

# Task Force News

This is the second in a series of updates from the Task Force on Community Sustainability. For more information on the Task Force, please visit our web site at: [www.CommunitySustainability.ca](http://www.CommunitySustainability.ca)



## What is a mature neighbourhood?

As the Task Force explores potential ways to enhance and achieve community sustainability in Edmonton's mature neighbourhoods, it's important to understand what is considered a mature neighbourhood.

The City of Edmonton defines its mature neighbourhoods as those neighbourhoods that are well established and were effectively completed by 1970. The majority of these neighbourhoods experienced their greatest growth in the post-WWII era. Mature neighbourhoods are primarily residential and are found within a rough, concentric oval around the city centre called the Mature Neighbourhood Overlay. There are 109 mature neighbourhoods in Edmonton.

## Working Group Update – School Revitalization Zones



The Task Force on Community Sustainability's three working groups have been researching and exploring the opportunities and challenges related to sustainability within the City's mature neighbourhoods.

In this issue we are profiling the [School Revitalization Zones \(SRZ\) Working Group](#) which is tri-chaired by Peter Wong, Past President of the Chinese Bilingual Education Association; Catherine Ripley, a trustee with the Edmonton Public School Board; and Cindy Olsen, a trustee with the Edmonton Catholic School Board. The Working Group consists of members drawn from the Task Force as well as community partners and school-related experts.

The SRZ working group is examining the concept of "school revitalization zones" - how they could best support community sustainability in mature neighbourhoods and what a successful SRZ would look like. Wong says the challenge for his group is balancing suburban growth and development with the need to determine how schools in mature areas of the City can thrive as well. "We need to find a revitalization framework that will fit all mature neighbourhoods, recognizing they each have their own unique needs," says Wong. "Schools in these areas need to find a niche".

Business revitalization zones (BRZ) are one concept in particular that the SRZ Working Group is studying to determine if there are any components that could be used to develop the school revitalization zone concept. Wong thinks there is a lot to learn from BRZs but he acknowledges that SRZs would face the challenge that school revitalization levies don't currently exist in provincial legislation.

However, Wong does feel there are other ideas that have great potential and need further exploration such as closer partnerships between all levels of government, school boards and the communities, and unique programming at schools in mature neighbourhoods. "Programs of choice that fit the needs of neighbourhoods are important," says Wong. "If schools have programming that families want and that acknowledges the needs of students in that community, families will want to attend those schools".



## Other recent meetings & presentations to the Task Force

- May 10 – Edmonton Catholic School Board
- May 18 – Eastwood Community League
- May 19 – District F Community League

## Upcoming meetings & presentations to the Task Force

- May 31 – Edmonton Public School Board
- June 1 – Next Gen
- Summer – City Council

## Help us develop solutions

If you have suggested solutions that will help ensure mature neighbourhoods remain viable and sustainable, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact us through our web site and watch the site for future updates on our progress.

## EFCL holds workshop on community sustainability



On May 10th, the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues (EFCL) hosted a workshop on community sustainability for its members so input could be provided to the Task Force. About 50 people attended the workshop, including seven Task Force members.

Attendees discussed key issues for mature neighbourhoods. The five top issues were: schools, housing, collaboration, demographic changes and public safety. Discussion then centred around possible solutions to the issues. The input from the workshop will be provided to Task Force members as they work on recommendations to City Council on how to sustain mature neighbourhoods and ensure they are vibrant and diverse.

EFCL will hold another workshop on community sustainability in July.

## Connections 2011



On May 5, City Hall and Churchill Square were filled with displays and activities showcasing City projects, programs and services. Connections 2011 was an opportunity for the public to connect with City staff and learn more about what the City has to offer.

The Task Force on Community Sustainability was represented at Connections 2011. The event gave Edmontonians the opportunity to learn more about the Task Force and provide their input on community sustainability.



Blake Betteridge with the City of Edmonton at Connections 2011

## Centre for Public Involvement assisting Task Force



The Centre for Public Involvement (CPI) is using its expertise to assist the Task Force with one component of its public involvement process, called a Citizen Planning Circle. The CPI, a new partnership between the City of Edmonton (Office of Public Involvement) and the University of Alberta (Faculty of Extension), will bring together 12-16 Edmontonians who will discuss ideas put forward by the Task Force and provide input to support the Task Force in the development of its final recommendations.