

# PLAN IT WHITEHORSE



## Integrated Community Sustainability Plan

The City of Whitehorse has long recognized the value of a sustainable community. Now the City of Whitehorse along with other communities across the Yukon and Canada are working on Sustainability Plans. A sustainability plan not only examines the environmental impacts of development, but also addresses the economic, social and cultural sustainability of our communities.

The City is working to complete the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) in two phases. The first phase is to complete the ICSP

“Template” as defined by the Government of the Yukon. This first phase will be concentrated on sustainable municipal infrastructure as that is what is defined in *Canada’s New Deal for Cities and Communities*.

In the second phase of the plan the focus will be on all aspects of our community which relate to the four pillars of sustainability: economic, environment, social and cultural. The second phase will be kicked off with a city-wide **Sustainability Charrette** in the fall. Stay tuned for more information.

The City’s Sustainability Office is up and running. It is located in the Smith House at LePage Park, 3128 -3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. Please stop by the Smith House and share your ideas for a sustainable City. For more information please call Lesley Cabott at 668-8600.



## Whistle Bend Concept Plan Update

The Porter Creek Bench Charrette took place in early November 2006. The Whistle Bend Concept Plan was developed during the charrette and is the result of the work of the more than sixty five charrette participants.

Since the charrette, the City has been busy completing the Whistle Bend Planning Study and the Greenspace Map. These documents are required as part of the preliminary development process for any new residential development. The Greenspace Map seeks to capture as much as possible the value and interest placed on the land by residents of neighbourhoods adjacent to the development area. The Whistle Bend Greenspace Map shows areas set aside for greenspace, trails and recreation and shows the area suitable for residential development.

The Planning Study provides the back-

ground information for the Greenspace Map and includes the vision, guiding principles and main features of the neighbourhood as set out during the charrette process.

A plebiscite will be held in late May and the public will vote on the Greenspace Map. The Greenspace Map and the accompanying Planning Study will provide voters with all the information they will need to make an informed decision.

Following the plebiscite, the City is required to complete an Area Development Scheme (ADS) which will include all sustainability and feasibility studies, engineering pre-design, and detailed design for the primary phasing.

The Whistle Bend Update will continue in the next newsletter. For any other questions, get in touch with City planner Zoë Morrison at 668-8338.

### Proposed Steps for Whistle Bend

- Greenspace Plebiscite  
*May 2007*
- Sustainability Studies  
*May - Oct 2007*
- Neighborhood Design Phase 1  
*Oct 2007*
- Complete ADS  
*Dec 2007 - Jan 2008*
- OCP Amendment  
*Jan - Mar 2008*
- Zoning Amendment  
*Feb - Mar 2008*
- YESAA Evaluation  
*May 2008*
- Subdivision Plan Approval  
*June 2008*
- Detailed Engineering  
*2008*
- Construction  
*Underway Spring 2009*
- Lots Available  
*2010*

## Zoning Amendments

Zoning amendments are an important part of the planning process as they allow for changes to regulations on a given parcel of land. Zoning amendments can be complex and can have impacts on adjacent properties. This is why it is important to involve the public in all zoning amendments. Held during regularly scheduled Monday evening City of Whitehorse Council meetings, Public Hearings give the citizens a chance to express their support for or concerns about zoning applications. Public input is valued by the City of Whitehorse and is integral to making good planning decisions.

We encourage you let us know what you think. There are 3 different ways the City notifies the public about zoning amendment public hearings. As legislated

by the *Municipal Act* we place ads in the City Page section of the newspapers for 2 consecutive Fridays. The second ad must be posted in the paper no less than 7 days prior to the public hearing. Also legislated by the *Municipal Act*, the Planning and Development Services Department sends letters to property owners within either a 100m or 1km radius depending on the area. Finally, zoning amendment signs are posted on the subject lot stating the proposed zoning change and the time and date of the Public Hearing.

Watch for zoning amendment signs and newspaper ads regarding zoning amendments to have your chance to get involved. For more information call Kinden Kosick at 668-8334.



Example of Zoning Amendment Sign

## Hamilton Boulevard Extension

The latest round of public consultation on this project has just wrapped up. This set of meetings addressed a range of concerns, including trail crossings and potential future truck traffic with a connection to McLean Lake Road. Past consultation found that the public is in favour of the proposal.

Numerous routes for the extension have been proposed over the years. The final accepted route was chosen in January 2007 and has many benefits over the route that was presented to the public in 2005. The new route should be less expensive to

build, feature less steep road grades, and cause minimal noise for Lobird residents.

The proposed schedule is as follows:

- Spring 2007 – Preliminary Engineering
- Fall 2007 – Clear and grub roadway
- Winter 2007/08 – Start Rock blasting
- Summer 2008 – 1st paving
- Summer 2009 – 2nd paving, road opens

For map and information visit [www.community.gov.yk.ca/landdevelopment](http://www.community.gov.yk.ca/landdevelopment). For other questions, call City Planner Mike Ellis at 668-8337.

### Planning & Development Services

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## Talk of the Town

### Homeowners Guide to Zoning

Currently in the works is an easy-to-read guide to the Zoning Bylaw that will address common regulations that affect residential property owners. The guide will help to answer questions regarding front porch setbacks, fence heights, shed sizes, and accessory vehicle restrictions. Watch for it in mailboxes soon.

### Coming & Going

The Planning and Development Services Department has seen a number of changes over the past couple months. Lesley

Cabott has left to work at the City's Sustainability Office for the next year. Mike Gau will be the manager during her absence and Zoë Morrison accepted the position as the Senior Planner/Supervisor for the year. Zoë has been a planner with the City's Planning and Development Services for nearly three years.

Dawn Stagg, who has been a Building Clerk with the department for 10 years, has accepted the temporary position of Senior Customer Service Representative, replacing Christine O'Connor who has joined the Finance Department.

