

## **Seniors' Housing Liaison Update**

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

### Mayor's Blog

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/>

### 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

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.

### 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.

#### 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