportunities and choices
2. Create walkable environments
3. Foster distinctive, attractive commu-

4. nities with a strong sense of place
5. Provide a variety of transportation options
6. Preserve open space, agricultural land, natural beauty and critical environmental areas
7. Mix land uses
8. Strategically direct and manage redevelopment opportunities within existing areas
9. Support compact development

9. Connect people, goods and services locally, regionally and globally.
10. Provide transportation services in a safe, effective, affordable and efficient manner that ensures reasonable accessibility to all areas of the city for all citizens.
11. Utilize green infrastructure and buildings



Secondary Suites: An Update

Recently I have received many inquiries regarding secondary suites from my Ward 13 residents. From these inquiries I have found that more clarification is needed.

What is a secondary suite?

A secondary suite is the provision of an additional unit (bedroom, bathroom, and kitchen) in conjunction with a principal dwelling such as a single detached home. In Calgary, most secondary suites tend to occur in the form of a "basement suite" within a single detached home. Although, basement suites are the most common, there are several other possible forms that have been developed in Calgary:

- ◆ Above a rear detached garage (these can be found in McKenzie Towne and Garrison Woods)
- ◆ Above the main floor of a single detached home
- ◆ Attached at grade to a single detached home (similar to a semi detached home)
- ◆ Detached (stand alone) from the principal dwelling (i.e. garden suites)

Why are most existing secondary suites illegal?

The majority of existing secondary suites are illegal because of the various reasons identified below or a combination thereof:

- ◆ They may not be a listed or allowed use within the land use district where they occur as prescribed under Calgary Land Use Bylaw 2P80;
- ◆ They do not conform to building and safety standards from the Alberta Building Code; and/or
- ◆ They have been developed without the required development approvals.

Why have secondary suites been proposed under the new Land Use Bylaw?

As part of the Land Use Bylaw review process, secondary suites were identified by some stakeholder groups, both from the community and industry, as a form of housing that needs to be **identified** in the new Land Use Bylaw. This identification does not equate to approval or grandfathering of existing illegal secondary suites.

How are secondary suites proposed to be identified under the new Land Use Bylaw?

The direction from Council on July 25, 2005 was for secondary suites to be listed as a discretionary use in **R-2** districts in both developed and developing areas.

For example, when the new Bylaw takes effect an existing **R-**

1 (RC-1) parcel may NOT develop a secondary suite unless the owner applies for a land use redesignation to a new district called **RC-1s**. The "s" is essentially the "modifier". It is a way to create a new district that includes secondary suites in its' discretionary uses.

It is important to note, that presently in the city of Calgary there are **NO** parcels of land that are set up to be listed as **RC-1s**.

For an overview of the new Land Use Bylaw visit my website. www.aldermandiane.ca



Alderman Diane answering questions concerning Secondary Suites

List of Districts and Definitions

Districts for Developed Areas

R-C1L Residential Contextual, Large Lot, One-Dwelling District
Single detached dwellings on large parcels.

R-C1 Residential Contextual, One-Dwelling District
Single detached dwellings.

R-C1N Residential Contextual, Narrow Lot, One-Dwelling District
Single detached dwellings on narrow or small lots.

R-C2 Residential Contextual, One/Two Dwelling District
Single detached, semi-detached and duplex dwellings.

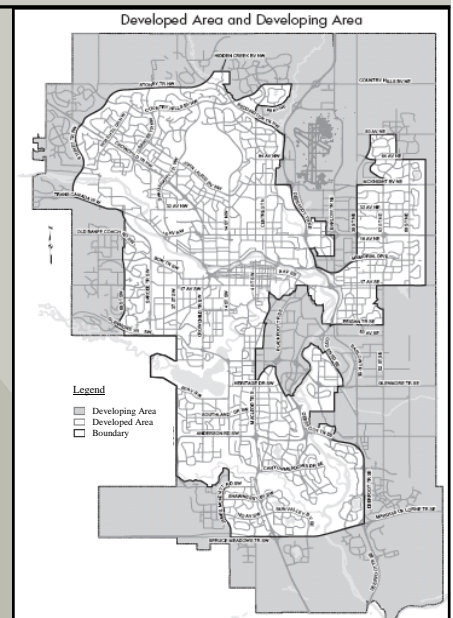
Districts for Developing Areas

R-1 Residential, One-Dwelling District
Single detached dwellings.

