

PLAN IT WHITEHORSE



Residents Vote!

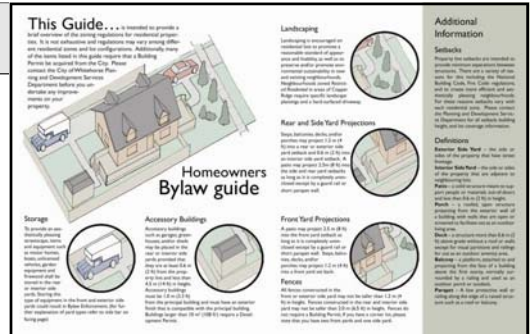
On May 31st the City of Whitehorse went to the polling booths to vote on two land use issues. A plebiscite on the Porter Creek Bench development greenspace map, and a referendum on whether to change the Official Community Plan (OCP) land use designation of a 13 hectare parcel adjacent to Arkell from Greenbelt to Urban Residential.

The day brought out 1,379 (12%) of 11,150 eligible voters in the City of Whitehorse. Both the referendum and the plebiscite returned a “yes” majority.

With the outcome of the plebiscite and referendum the City will now move forward with the planning process.

Homeowners Guide to Zoning

Recently completed by the Planning and Development Services Department is the Homeowner’s Guide to the Zoning Bylaw. The document is an easy to read illustrated guide that addresses common regulations that affect residential property owners. The guide helps answer questions regarding porch setbacks, shed sizes, fence heights, and accessory vehicle storage restrictions. The guide is currently available, and can be found at City Hall and at the Planning and Development Services Department, or on the web at planning.whitehorse.ca.



Porter Creek Bench update

The Planning and Development Services Department will now be tackling the next phase of this project.

The recent plebiscite voter turnout was 1,379, with 1,139 (82.6%) ‘YES’ votes, and 233 (16.7%) ‘NO’ votes.

This summer will see the beginning of more detailed planning and design of the individual nodes and phasing.

Currently, the City is awaiting a response from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) regarding a research grant into the feasibility of geothermal heat

extraction on the Bench, as well as heat extraction from the existing sewer main running from “Jet Power Hill” to the Livingston Lagoons. Talks with NavCanada and CBC regarding the relocation of their on-site operations are also underway.

The City of Whitehorse Engineering and Public Works Departments are looking into the decommissioning of the Porter Creek sewage lagoon, as well as upgrades to the Livingston Lagoons to mitigate the potential for odour impacts on the new development.

And the winner is ...

The City of Whitehorse is the proud recipient of the “2007 Yukon Sustainable Community Award”. The award was presented in Dawson City in early May 2007 by the Association of Yukon Communities and Yukon Energy in recognition of the work done at the Porter Creek Bench Charrette.

The charrette process and resulting concept was recognized as an innovative approach to community development. Congratulations and thank you to all those who participated in this exciting process.



Talk of the Town

Downtown Plan

The necessary amendments to ensure that the Downtown Plan and the Official Community Plan are compatible are still underway. A public hearing was held in March and several changes were made to the Plan at that time. Third reading will take place in August, pending approval from the Yukon Government. Check our website planning.whitehorse.ca for more details.

Takhini North

A two-day Design Charrette was held in May. Participants looked at options for redevelopment and for new residential lots. A completed plan will be presented to the community by July. Check out our website to download copies of the design concepts and to get updates, or write to

takhininorth@kza.yk.ca.

Waterfront

There will be lots of action this summer on the Whitehorse Riverfront. First Avenue is undergoing the final phase of surface and underground improvements. In Shipyards Park the picnic shelter, viewing platform and main park building are all under construction. The Chambers House, owned by the Frostbite Music Society has also been moved into the park. Once the restoration is complete, this will be their permanent home.

Trail Plan

Parks & Recreation has been working on a city-wide trail plan and is currently reviewing drafts with City Council. The Plan identifies existing trails, designates differ-

ent types of trails and sets priorities. The plan outlines an approach to trail development, helps to set maintenance priorities and outlines a strategy for conflict resolution.

Coming and Going

The Planning Department recently welcomed Greg Bartle as our summer student. Greg is an aspiring planner with a background in landscape architecture

More info

If you would like to receive email notification of public meetings and planning news, please call us at 668-8335, or email : planning.services@whitehorse.ca

Welcome to Whitehorse; now start camping

I'm sure my first impressions of Whitehorse are slightly skewed. Arriving in late May, I stayed at one of the local hostels for just over 2 weeks where everyone around me was waking up to springtime, getting ready for a day hike or coming back from a major camping trip. German and French peppered the air while making dinner and everyone had a story to tell of the Yukon.

I flew into Whitehorse from Vancouver. My first impressions were of the dryness and chill in the air, the bright sunlight and snow and ice on the river and mountains. And such stunning forests and mountain vistas. On my first day I walked the River Loop trail with a friendly group from the hostel. Compared with many neighbourhoods of Vancouver, Whitehorse seems a little rough around the edges; coming out of a long winter with dry lawns, lack of street trees, lots of gravel and garbage on the Riverfront. But pretty much everything here is accessible by foot: shopping, the library, local parks, and I like that. I shipped my bike up from Vancouver too. I figured I could save some money and keep in shape commuting to work now that I'm up at the College. Biking around

town has felt fairly safe and convenient so far.

At work, I've been immersed in the language of planning and development: zoning bylaws, development permits, as well as the everyday tasks of the Planning and Development Services Department. People are still talking about the success of the Porter Creek Bench Design Charrette too. I've taken a look at the Whistle Bend Planning Study (March 2007) and there are some really interesting ideas about Smart Growth for the area that make sense. When it's completed I hope it truly is a "benchmark for Canadian sustainable community design".

Anyways, I'm really happy to be here this summer before I head back to school in the fall. The world seems to be changing rapidly and I hope I can do my part in the future to make things easier for everyone through appropriate planning. And since I'm here, I'm going to start preparing for another camping trip.

Greg Bartle

Summer Student Planner

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