



July 2009 Newsletter

Alderman Diane Colley-Urquhart

Alderman Diane with Chef David Adjei at the Countdown to WorldSkills Calgary 2009.

Ensuring Accountability

Over the next five years, more than \$6 billion in infrastructure will be constructed in Calgary. Calgarians, funding partners, and suppliers can monitor the progress of these projects through a new website (www.calgaryinfrastructure.ca).

This website will give Calgarians an opportunity to look at 125 priority projects currently underway, with more projects to be added in the coming months.

The major feature of the website is an interactive map that pinpoints 125 capital projects funded by The City's approved 2009-2013 capital budget. Each pinpoint displays the project's details including, construction schedule and status, sources of funding, and project costs. As projects develop, photos and progress reports will also be made available.

The federal and provincial governments contribute a significant portion of The City of Calgary's capital funding, which is making it possible for the for The City to upgrade and build new infrastructure for Calgarians.

This is an important tool for The City of Calgary and Calgarians. It is a very detailed and transparent project tracker. By the end of the summer, some 500 projects will be mapped and detailed.

Transit Gets More Funding

The city's bid to attract more transit users, by building four-car platforms and increase safety and security, was given a boost this May when the federal and provincial governments partnered with The City to fund system improvements.

Each level of government has pledged \$90 million (for a total of \$270 million) for the transit improvement projects.

The cash infusion will go towards creating four-car platforms along the south and northwest LRT, upgrading closed-circuit cameras, building a station on the new west leg at 11 Street, improving passenger information systems, power upgrades and the construction of the southeast bus rapid transit park-and-ride lots.

WorldSkills Calgary 2009

On 2009 May 25, I had the privilege of bringing greetings from The City of Calgary as Deputy Mayor to the countdown of WorldSkills Calgary 2009.

WorldSkills is an international competition for the very best in trades and technologies. Dating back to 1953, it is held every 2 years. Calgary is the second Canadian city and the third in North America to host this competition.

The WorldSkills competition sets world class standards in 45 categories – ranging from welding to cooking, autobody repair to landscape gardening, plumbing to web design.

This is a major global event that will showcase Calgary to 50 countries and according to WorldSkills organizers will result in about \$82 million in net economic benefits to the city and about a thousand new jobs for Calgary.

More than 150,000 spectators are expected to be in our city to take in this global competition, which will further enhance Calgary's reputation as world class city. WorldSkills Calgary 2009 is the largest competitive event hosted in Calgary since the 1988 Winter Olympics.

The entire competition will take place at Stampede Park from September 1 to 7. Admission to WorldSkills is free and spectators are welcomed.

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