R-1N Residential, Narrow Lot, One-Dwelling District
Single detached dwellings on small or narrow parcels.

R-2 Residential One/Two Dwelling District
Single detached, semi-detached and duplex dwellings.

R-2M Residential Low Density Multiple Dwelling District
Low density, semi-detached and duplex dwellings, townhouses and row houses.





Curbside recycling

During the last business plan cycle (2006-2008) Council adopted the 80/20 strategy. This strategy aims to change the focus from "waste management" to "resource recovery", and to make sure that 80% of waste produced by Calgarians is diverted away from landfill sites by 2020.

The originally proposed program, at \$21 a month, would have marked the biggest single tax hit in Calgary's history; an approximate 19% increase on the average home's property taxes. This increase would have had the greatest impact on those in our city who can least afford it, single parents, seniors, young families, and Calgarians on a fixed income.

Council debated the proposed program and directed Administration to come back to Council with a revised proposal. The revised program would now be at a cost of \$8 a month.

When Council voted on the revised curbside recycling program we were tied 7-7, and the Mayor cast his vote in favour of the program, which is slated to start in 2009.

Not all Calgarians would benefit from the

proposed program; to start it would be just the 300,000 single family homes in the city. To create this service, you will pay the equivalent of \$96 per year, but condo and apartment dwellers would be exempt, at least for now.

The worry is that this is a new service that has the potential of becoming a very expensive government program at taxpayer's expense.

City Administration has not done all of their homework. Other major cities across Canada have been able to provide curbside recycling service for far less. In Vancouver the cost is only \$20 per year for curbside recycling.

Hundreds of you have emailed or called to let me know how you feel about mandatory curbside recycling. Thank you for your feedback.

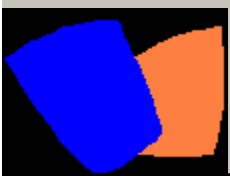
Alderman Ric McIver and I brought forward a motion to the March 12, 2007 meeting of Council asking that City Administration be directed to draft one or more plebiscite questions that can be brought forward to Calgarians during the 2007 Municipal

Election this October concerning this issue. This was defeated by Council.

The current approach to a new curbside recycling program needs to be less costly and more fair for Calgarians. At the March 12, 2007 Council meeting, I brought forward a Motion Arising asking Administration to look at incentive-based possibilities for curbside recycling. Currently, the city of Philadelphia, who has partnered with local businesses, utilizes a system, which imbeds a microchip into the recycle bins and rewards those who recycle.



Alderman Diane with Alderman Ric McIver at their press conference announcing their motion to hold a plebiscite on this issue in October.



Home Construction Standards

The homebuilding process for one and two-family homes will see much more transparency thanks to a new set of parameters set by City Council. The City will now require builders to have official and written confirmation from the City that the residence is ready to occupy.

New residents can easily check if this certification has been granted by viewing the 'Residential Permission to Occu-

py Permit', which will be located near the electric panel on all new homes, effective June 1st this year.

The City has also created a new report that will identify any Building Code deficiencies, however small, at time of occupancy. The new 'Permit Services Report' will be issued to the permit applicant (typically the builder) and to the registered homeowner within 30 days of a prepossession inspection. Homeowners can and should ask for a copy of

the report or the most recent inspection report before taking possession of the home.

The City hopes that these new rules will ensure that no building in Calgary is occupied unless it has been deemed safe to do so.



Come celebrate Aboriginal Awareness Week, June 16-23

- The City is celebrating its 19th annual Aboriginal Awareness week and events will run all week long.
- Calgary is the only city in Canada to designate an entire week to highlighting the important contributions that Aboriginal people have made to Canadian society.
- Events are free for everyone, so visit www.calgary.ca to find a complete listing of events!



