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## Ring road fear spreads

Community in path of alternative route fears property values to take hit

By **BILL KAUFMANN, SUN MEDIA**

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The apparent death of a ring road through Tsuu T'ina land is being mourned by one community president who says its demise is already hurting his neighbours.

With 37 St. S.W. through Lakeview now a possible alternative route, community president Jim Royer said property values there are being bulldozed.

"We've already created a situation -- people are already being impacted and nothing's even been done yet," said Royer, who opposes a tunnel or bridge over the Weaselhead linked to 37 St. farther north.

"If you lived along 37 St., would you put your home up for sale and would anyone buy it?"

Unlike many in the city -- and at city hall -- Royer said he'd like nothing more than to see negotiations revived between Calgary, the province and the Tsuu T'ina, whose chief has left open that option.

"I'd be happy to see it happen again but I'm not convinced there's a political will," he said, noting Mayor Dave Bronconnier and Premier Ed Stelmach have turned thumbs down on the notion.

Royer said he also fears the desire for a hasty alternative will leave communities in the lurch. "Will the need to come up with a solution quickly come up with a bad solution, will it avoid public consultation?" he said.

Ald. Brian Pincott says other solutions to southwest commuting can be found in re-working roads and better public transit.

"Pushing eight-lane roads through neighbourhoods is a community-killer," said Pincott, adding 200 homes in Lakeview would face demolition.

Ald. Diane Colley-Urquhart said it's vital roadways and interchanges along 14 St. S.W. be upgraded before any waterways are crossed.

But she said the resistance to such plans that pitted communities against each other years ago might be absent now. "We're a lot bigger city, traffic congestion is much worse and people have reached the point of thinking 'we have to do something.'" said Colley-Urquhart.

A plan should be clear when a report is presented to council in September, she added.

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