

# PLAN IT WHITEHORSE



## Get Ready for the Lower Porter Creek Bench Charrette

The City of Whitehorse, with the assistance of the Sustainability Charrette Design Team from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), the Yukon Government and the Yukon Housing Corporation, will be hosting a Design Charrette for Lower Porter Creek Bench from November 6th to 10th, 2006.

A charrette brings together people who can provide all the information necessary to complete a planning process. This includes residents, planners, engineers, economic analysts, traffic experts, urban designers and architects who have knowledge of local issues. This is called the design team.

A charrette takes place over five days. Over the course of the charrette, the design team will work with stakeholders and the public to develop a common vision, to come up with design con-

cepts and to refine this into a final design or plan for Council consideration and for review under the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Act*. A charrette normally requires two or three public meetings and meetings with other stakeholders as required. The compressed timelines add momentum and excitement to the project.

The City is excited about this new collaborative approach to planning. Three of the City's planners were trained by the National Charrette Institute and are working closely with CMHC to engage the community of Whitehorse in the planning of this new sustainable neighbourhood. Charrettes mobilize the energy of the community, address all aspects of feasibility, reduce project timelines and find the best design solution. Charrettes are effective for complex design prob-

lems and projects that include imminent development.

The City of Whitehorse and its partners will kick off the Lower Porter Creek Design Charrette with a Public Meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup>. The City is currently identifying stakeholders and completing a stakeholder analysis. The City is also working with consultants to prepare reports addressing sustainable infrastructure options for the area, socio-economic background, the environment, special places and heritage issues.

At the September 12<sup>th</sup> meeting we will report to the community on the background research we have compiled and identify any additional research that may be required. So please mark your calendars and *plan* to be part of this exciting process for Whitehorse. Call 668-8335 for more information.

## New Greenspace Bylaws

Two new Greenspace bylaws were passed by the City in June. These bylaws were brought forward as a result of a petition that was signed by over 2000 Whitehorse residents earlier this year.

Bylaw 2006-10 was adopted on June 12th 2006. It is a bylaw that requires Council to hold a referendum in order to change the land use of areas designated as greenspace in the Official Community Plan. For example, if the greenspace around Chadburn Lake was proposed for development, the change would have to be approved by a city-wide referendum.

Another Bylaw, 2006-11, was brought to a referendum on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006, and was supported by 51% of voters. This bylaw requires prospective developers to carry out a planning study and create a greenspace map before development can take place. Once finalized, the City will hold an area plebiscite to ensure that the community agrees with the greenspace map.

The City will be working with the community to implement these new Bylaws. Please call 668-8335 for more information.

### Charrette Study Area



**Lower Porter Creek Bench**

## Talk of the Town

### Downtown Plan

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Council adopted the Downtown Plan. The Plan will now be brought forward as an amendment to the Official Community Plan. The Zoning Bylaw will also be updated to reflect the Plan. Thanks to all who participated in this important planning project.

### Zoning Bylaw

The new Zoning Bylaw 2006-01 was adopted this spring. We are now working with residents and developers on implementing the new regulations. The full PDF document is posted on our website.

### First Avenue Reconstruction

Work is now underway on the recon-

struction of First Avenue from Main Street to Ogilvie Street. This includes new utilities, pavement, lights and sidewalks. The landscaping and final surface work will be completed in 2007.

### Takhini North

In 2003, Takhini North was identified as a neighbourhood needing infrastructure upgrades. At the same time, it was recognized that properly planned "infill development" in Takhini North could provide more energy efficient and cost-effective use of existing infrastructure. The initial planning study recommended that further infrastructure funding be found.

This spring, Municipal Rural Infrastructure Funding (MRIF) was announced. The City Engineering Department has scheduled infrastructure upgrades for Takhini North for 2007. The Planning Department anticipates discussion with Takhini North residents to resume in the summer or early fall.

### Coming & Going

We are pleased to announce that Diane Allen will be joining our Department as a Customer Service Representative. We would also like to welcome Kinden Kosick, who will be our summer student this year.

## Community Engagement Framework

Two City Councillors, four residents and three City employees have teamed up to work on a Community Engagement Framework (CEF) for the City of Whitehorse.

The goal of this newly formed working group is to develop a framework for involving a diverse range of citizens in City affairs. It will also identify involvement opportunities for citizens in City processes as well as create effective follow-up practices in which residents can see evidence of their input to the decision making process.

There are many forms of community engagement, each involving citizens in different ways and to varying degrees. Newsletters and websites can be used to keep citizens informed while citizen surveys can be used to gather informa-

tion about local opinion. Public meetings and open houses can be used to consult residents on a plan or issue. At the other end of the spectrum, are collaborative exercises such as design charrettes and workshops, which allow the community to share in all aspects of the decision making process.

An effective Community Engagement Framework will get citizens involved in the decisions that affect their lives and help the City to provide the best services possible. Once completed, the City's new framework will guide staff and City Council in deciding when and how community engagement will be carried out.

There will be opportunities for all residents to voice their opinion on this new initiative. For more information, call Tony Lomas at 668-8616.

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## Email Notification of Public Meetings

The City of Whitehorse Planning and Development Services Department has put together a distribution list for those interested in receiving email notification of public meetings, opportunities for input and other planning news.

This is a new initiative by the City to help increase public involvement in the many planning projects underway in Whitehorse. If you wish to receive messages please email [zoe.morrison@whitehorse.ca](mailto:zoe.morrison@whitehorse.ca)