Seasonal Garbage Bag Limits

It's that time of year again, when your yard waste can up to triple your weekly garbage.

Each year, weekly garbage output limits come into effect. Residences are limited to five bags or cans per week, with a maximum of 20kg each.

Residences that exceed the weekly

limit are asked to place household waste in front of yard waste, to ensure they are removed, with the remaining yard waste being removed as time and capacity allows.

Residents are encouraged to keep their garbage area tidy to aid in garbage removal, as well as making efforts to recycle paper, cardboard and other recyclables, reducing their waste output.

bles, reducing their waste output.

Waste and Recycling Services encourages Calgarians to convert their yard waste into reusable compost by using a backyard composter. Look for the June for backyard composter sales, and get yours while they are hot!



Ethical Procurement Practices

City Council has given the green light to a new policy that ensures products purchased by The City leave as small of an environmental footprint as possible and have been produced without violations to any human rights. This new Sustainable Environmental

and Ethical Procurement Policy (SEEPP) follows growing environmental and social trends in cities across North America, and will seek assurances that suppliers are paying fair wages, are providing safe and healthy working environments, and are not using forced or child labour.

First steps have already been taken as Council has implemented a pilot program in food, apparel and chemical purchases. The purchasing of fair trade, organic coffee in the Aldermanic Offices is one small example of how the new SEEPP policy is being put into practice.



Downtown Carpool Parking

At my request, the Calgary Parking Authority has agreed to revamp its system for selecting candidates on its monthly parking waiting lists. The incentive based program is to help encourage and reward Calgarians who carpool into the downtown core.

Under the new system, 50% of all new contracts will be given to applicants who have two or more occupants in their vehicles.

The CPA's new carpool priority system was launched to coincide with the June 1st opening of the sixth floor of the Centennial Parkade.

The new initiative will have a three-fold effect, this program will decrease the number of cars entering the downtown core by 25%, it will reduce the total emissions produced by commuters, and it will reduce traffic congestion during peak hours by taking some cars off the road. This program will also ensure that commuters save money by splitting the costs of transportation with their fellow carpoolers. This is a great step toward encouraging other Calgarians to begin carpooling.

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To be matched with other carpoolers visit Carpool.ca!

CALGARY PARKING AUTHORITY



Join the growing list of daily commuters who have found A BETTER WAY TO GET THERE!

As of June 6th, 2007

- 38 Calgary employers have signed on
- 3422 active registrations
- Over 768 carpools formed

Calgary has the largest carpool database in Canada!

A partnership between The City of Calgary & Commuter Connections

- *Another car off the road*
- *Save money on gas, repair bills, vehicle depreciation & parking*
- *A faster, less stressed commute*
- *Reduce commuter congestion*
- *Help the environment*
- *Defer infrastructure & maintenance costs*



Water treatment better than thought

The City of Calgary must provide Calgarians with safe drinking water. The City has always met or performed better than the requirements for drinking water standards set by the Provincial and Federal Governments.

A recent article stated The City of Calgary "ranked near the bottom in its assessment because the Glenmore and Bearspaw water treatment facilities were near capacity and required improvements to address the bacteria in the water." This article however was based on a 2004 report which unfairly represented the treatment situation.

In 2003, The Province agreed to implement more stringent standards set by the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for giardia and cryptosporidium removal, making a safe standard even safer.

Implementation of this standard was not expected to be immediate however as the cost was prohibitive. Treatment operations then were given eight years to upgrade their facilities to comply with the new standards. The Province then conducted a water safety review in 2004 which held The City of Calgary's facilities to the USEPA standards long before the City implemented the changes.

Following this report, Council approved a water treatment upgrade program in excess of \$300 million that would equip the plants to meet the

new enhanced standards, deal with population growth and reduce the impact on the environment.

The City will be on target to meet all deadlines by 2011.

The City of Calgary annually reports to citizens on its water quality. All reports are available on The City's web site www.calgary.ca.



