

Civic Affairs Newsletter Report February 2008

Michael Benoit, Chair

EcoWalk - On a sunny Saturday December 8, Ramsay celebrated the re-opening of the regional pathway by hosting an informative and fun stroll along the Elbow River from MacDonald bridge to 25th Ave. Joining about 20 community members and a few dogs, were Alderman Joe Ceci and Alderman Brian Pincott, along with environmental experts Gus Yaki and Andrew Stiles, of the Calgary Field Naturalists Society, and Robin MacLeod of River Watch. All spoke passionately about the good, the bad, and the ugly of the riverine environment. Thanks to Brent, owner of Ramsay Dairy/Coffee Bar, participants enjoyed excellent lattes, cappuccinos and hot chocolate before and after the event. Everyone came away from the walk knowing that the Elbow River, the regional pathway and the unique escarpment in our community are collectively, one of our most precious assets that needs to be protected.

More on Secondary Suites - the City of Calgary is planning a series of public education meetings to discuss secondary suites in the context of the new Land Use Bylaw 1P2007. A series of 6 – 8 facilitated public meetings will be advertised, in various locations throughout the City, and involving Community Associations, Calgary Region Home Builders Association, Calgary Chamber of Commerce, social service agencies, the Urban Development Institute, and educational institutions (U.of A., SAIT, MRC). Dates, locations and times still to be announced.

Ramsay Exchange – on January 17, the Civic Affairs Committee and President of the RCA met with City planners and Transportation rep's., Torode Realty and their consultants, to review the Ramsay Exchange project proposal. The development application LOC2007-0080 was presented to the City in August 2007, for review by a multitude of City departments (the CPAG group). Little appears to have changed with the project proposal as a result of this review, from the plans that were shown at various Open House events in 2006 – 2007. Committee members were able to ask questions about the proposed development, particularly traffic issues, with responses by both the developer's consultants and City officials. The community's Traffic Committee chairman Taras Semeniuk will have some details on the proposal in his Traffic Committee report elsewhere in the Newsletter. This meeting was the first of several that will be required to update the Ramsay ARP in order to allow a development project that enhances the social fabric of our historical, multi-income and demographically diverse community. There is much to discuss!

Ramsay Exchange Community Town Hall meeting, Thursday February 21, upper Hall, Ramsay Community Association building. 6:30 – 8:30 pm. City planners and Transportation rep's, and RCA Civic Affairs will meet with the community to answer questions about the ARP amendment process. See the advertisement elsewhere in the Newsletter.

The community of Ramsay welcomes development that respects the history and emerging character of the neighbourhood, complies with the Area Redevelopment Plan and Bylaws, and will be a benefit to the people who live here.

The Civic Affairs Committee welcomes new members. Contact the Chairman for details.

