

## **Remaining Sites Liaison Update**

Good afternoon Liaison members:

Happy New Year! We have a number of updates to share now that 2015 is well underway:

### Mayor's Blog Post

Mayor Don Iveson recently posted on his blog about the important role that surplus school sites play in city building. You can access it here:

<http://doniveson.ca/2014/10/28/the-important-role-of-surplus-school-sites/>

### Pilot Sites Updates

In 2014, Ogilvie Ridge and Keheewin were selected as pilots of a new public engagement process developed with liaison input last year. The City and residents of the pilot neighbourhoods will meet during 2015 to test the engagement process, designed to guide discussions between the City and neighbourhoods about future residential land uses on undeveloped school building sites. We will be evaluating the new process based on the criteria discussed with liaison input in 2014, and lessons learned will be applied to other undeveloped sites.

### Signage on Surplus School Sites

Following Council direction, the City is placing signs on all surplus school building sites, including undeveloped sites, to create better understanding and awareness of areas approved as building sites, open space, and the future development that will occur on school building sites. Sign placement is scheduled to be complete by end of April. Blue Quill, Bulyea Heights and Wedgewood Heights sign placement will occur after building location reports have been reviewed by Council.

### Website Announcement

In 2015, the City will unveil new web pages for the surplus school sites. We've redesigned the pages for easier access to information that is specific to each site. The web pages will provide residents with updates on upcoming open houses, opportunities for public engagement and more.

We look forward to connecting with you over the coming months. As always, feel free to email us at [felicia.michie@edmonton.ca](mailto:felicia.michie@edmonton.ca) if you have any questions.

Regards,

Felicia Michie

## **First Place Liaison Update**

Good afternoon Liaison members:

Happy New Year! We have a number of updates to share now that 2015 is well underway:

### Mayor's Blog

For your information, please see Mayor Don Iveson's recent blog post on the important role that surplus school sites play in city building:

<http://doniveson.ca/2014/10/28/the-important-role-of-surplus-school-sites/>

### Signage on Surplus School Sites

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### New Website

In 2015, the City will unveil new web pages for the surplus school sites. We've redesigned the pages for easier access to information that is specific to each site. The web pages will provide residents with updates on upcoming open houses, opportunities for public engagement and more.

### 2014 & 2015 Open Houses

Last year provided the City with the opportunity to meet with residents in the neighbourhoods of Blue Quill, Bulyea Heights, Larkspur and Haddow. The purpose of the open houses was to share information, answer questions about the First Place program, and to collect names of volunteers for the design engagement groups who will participate with the City and builders in designing the new townhomes. At the Blue Quill and Bulyea Heights open houses, the City also heard from residents on the approved and alternate First Place and seniors' housing building site locations.

This year, the City will work with the Evansdale, Hairsine and Blue Quill community leagues to plan First Place program open houses for the Belle Reve, Kirkness and Blue Quill sites, respectively.

### Reports to City Council

In 2015, City administration will present reports to City Council recommending the approved or alternate building sites for First Place and seniors' housing in Blue Quill, Bulyea Heights and Wedgewood Heights. Community feedback is one important factor the City will take into

consideration when providing a recommendation to City Council. Other factors that City staff use to make recommendations to City Council about the approved versus alternate sites include the costs associated with each site, whether the soil will support the developments and the suitability of each site for the approved use.

### Upcoming Design Engagements

This year, residents in Blue Quill and Haddow will work with the City and builder in designing new First Place townhomes, collaborating on design elements including views and site lines, orientation, materials, landscaping and more.

### Completed Design Engagements

Congratulations to Larkspur and Bearspaw on their successful completion of the design engagement process! The design engagement process is successful because of the passion residents have for their neighbourhoods and their commitment to working together to ensure the homes fit well into their neighbourhood. For more information on the design engagement processes, check out the builders facebook pages:

- For Larkspur visit:  
<https://www.facebook.com/rohitcommunities/posts/826290504081797>
- For Bearspaw visit:  
<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.697229543648930.1073741835.124085174296706&type=1>

### First Place Showhomes

Please visit the First Place showhomes in:

- Casselman Landing: 5203 149 Avenue, built by Rohit Communities
- Kernohan: 311 Clairview Road, built by Landmark Homes (opening spring 2015)

### Sales Activity

2014 was a successful year for sales of First Place homes, which have sold faster than anticipated. A total of 122 homes have sold in Caernarvon, Tawa and Casselman.

### Soil Testing

This year, the City will conduct soil tests in Kirkness and Belle Reve to ensure suitability for First Place construction. Advanced notice will be provided to residents immediately surrounding the site. Soil testing will also occur for 2016 engagement sites, including Dunluce and Sifton Park.

### Construction

This year will see construction begin in Bearspaw, Larkspur and Haddow and continue in Kernohan.

### Transforming Edmonton Blog

Finally, check out how the First Place program in helping first-time home buyers enter the housing market:

<https://transformingedmonton.ca/just-around-the-corner/>

<https://transformingedmonton.ca/a-first-place-for-every-stage/>

We look forward to connecting with you over the coming months. As always, feel free to email us at [felicia.michie@edmonton.ca](mailto:felicia.michie@edmonton.ca) if you have any questions.

Regards,

Felicia Michie

## **Seniors' Housing Liaison Update**

Happy New Year! We have a number of updates to share now that 2015 is well underway:

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### 2014 Open Houses

Last year, the City had the opportunity to meet with residents in the neighbourhoods in Sakaw, Blue Quill, Bulyea Heights and Wedgewood Heights. The purpose of the open houses is to share information and answer questions about the seniors' housing and to hear from residents about the approved and alternate seniors' housing building locations.

### Sakaw Update

Last year, the City hosted three open houses to gather community input on the design of the seniors' housing in Sakaw. Residents across the community of Millhurst were invited, and over 120 people attended and participated in the sessions. Names of community volunteers were gathered to work with the City and builder on the final design of the seniors' homes. In 2015, a final decision on the project's timeline will be determined, depending on provincial funding.

### Reports to City Council

In 2015, City administration will present reports to City Council regarding approved and alternate building sites for First Place and seniors' housing in Blue Quill, Bulyea Heights and Wedgewood Heights. Community feedback is one important factor the City will take into consideration when providing a recommendation to City Council. Other factors the City uses to make recommendations to City Council about the approved versus alternate sites include the costs associated with each site, whether the soil will support the developments and the suitability of each site for the approved use.

### Signage on Surplus School Sites

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#### Seniors' Housing in 2015

To continue meeting the need for affordable seniors' housing in Edmonton, the City will prepare three to four sites for future provincial funding by having an open competition and awarding the sites to developers. This is necessary to get the sites "shovel ready" for when new grant funding becomes available from the province. Part of becoming "shovel ready" is to have well-understood architecture and engineering drawings, and the City needs public input for this. A process similar to the one piloted in Sakaw will be used for these sites, with the developer/operator meeting with the community at least three times, and slowly building a common understanding of how the seniors' residence can best fit with the needs of each community. The sites being considered for progressing to the "shovel ready" stage are Caernarvon, Kiniski Gardens North, Miller and Overlanders.

#### Soil Testing

Soil testing was performed on the Caernarvon and Miller sites. The results indicate that both sites are suitable for development of seniors' housing. Soil testing of all other seniors' housing sites will occur in 2015 to identify as early as possible if there are development challenges that must be addressed.

We look forward to connecting with you over the coming months. As always, feel free to email us at [felicia.michie@edmonton.ca](mailto:felicia.michie@edmonton.ca) if you have any questions.

Regards,

Felicia Michie