Sheriff King Street Closure

United Communities, prime contractor of the project, is obligated to maintain closure of the Sheriff King Street for public traffic. Only the north end of the street will remain opened, and maintained, for the residents of the area to safely get in and out. Volker Stevin is the contractor working on this project, and will perform the actual work.

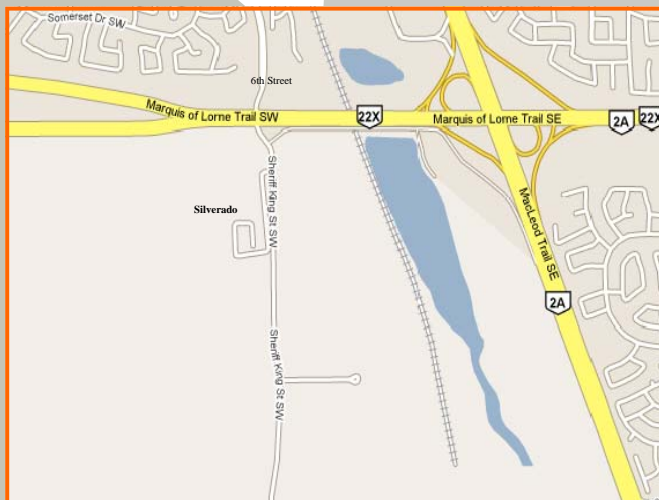
After the construction work is completed, Sheriff King Street will be paved in sections that lie within the Silverado Development. United Communities will restore the remaining portion of Sheriff King Street, from the Silverado Community to 210 Ave SW, according to the City of Calgary gravel roads specification standard.

United Communities, with their contractor Volker Stevin, are obliged to contribute to the maintenance of 210 Ave SW from Macleod Tr. to Sheriff King Street in the form of temporary repairs to the major blow-outs of the road. Those temporary repairs will consist of periodic leveling of the surface washboards and rutting, filling major potholes with a cold mix, and light compaction of such repairs.

The City of Calgary and the associated

developers are asking the residents of the area to be patient and work with them until the project is complete, and are sorry for all inconveniences. The subdivision, and the road, is undergoing a major reconstruction, therefore driving conditions in this rural part of the subdivision will remain very difficult for some time. With the work progress, and improved weather, conditions should become very acceptable soon.

If you have any questions or concerns phone 311, or contact Rob Arndt of Roads, The City of Calgary.



Did you know?

Calgary has over 4,200 kms of paved roads;
 Over 79,000 Street Lights;
 843 Traffic Signal Lights;
 And over 125,000 Traffic signs!



Bring Your ID To Vote!

There are many important issues facing the city, so it is really important to get out and vote this year. A new City bylaw requires voters to provide identification before you are allowed to vote in the Civic Elections on October 15.

City Council approved the bylaw to pre-

vent any instances of voter fraud.

Any one of the following pieces of identification is acceptable:

- ◆ Canadian Drivers License
- ◆ Canadian Passport
- ◆ Canadian Military Identification

- ◆ Birth Certificate
- ◆ Alberta Health Care Card
- ◆ Alberta Identification Card
- ◆ Certificate of Canadian Citizenship
- ◆ Veteran Affairs Canada (VAC)
- ◆ Old Age Security (OAS) Card
- ◆ Baptismal Certificate



Improving air quality

The whole world is taking steps today to sustain our quality of life for tomorrow. The City of Calgary is leading the way with environmental initiatives that are "first-overs" or firsts in North America.

Maintaining high air quality is a priority. Problem areas can arise within a single building's air zone (such as a factory), a community or a whole city. Calgary's rapid urban growth combined with development outside city boundaries have the potential to lead to our air's long-term deterioration.

Collaborating with regional partners, The City helped establish the Calgary Regional Airshed Zone (CRAZ). This collective is responsible for monitoring air quality and addressing air quality management issues in Calgary.

A second environmental challenge in which The City is succeeding is more concrete than air; our buildings. They might look the same colours as always, but our buildings have gone green. This is because The City adopted the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standard for all new City of Calgary building developments. The City is the first municipality in Canada to adopt this green standard. All new building and major renovations of facilities bigger than 500 m2 will meet or exceed the silver level LEED standard where design, construction and operational practices will result in lower greenhouse gas emissions.

