



Beautifying our Downtown

You may have seen a couple of curious-looking students wandering the streets of our City this summer. Did you wonder what they might be up to?

Clipboards in hand, Erica and Adam – this year’s *Summer Planning Interns* – were diligently counting things... that’s right, counting things!



The City is committed to providing a pedestrian and cycle friendly downtown. In our efforts to do so, we’ve asked our interns to build a geographically-referenced inventory that details the location of amenities and their condition.

For the last two months, Erica and Adam have been our Department’s “eyes on the street” cataloguing items such as benches, trees, garbage cans, bike racks and tourist kiosks. By noting where problematic conditions exist, attention can be drawn to these locations during future improvement initiatives.

The inventory is intended to complement the Downtown Parking Management Plan, which is currently still underway. The inventory will additionally serve as a tool during future public engagement activities, including the up-coming Downtown South Charrette tentatively planned for 2011.

These resources will assist in keeping the downtown area as a place that is enjoyable, safe and accessible to all its users.

For more information, please contact Ben Campbell, Planner, at 668-8338 or ben.campbell@whitehorse.ca.



Downtown Trees in Bad Shape!

Initial assessment of the amenity inventory reveals that many trees in Downtown Whitehorse are in bad shape. City trees have a rough go, especially in highly-trafficked pedestrian areas such as Third Avenue and Main Street – where they are needed most!

Over one-fifth of the trees inventoried on these two streets were observed to be in poor condition. This means that they were missing significant canopy, had broken branches or showed signs of scarring from abuse. In fact, vandalism is one of the biggest problems compromising the health and longevity of Downtown trees.

Whitehorse trees are slow growing and take many years to achieve large sizes. The acts of vandalism and abuse further distress the trees from reaching their full potential in this harsh climate.

Protecting street trees is a responsibility we all share and is easily accomplished by remembering these simple actions:

- ◆ Leave pruning of branches to qualified City staff
- ◆ Never lock bicycles to tree trunks
- ◆ Never carve letters or symbols in the bark of a tree
- ◆ Keep litter out of tree containers



Did you know?

Did you know that the Takhini North and Ingram neighbourhoods offer incentives to build more energy efficient housing?

Home-owners are able to receive variances in yard setbacks, building height, and lot coverage if they can demonstrate that their house will meet certain energy efficiency improvements.

Eligible improvements include:

- ◆ Achieve Green Certified Building
- ◆ Minimum building insulation levels
- ◆ Energy efficient appliances
- ◆ Shared district heating
- ◆ Rain water harvesting system
- ◆ Grey water reuse system

For more information on these incentives, please contact Alex Kondor, Development Officer, at 668-8334 or alex.kondor@whitehorse.ca.

Whitehorse Waterfront Redevelopment Nears Completion

After another eventful summer the Whitehorse Waterfront is nearing completion! Ranging from Rotary Park in the south to Shipyards Park in the north, the Whitehorse Waterfront Redevelopment project is funded through the Canadian Strategic Infrastructure Fund.

You may have noticed a large construction project at the intersection of Black Street and First Avenue. This is the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre, a large multipurpose building that will house the new Whitehorse Public Library as well as special event spaces and cultural venues dedicated to the Kwanlin Dün First Nation. The building should be completed in 2012.

The Waterfront Wharf is also progressing. The wharf will be located near the White Pass Building and will feature a large wharf and plaza area, landscaping, and completion of the paved and lighted trail. This past summer we saw the construction of some of the smaller components of the wharf including an urban plaza located beside the White Pass Building.



Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre



Urban Plaza

The main wharf component will be undergoing construction in 2011 and should be completed by 2012.

Other projects that have been progressing this past summer include the Rotary Park parking lot and the Shipyards Park Heritage Buildings. The heritage buildings are being restored so they can be used by future tenants to draw more visitors to Shipyards Park.

Aside from work on the Cultural Centre and Wharf, next summer will see the completion of the landscaping along First Avenue and the interior restoration of the Roundhouse Building.

After 10 years of planning, design and implementation the vision for the waterfront as the cultural, social and recreational heart of our City is finally being realized.

For more information, please contact Ben Campbell at 668-8338 or ben.campbell@whitehorse.ca.

Talk of the Town

Official Community Plan Update

After more than a year of consultation and development the Official Community Plan (OCP) is nearly adopted! But the adoption of the OCP represents just the tip of the iceberg for the Planning and Development Services Department.

The Zoning Bylaw will need to be updated and reviewed based on the changes to the new OCP. Some of the items to be looked at in the new Zoning Bylaw include:

- ◆ Creating inclusive neighbourhoods; e.g. allowing social housing
- ◆ Encouraging universal design
- ◆ Increasing local food production
- ◆ Encouraging more Downtown development
- ◆ Examining allowable uses along the Alaska Highway
- ◆ Examining allowable uses in industrial areas

Please stay tuned for further updates on this important review, including opportunities to voice your opinion on Zoning related issues.

For more information on the Zoning Bylaw review, please contact Mike Ellis at 668-8337 or mike.ellis@whitehorse.ca.

Whistle Bend Update

The Yukon Government has begun surveying and clearing work in Whistle Bend. Any trees over 10 cm in diameter will be stacked for public pick up. For further information on salvage material please contact Brian Ritchie, YG Community Services, at 667-3093.

Coming and Going

There has been some changes in the Planning and Development Services Department over the past few months.

Linda Leverman-Fike, Customer Service Representative, has left the City in order to move to Courtenay, BC. Linda was an integral part of our team and will be missed. All the best Linda!

Jennifer Mildner was the successful candidate to take over from Linda. Before moving to the Department, Jennifer was working for the City at the Canada Games Centre. Congratulations Jennifer!

Mark Browning has also accepted the position of Subdivision and Lands Coordinator. Mark has been with the City for nearly two years and will now work in the Land Development Branch of our Department. Way to go Mark!

Planning & Development Services

Planning: 867-668-8346
Development Services: 867-668-8346
Building Inspections: 867-668-8340
Fax: 867-668-8395
www.planning.whitehorse.ca

Mike Gau Manager
668-8333 mike.gau@whitehorse.ca

Ben Campbell Planner
668-8338 ben.campbell@whitehorse.ca

Cathy Small Subdivision & Lands Coordinator
668-8319 cathy.small@whitehorse.ca

Christine O'Connor Senior Customer Service Rep.
668-8346 christine.oconnor@whitehorse.ca

Dave Brink Building/Plumbing Official
668-8340 david.brink@whitehorse.ca

Doug Thorseth Supervisor Building Inspections
668-8343 doug.thorseth@whitehorse.ca

Joy Janssens Customer Service Rep.
668-8340 joy.janssens@whitehorse.ca

Alex Kondor Development Officer
668-8334 alex.kondor@whitehorse.ca

Kinden Kosick Planner
668-8348 kinden.kosick@whitehorse.ca

Jennifer Mildner Customer Service Rep.
668-8330 jennifer.mildner@whitehorse.ca

Mark Browning Subdivision & Lands Coordinator
668-8347 mark.browning@whitehorse.ca

Mike Ellis Senior Planner/Supervisor
668-8337 mike.ellis@whitehorse.ca

Nick Marnik Building/Plumbing Official
668-8342 nick.marnik@whitehorse.ca

Pat Ross Land Development Supervisor
668-8339 pat.ross@whitehorse.ca

Pete Craft Building/Plumbing Official
668-8344 pete.craft@whitehorse.ca