

## **Civic Affairs Committee (CAC) Newsletter Report for Nov 2011**

### **Art Matsui, Outgoing Chair Civic Affairs**

At the end of my term as chair of Civic Affairs Committee (CAC), I reflect on the past two years. They have been nothing if not interesting. However the focus of the CAC has always been planning and development as they affect the community and residents (present and future) and protection of the Elbow River. If it is seen we are naysayers because we aim to protect our community then I am proud. We have said nay to Lilydale using our community as a garbage dump and our streets as a parking lot. We have said nay to livestock adjacent to our residents and nay to manure in our river. We said nay to heavy metal contaminated dust from Ramsay Crossing being spread through our community. We said nay in Court of Queen's Bench to the city, for concealing a 30 metre setback from the Elbow river for buildings. If we the residents of Ramsay do not speak out to protect our community no one will. I am proud when we petitioned the community about the corrals on the banks of the Elbow, 100% of you contacted, agreed and said nay to livestock beside residents and the Elbow, over 350 signatures in three days. Ramsay is well known because we stand up for what we believe in and I hope that never changes.

The future of Ramsay has issues in all directions. In the south is the Stampede who recently purchased the Ramsay Exchange site. Some in the community would like to see residential development there, however my feeling is the Stampede will not let that happen. Here is what they said to the city about the zoning change necessary for Ramsay Exchange, "any approval of residential within 150 metres of our site [back of house] effectively shuts us down in the early morning and evenings." I cannot see the Stampede allowing the city to dictate how they run their operations and they have the means to effectively block adjacent residential. In the west is the Elbow River and Stampede, and both are part of Ramsay. We feel duty bound to protect this stretch of the river, and have pushed the Stampede to do the same. We hope this continues. To the north is 8<sup>th</sup> Street rail crossing. CP rail has a formula for crossings, if train crossings times car crossings is greater than 200,000 than an underpass is needed. We are at 10,000 car crossings and there is no room or money for an underpass, so we should be on the list for closure. To the east is Lilydale and the SE LRT, change will come and it is time we envision what Ramsay wants to see here.

Many outside our community have visions for what Ramsay should be, developers, transit, the Stampede, city planners and politicians. We are the ones who live here and we need a strong voice, get involved, get educated, speak out and work together for the future of Ramsay.