

Good day everyone! The latest email Ward 5 Update is below. To view previous email or flyer updates please visit my website and click on the "Ward 5 Issues" tab.

### **2011 Annual Report:**

The 2011 Annual Report has been completed and presented to Council, including the audited financial statements. You will be pleased to know that we balanced the books again last year and, in fact, showed a surplus of \$3.07 Million. Council has directed this surplus to be put into our reserves (savings accounts), which puts us in a strong financial position moving forward. To see the 2011 Annual report, please click this link to my website and view the pdf. [www.donauer.ca](http://www.donauer.ca)

### **Open Data Catalogue:**

City Council has approved the creation of an "Open Data Catalogue". An Open Data Catalogue makes much more city information accessible to the public online. While not releasing any additional personal information, it allows residents access to more of our records. There are two main benefits to this policy. First, it promotes openness and transparency as much more information about our operations is available online. Second, programmers frequently use open data catalogues to create apps for smart phones and tablets. In some cities, this has resulted in dozens of useful apps being created concerning civic services, without costing the taxpayers any money for development of the apps. Some possible useful examples could be... an app that tells you exactly where your bus is, using "real-time" gps information... an app to remind you that it is garbage day, etc.

### **North Commuter Bridge / Perimeter Road:**

The most congested traffic in Saskatoon is in the North West sector. We need a north bridge to alleviate congestion, and to allow smoother traffic flow across the river. Currently, there are two proposals for bridges on the north end of Saskatoon. We are working with the province on the construction of a perimeter highway and a freeway bridge north of town. The private sector and the province will likely drive that initiative. However, we are also proposing a north "Commuter Bridge" between the North East Sector and the North Industrial. This would cross the river just north of Silverwood Golf Course. We hope to see that bridge built within 4 years, and our planners have started working on it already. The perimeter highway and freeway bridge will be further north, outside current city limits, and it will likely take much longer to build.

### **51st Street Rail Crossing:**

As you know, CN has redone the railway crossing at 51st Street. It is now built up somewhat, and on a bit of a hill. This makes it rougher to go over. It was the city's intention to add asphalt and ramp up to the crossing on either side, to smooth it out. It was raining the weekend CN did the crossing, and asphalt fresh asphalt does not stick to wet pavement well, so the job was postponed. We should see that work completed this fall, which will help smooth that crossing out even more.

### **River Landing:**

Council approved development plans for Parcel Y at River Landing. The developer is Victory Majors, and once construction begins you will see the construction of three buildings on River Landing... a hotel, an office tower, and a condo building. Once the city sells the rest of our property at River Landing, we stand to profit \$8 Million more than originally forecasted. Plus, the new properties at River Landing will contribute multiplied millions of dollars in property taxes to the city every year.

### **Dandelions and Mowing:**

I have heard many concerns about the condition of our parks and boulevards. Many are concerned about the growth of dandelions. Others are concerned about the frequency of mowing, and how long the grass has gotten this year. This has been an exceptionally wet year (2nd only to 2010 in precipitation), so that has hampered mowing in some cases. However, this is a problem that we need to address. I have asked for a report, prior to budget, detailing how much it would cost to implement dandelion control, and how much it would cost to increase our rates of mowing in parks and right of ways (boulevards) to varying

degrees. Once we receive the report, we will know the cost, and Council can make a decision on how much we are willing to enhance this service. It may be as simple as providing resources to do an extra 1-2 cuts per summer... or using some of our summer students for an evening mowing crew.

**Adult Services Bylaw:**

Council approved an Adult Services Bylaw in the spring, and this summer we approved a zoning bylaw to go with it. To clarify, this Adult Services Bylaw does NOT permit any activity that is illegal. It simply gives our police the ability to inspect any Adult Services facility (massage parlour) at anytime, on our behalf. They did not have that ability previously. The zoning of adult services is NOT a "Red Light District" as reported in the media. The purpose of zoning was to prohibit Adult Services from operating in residential areas. Before this bylaw was approved there were no controls on this industry whatsoever. The police could not inspect the operations, and an operation like this could set up shop in residential areas... even in the house next door. Following the Police Chief's recommendations, we changed that and implemented these necessary controls.

- Randy Donauer, Pro. Dir.  
City Councillor  
Ward 5  
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