



Alderman Diane and volunteers clean up near Shawnessy LRT Station ~ May 24

## **Summer 2008 Newsletter**

**Alderman Diane Colley-Urquhart**

### **Canada Pacific, Calgary Transit, and Communities Work Together on Joint Clean-Up**

On May 24, thirty volunteers and I donned our personal protective equipment and rain gear to do our part and participate in the joint clean-up. The clean-up was staged at both the Shawnessy and Heritage LRT Stations.

The community-minded participants braved the rainy weather and we managed to collect more than 70 bags of wind-blown garbage and illegally dumped items.

The work attracted the attention of a 660 NEWS team that is looking to raise awareness about the effects that littering has on our communities and environment.

I am so pleased that everyone was working together to look after our community and to keep everything safe and clean. It is everyone's responsibility to help.

Thank you to all those volunteers who made this joint clean-up a success.

### **Curbside Recycling Is Coming in 2009**

Starting in 2009, all single family homes in Calgary will have curbside recycling. I have received many calls asking for more information about the program.

Presently, only about 20% of recyclable materials are currently being diverted from the landfills. The City of Calgary's long-term goal is to divert 80% of waste going to landfills by the year 2020.

Approximately 300,000 single family homes, up to and including fourplexes, will receive the weekly recycling service, doubling the amount of household waste diverted from Calgary landfills. Calgary will recycle over 60,000 tones of paper, which is the equivalent to saving one million trees every year.

Each eligible residence will receive a blue cart as part of the service. Carts are weatherproof and have a sturdy flip lid and wheels to make them easy to maneuver. All recyclables go in one cart and will be collected on the same day and same location as your regular garbage collection.

I have had many calls from Ward 13 residents asking me if plastics are included. Numbered plastics 1-7 (except Styrofoam), such as yogurt containers and shampoo bottles will also be included. This means more than 10,000 school buses full of plastics will be recycled.

Other accepted materials are:

- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Mixed paper
- Cardboard
- Glass
- Food cans
- Milk containers

The recyclables will be transported to a local material recovery facility for sorting and processing. Eventually they will be sold and recycled into new products. Revenue generated from the sales of these recovered materials will go back into the program. The fee for this service will appear on your City utility bill each month.

Another common question has been about the community recycling bins. Since 1992, Calgarians have made good use of the community recycling depots. Currently the depots are operating at more than 150% above their designed capacity. These community recycling depots will remain in place to service those Calgarians who will not be included in the new service (multi-family residences, farms and acreages, and when you have more than your bin can hold).

For more information about Waste & Recycling Services and the new curbside recycling program, please visit [www.calgary.ca/waste](http://www.calgary.ca/waste) or contact 3-1-1.

**As always, you can contact my office regarding this or any other civic matter at 268-1624, by email at [dcolley@calgary.ca](mailto:dcolley@calgary.ca). Alternatively, you can contact '311.'**