



Alderman Diane & David Urquhart

June 2006 Newsletter

**Alderman
Diane Colley-Urquhart**

SPEAKING OUT ... AT THE SAM AWARDS

I am often asked to speak at engagements in the capacity of a City Official and even more often as Deputy Mayor when Mayor Bronconnier is unable to attend. It has been an honor and a privilege to attend numerous functions and events and to bring greetings on behalf of my colleagues on City Council and the City of Calgary. I would like to share with you in the coming months, some of the speeches I have delivered to a variety of audiences.

On April 8, 2006, I addressed the almost 2000 home building professionals at the 19th Annual SAM Awards at the Telus Convention Centre. The "Sales And Marketing" awards were created in 1986 by the Calgary Regional Home Builders Association and have since evolved to celebrate the "best of the best" within the housing industry. The largest and most prestigious in Canada, the SAM Awards raise the bar year after year for consumer and member expectations.

As you may know, I was one of two aldermen who did not support implementing the cost of growth levy that will add from \$2,000 to \$2,500 to the cost of every home in new subdivisions. The Community and Recreation Levy as it is termed, was approved by Council on 2006 April 10 and will add \$176 million over 5 years to cover the cost of infrastructure including recreation centres, libraries, buses and emergency services. This will have a significant impact on new subdivision development, making home ownership especially for young couples and families, even less affordable.

Address to

19th Annual SAM Awards

Telus Convention Centre

2006 April 8

Deputy Mayor Diane Colley-Urquhart

I am so pleased to be here for the 19th Annual SAM Awards.

With your outstanding leadership Ryan and that of everyone here tonight, YOU are the people who are making things happen in THIS city. And what a historic time it is!

You must feel a little bit like the people during the Klondike Gold Rush of 1897. Miners of all shapes and sizes called "stampedeers" were on their way to the gold fields. Within six months, approximately 100,000 gold-seekers set off for the Yukon.

Today as then, supplies are tough to come by and when you get them, they cost too much. There's an acute skilled labour shortage and prices are careening out of control. But that's not stopping you folks. This isn't fools gold! THIS is the real thing.

Over the next 5 years, about \$45 billion will be invested into oil sands development. And our Province will invest \$13 billion over 3 years directly into infrastructure. Calgary's economic forecast leads the nation. We must remember that we all benefit from growth and therefore must all share equitably and fairly in the costs associated with growth. We all must strive to keep new homes affordable and minimize the impacts at the door.

This also means new relationships with provincial and federal governments to equalize and reconcile the fiscal imbalance. This will truly foster the entrepreneurial spirit this city is known for.

You of course must be an equal partner in these decisions. You are an exemplary industry partner - the envy of the world - with tremendous expertise and good ideas, tons of experience and lots of goodwill to build liveable and sustainable communities.

The City of Calgary is committed to working with you every step of the way to make this happen.

I'm so very proud of the contribution you are making to our city, to the people who live here, and, to the others who just can't wait to get here.

With no end in sight, you truly are the 'stampedeers' literally breaking new ground each and every day in a place that just keeps getting hotter and hotter. Everyone is working full out with no end in sight.

This won't be the last time we meet. Nor the last time we will speak. Monday morning will be filled with lots of new challenges. But I know we can do this right. It's kind of fun to do the impossible.

But for tonight, on behalf of my colleagues on City Council, I want to congratulate you for the excellence in innovation that you've demonstrated and for which you will be recognized and honored here tonight. Thank you for inviting me here tonight.

As always, you can contact my office regarding this or any other civic matter at 268-1624, by email at dcolley@calgary.ca, or through my website, www.aldermandiane.ca. Alternatively, you can contact '311.'



Alderman Diane Colley-Urquhart
Illegal Suites Town Hall Meeting

June 15, 2006 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Southwood Community Hall
Seating Limited