



Cathie Archbould

Getting Involved in the Porter Creek Charrette

The City of Whitehorse and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation will be hosting a design charrette to develop a neighbourhood concept plan for the new sustainable urban residential area on the Porter Creek Bench. The charrette will take place at the Canada Games Centre during the week of November 6th to 10th and there will be many opportunities for you to get involved.

A charrette is a collaborative planning process that harnesses the talents and energies of all interested parties to create a feasible plan. The charrette brings together an interdisciplinary design team that will include planners, residents, business people, architects, environmental experts and policy makers. Collaborative design sessions will be combined with

public workshops and open houses where the design team, stakeholders and the public will work together to identify problems and create solutions.

The Porter Creek Bench charrette will involve several large public meetings in the evenings as well as opportunities for community members to work on design issues of specific interest to them. Between public meetings the design team will use what they heard from the public to come up with plans and revisions to be shown at the next round of meetings. This cycle of design and review continues over the course of the charrette.

The charrette will include both day and evening sessions, to ensure that everyone can be involved to the level that suits them. There will also be a reception area

that will be open to the public at all times, so that residents can comment on the plans and get updates at any time. The opening meeting may take place on Sunday November 5th; atch for details.

In the lead-up to the charrette, the City will be meeting with stakeholders to discuss the process, identify issues and concerns, and determine how each person or organization will be involved. If you would like to set up a stakeholder meeting, please contact our Planning & Development Services Department.

Details about the stakeholder interviews, the charrette schedule, and lots of other information can be found on our website at www.whitehorse.ca. The Planning and Development Services Department can be reached at 668-8335.

What is Smart Growth?

With planning for a new sustainable neighbourhood on the Porter Creek Bench underway, it is time to start thinking about how we would like to see our community develop. Generally, sustainable community planning encourages neighbourhood design and land use planning approaches that reduce costs and environmental impacts, while maintaining community livability.

We are at the beginning of the planning process for the Porter Creek Bench. This is an excellent opportunity for Whitehorse to showcase a new sustainable northern neighbourhood.

The term “smart growth” refers to a set of tools used to apply the concepts of

sustainability to land use, urban design, and planning. Smart growth is based on the use of alternative development standards and strategies that reduce the impact of urban growth on the natural environment and integrate infrastructure into ecosystems, thus reducing the cost and creating more livable communities.

Smart growth initiatives support the following principles and practices:

- Encourage mixed-use zones
- Promote compact walkable neighbourhoods
- Concentrate new growth into existing areas
- Enhance the range of housing options

- Link new development to public transit
- Integrate storm water management with stream corridor and riparian area protection strategies
- Reduce the overall amount of impervious surfaces, while maximizing the use of public open spaces as rain-water catchment areas
- Preserve linked greenways, open spaces and environmentally sensitive areas
- Ensure effective citizen participation in development decisions

A good place to start looking for more information is www.smartgrowth.bc.ca.

Talk of the Town

Riverfront Development

This was a busy summer on the Whitehorse Riverfront with many of the projects funded through the Canadian Strategic Infrastructure Fund getting underway.

Landscaping was completed around the lift station in Shipyards Park. The construction of a picnic shelter and viewing platform got underway in September. The waterfront trail in Rotary Park was repaved and new lights were installed. The lights on the Robert Campbell Bridge have been replaced with the same decorative lights found along the Riverfront. The reconstruction of First Avenue is nearly complete. Crews have been busy replacing the utilities and work has begun on the paving and streetscaping.

Downtown Plan

On May 23rd, Council adopted the Downtown Plan. Once a new Council has been elected, the Plan will be brought forward as an amendment to the Official Community Plan. The Zoning Bylaw will then be updated to reflect the recommendations set out in the Downtown Plan.

Porter Creek D

Over the spring and summer the Yukon Government held a series of public meetings about the proposed development south of Pine Street in Porter Creek. There will be no decisions made until the Yukon Government has finalized the results of their consultation.

Coming & Going

After 12 years with the City, Lyle Lonneberg, the Building/Plumbing Supervisor, has retired. His thoughtful handling of building issues and his smile will be missed by City staff and the public.

We are pleased to announce that Kinden Kosick has accepted the position as Development Officer. He is originally from Fort St. John and just finished a B.Sc. in Environmental Planning at U.N.B.C. in Prince George.

Dawn Stagg has returned to the Department as a Customer Service Representative. Welcome back Dawn!

Planning Underway in Takhini North

For several years Takhini North has been in need of infrastructure upgrades. Sewer lines are near capacity, sidewalks are crumbling, and in some cases roadways overlap private property. The City of Whitehorse is presently planning on having these problems fixed by 2008.

New infrastructure in Takhini North means the possibility for neighbourhood improvements as well as new residential lots. The 2002 Official Community Plan encourages future housing development in the City to be in "as compact a manner as feasible". Takhini North is in the centre of the City, putting current and future residents within walking distance of downtown, the Canada Games Centre and many other amenities.

The City of Whitehorse has hired Kobayashi + Zedda Architects (KZA) to help with the planning. This process will include community involvement, with the goal of creating a better neighbourhood for everyone. Sustainability will also be a key – although the design process is just beginning, KZA and the City will strive to look at numerous innovative ideas, including:

- Alternative storm water management (e.g. saving rain water for use on-site)
- Minimizing asphalt paving (e.g. reduced road widths)
- Innovative energy saving ideas (e.g. low height street lamps)
- Improved green spaces (e.g. restoring disturbed areas)
- New bylaws and regulations (e.g. design guidelines to encourage sustainable housing forms)

Along these lines, KZA has been working on a design process to secure funding for a special housing project for Takhini North. This project involves developing new housing that combines energy efficient design, construction and appliances, integrated with commercially available renewable energy systems to achieve net zero energy consumption on an annual basis, as well as significantly reduced environmental impact.

The City is looking forward to working with the Takhini North Community Association on this project.

Planning & Development Services

Planning: 867-668-8335
Building Inspections: 867-668-8340
Fax: 867-668-8395
www.planning.whitehorse.ca

Lesley Cabott Manager 668-8337
lesley.cabott@whitehorse.ca

Christine O'Connor
Senior Customer Service Rep. 668-8335
christine.oconnor@whitehorse.ca

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

Dawn Stagg Customer Service Representative 668-8340
dawn.stagg@whitehorse.ca

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

Kinden Kosick Development Officer 668-8334
kinden.kosick@whitehorse.ca

Mike Ellis Planner 668-8347
mike.ellis@whitehorse.ca

Mike Gau Senior Planner/Supervisor 668-8333
mike.gau@whitehorse.ca

Nick Marnik Building/Plumbing Official 668-8340
nick.marnik@whitehorse.ca

Pat Ross Subdivision and Lands Coordinator 668-8339
pat.ross@whitehorse.ca

Pete Craft Building/Plumbing Official 668-8340
pete.craft@whitehorse.ca

Zoë Morrison Planner 668-8338
zoe.morrison@whitehorse.ca

Vacant Supervisor Building Inspections