Consequently, City-owned facilities have seen energy consumption decline by 25

per cent. This reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 26,000 tonnes.

In the northwest, Cardel Place achieved the LEED Gold Standard and was showcased at the 9th Annual Green Building Symposium in Calgary. This facility holds the distinction of being the first LEED Gold Facility in Alberta as well as Canada's first LEED recreation centre.



Artist's rendition of the Water Centre on Spiller Road

The City's new Water Centre on Spiller Road is also green from the inside out. Communications Advisor Rudy De Ciancio says there are two rather outstanding features. "The use of innovative (recycled) construction materials that impact the environment less and taking advantage of the building's natural light." This was achieved by designing the building long and narrow — no workstation is far from natural light and that's kinder on the eyes and the electric bill.

The Integrated Land Use and Mobility Plan is also in place to achieve a more sustainable city. The Plan updates Calgary's municipal development and transportation plans and is led by the Sustainable City Team. The goal is to ensure that new growth reduces the ecological footprint on a per capita basis.

This team examines topics such as increasing high-density housing, using less energy, processing waste more efficiently and consuming less water. A further City of Calgary initiative is the Downtown District Energy System. Announced in March, it's a heating and cooling plant located downtown in tandem with a combined heat and power energy plant located further from the core.

When completed, it will provide space heating and cooling services through underground piping to existing City buildings and new developments as well as generate electricity. In other words, we'll share heat and air conditioning, and save money.

This technology is not in widespread use in downtown areas of major Canadian cities. The City of Calgary will be a western Canadian leader in its use. It's one more way we're working for a greener future.



Renewable energy: Calgary leading the way

When it comes to plugging into green energy sources, Calgary is number one. The City has set a bold goal of lowering municipal government greenhouse gas emissions to 50 per cent below 1990 levels by 2012. Previous plans had called for a six per cent reduction in the same time period.

First, a 20-year renewable energy service arrangement with Enmax means Calgary is the *only* city in Canada to draw at least 75 per cent of its electricity from green power. Through the agreement, The City will be able to grow its use of renewable energy to 90 per cent by 2012, resulting in even lower greenhouse gas emissions.

Another means of reaching this target is very much in the air. That's because Calgary's CTrain is powered with 100 per cent emission free wind generated electricity. It's a *first* for any city in North America.

Though Calgary certainly has its share of blustery days, the wind comes all the way from Vision Quest Windelectric in Pincher Creek, who with Enmax, have been partners with The City for this project since its inception in 2001.

Using wind-generated power is equivalent to removing 7.5 million vehicle trips from Calgary streets every year — all the while continuing to transport over

250,000 customers each working day.



The bio-diesel alternative

Calgary continues to be a driver in the adoption of fuel-efficient vehicles and alternative fuels to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. New fleet additions include environmentally responsible gas/electric hybrid engines and trucks fueled by bio-diesel.

Bio-diesel is produced from waste cooking oils that would normally be disposed of at landfills, or from oil-seed crops like canola and soy. It requires no modification to existing diesel vehicles and is non-toxic, sulphurfree and renewable. Importantly, it reduces greenhouse gas emissions from the vehicles by 16 per cent.

One business unit taking full advantage of alternative fuel sources is Waste & Recycling Services.

A year and a half ago, the East Calgary Landfill began using bio-diesel and in March 2007, Spyhill vehicles came aboard. That means about 70 per cent of the department's vehicles burn cleaner. The third landfill, Shepherd, will be considered to participate in the initiative once its new locale is finalized.

"Any diesel vehicle is eligible," said Ron Davies, a District 2 collection services supervisor.

The only challenges were when bio-diesel was put into old tanks, he



says. Bio-diesel breaks down built-up rust and other foreign materials in old tanks and that was hard on filters. However, the business unit had lots of replacement filters on hand and things are operating well these days.

One of the primary vehicles using bio-diesel is the freightliner that collects paint cans from fire stations. It's a little strange that with its Mercedes engine, the vehicle runs on soy, but it's still a great ambassador for bio-diesel.

Other areas using bio-diesel include the fire department's "bush truck" and some Enmax vehicles.

Calgary Zoo update: New elephant and enclosure coming soon

The Calgary Zoo is preparing for two new additions this summer — an expanded elephant home and a baby elephant! The new and improved Elephant Crossing exhibit will feature double the indoor, and triple the outdoor space for the Zoo's four elephants — Kamala, Swarna, Maharani and Ganesha - and their offspring. This new enclosure will allow you to see them up close and in ways you might not have before. Elephant bath time, an important part of the elephants' daily routine, was once solely a behind-the-scenes experience. Now everyone will be able to enjoy it!

Elephant Crossing scheduled to open to the public by the end of June, so come down and check it out!





Public Toilets in Downtown Core

The lack of public toilet facilities in the downtown core has become a concern among a number of Calgarians in recent years, prompting City Council to request Administration move forward and examine the City's need for such facilities.

The absence of these facilities can be a barrier to attracting greater numbers of tourists, shoppers, and Calgarians into the downtown core.

Other concerns are the potential health hazards, including the pollution of waterways, associated with the improper management of waste. This initiative follows a host of Council driven plans, including the *Centre City Plan*, the *Centre City Social Plan* and the *Clean to the Core* initiative, all of which are working to make downtown a more "people friendly" environment.

Administration has researched the practices of other jurisdictions, and outlined a map of existing facilities, potential locations and problem areas. They have also set up two portable facilities in problematic areas as a pilot project. If the pilot is successful, Council is looking into expanding their numbers and locations.

City Administration has also brought automated, self-cleaning facilities under consideration and are examining the costs associated.

Initial estimates of automated facilities is at about \$250,000 US each, not including installation or maintenance. The City is working with local communities and business groups to see if sponsorship or advertising are possibilities to offset the cost of these facilities.

This program is being pursued in the hopes of creating a more vibrant and livable downtown for everyone to enjoy.



Low Income Assistance

Since 1996, The City of Calgary has provided assistance for low income Calgarians to participate in recreational programs and services offered by The City.

Approved applicants receive a substantial discount on registered programs and general admissions to City of Calgary pools, leisure centres, golf courses and art centres. Applicants must be residents of Calgary and demonstrate proof of financial eligibility - an annual application is required. In addition, 12 City affiliated partners honour Fee Assistance customers with discounted facility rates.



Since 1996, there has been a steady increase in the number of people approved for Fee Assistance.

In 2006, there were **14,871** people enrolled including **6,936** children under the age of 17. As well, **1,185** students were able to participate in swimming lessons with their schools. Council also approved a budget increase of \$250,000 to support initiatives that increase recreation access to low income Calgarians through 2008 of which \$150,000 is directed specifically to Fee Assistance. The funds are allocated to provide reimbursements back to the facilities for Fee Assistance registrations; additional funds support projects to promote and increase access to recreation for those on low incomes.

"To contribute to equitable access to recreational opportunities for all citizens, The City of Calgary will manage a program of fee assistance for registered recreation programs and facility admissions that low income Calgarians will be able to access with dignity and respect."

Fee Assistance funding is contained within Recreation's base budget (\$190,000) and is supplemented annually by interest from both the Children's Reserve (\$100,000) and the Economically Disadvantaged Reserve (approximately \$12,000) for a total of \$302,000. All residents of Calgary who apply and meet the financial eligibility guidelines are approved for Fee Assistance. No applicant who meets the eligibility criteria has been or will be turned away from the Program due to budget limitations.

Fee Assistance continues to be reviewed and improved based on customer, staff and community input. Planned improvements for 2007 include easier telephone and internet access for program registration.





Your Words

Every so often I receive emails from you that remind me of why I chose to run for office 7 years ago. Often small things make a difference. I always appreciate you taking the time to acknowledge what I do, and to ensure that I am on the right track. Your feedback is important, and I'd like to share some of these notes with you. ~ Dicu

Once again, [we] would like to thank you. You are an intelligent, excellent Alderman and we are proud to have you represent our Ward of the city.
~ Shannon, Grade 7

It seems that you have a very hard job. You are in charge of dealing with things that I wouldn't even have a say in. From the answers to our questions, I say that you know a lot about our city and what's happening. Once again, thank you for taking the time to talk to us. It was greatly appreciated!!!
~ Sarah, Grade 7

We visited City Hall and the highlight of the field-trip for our students was meeting you in your office. Your charisma and energy with the students was fantastic!
~ Mary, Southwood

I would like to thank Diane for all the work she and others did in helping to head off a transit strike. I know that they have worked hard behind the scenes to put this agreement in place.
~ Mike, Evergreen

Thank you for all your help to get new taxi bylaws passed, wouldn't have been possible with out your solid support thanks again.
~ Nicholas, Canyon Meadows

I just heard today that Council has approved the safety audit which you have been pushing. I believe that roadway safety is an 'emerging issue' and compliment you on your initiative.
~ Cathy, Somerset

Just wanted to say thank-you for helping make Calgary smoke free. I went to a pub the other night and it was just wicked to not have to sit in a dark dirty haze. My husband has asthma so this will allow us to go out more without him getting sick. Thanks to you and all your hard working staff!
~ Taylor, Bridlewood

My husband and I are very pleased with the work you are doing for us. You have our vote for the next election. I'm very pleased with the area of Woodlands, where we live. Thank you for all your hard work.
~ Bill & Marie, Woodlands

I personally oppose approving a per bag fee for garbage pick up. Don't back off your stance on this issue and keep up the good work.
~ Mitchell, Woodbine

We appreciate your open door policy and willingness to dialogue. We know we are not alone.
~ John, Shawnee Slopes

Thanks again for your hard work on Council!
~ Roger, Woodbine

Just wanted to say Good Work! And thank you for all your effort and time spent on the taxi issue. You chose the right words to put to Council and the public.
~ Mark, Millrise



OUT AND ABOUT IN THE COMMUNITY



Alderman Diane with Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day



Alderman Diane with a fellow red-head!



Alderman Diane posing with some of Calgary's finest.



Alderman Diane with some fellow members of Council and Mayor Bronconnier signing the CMARD Declaration.



Alderman Diane speaks to residents of Masterpiece Evergreen Seniors complex



Alderman Diane greeting students at the City Hall Safety Expo.



Alderman Diane speaking at the Bridlewood Shoppes



Alderman Diane speaking to students at Escuela Canyon Meadows



Alderman Diane gets a kiss from Sparky at the City Hall Safety Expo.



Alderman Diane helps cut the ribbon at the Grand Opening of Masterpiece Evergreen Seniors complex



Alderman Diane celebrating National Aboriginal Day 2007



Keeping in touch

There are a number of ways to have your voice heard. I invite you to contact me directly — by email, by fax or telephone my office —if you have any questions or opinions you would like to share. ~ Dicu

Communicating with Business Units

The City Clerk will forward any correspondence they receive to the appropriate Business Unit for follow-up. Or, contact "311" if you have any inquiries.

Communicating with Council

Correspondence regarding a Public Hearing matter and intended for inclusion in the Council Agenda, must be received by the City Clerk before 10:00 a.m. on the second Thursday prior to a scheduled Public Hearing. Forward your letters to:
City Clerk, #8007
P.O. Box 2100, Station "M"
Calgary, AB T2P 2M5
Tel: (403) 268-5861 Fax: 268-2362
e-mail: cityclerk@calgary.ca

Committee & Council Meetings

In general, all Committee and Council Meetings are open to the public and are held in City Hall and the Municipal Building. Citizens are invited to speak to Agenda items at SPC Meetings and at Public Hearings of Council. A monthly listing of Committee and Council meetings is posted on the Plaza level of the Municipal Building and First Floor, City Hall, as well as on The City's website, www.calgary.ca. A vote of Council is required for a member of the public to speak at a Regular Meeting of Council.



I welcome your comments and questions...

**Diane Colley-Urquhart
Alderman, Ward 13**

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