



FALL 2012

YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY | RIVERDALE NORTH | SCOTT KENT, MLA

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Riverdale North News

Dear Constituents,

I hope that you are having a wonderful fall and that the new school year is off to a successful start.

Thank you to everyone who came out to my constituency barbeque on August 30. We were fortunate that the weather stayed sunny for us and I thoroughly enjoyed catching up with you and hearing about your summer activities and adventures.

As you will have noticed these past weeks, work is well underway to complete the second phase site preparations for the new F.H. Collins Secondary School.

Enclosed in this newsletter is an update on the project and what we can all expect to encounter at the school and along Lewes Boulevard these coming weeks and months.

I have been pleased to announce several new initiatives to improve housing for Yukoners, which are also outlined in this newsletter.

It is an honour and a privilege to represent you in the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with your questions or concerns as I work on your behalf to help ensure that the needs of Riverdale North residents are addressed and met.

Thank you and my best regards to you and your families.

IN THE RIDING

While other Yukon athletes were competing here in Whitehorse during this spring's Arctic Winter Games, Riverdale North resident Michael Sumner won figure skating gold at the 2012 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games in St. Albert, Alberta.

Michael – the youngest member of Team Yukon – is the first Yukon figure skater to medal at the national competition and will represent Canada at the 2013 Special Olympics World Winter Games to be held in South Korea.

Congratulations Michael!



Scott joins Michael Sumner and Special Olympics Yukon Executive Director Serge Michaud.



Scott grills for his constituency barbeque at Grey Mountain Primary School.



Scott with the graduates of the Teen Parent Centre in June.



Scott joins Whitehorse Housing Authority Chair, Florence Roberts, and Yukon Member of Parliament, Ryan Leef to open six social housing units in Takhini.

F.H. COLLINS AND THOMSON CENTRE

Work is underway to complete the second phase site preparations for the new F.H. Collins Secondary School.

Workers will be onsite through early fall to finalize site preparations before construction begins next spring.

Norcope Enterprises Ltd. was awarded the \$1.18 million contract to connect water mains to the new school site from across Lewes Boulevard.

Other phase two activities include the construction of an alternate bus loop at the rear of the existing school, modifications to the main parking lot and the development of an access road to the lower soccer field, which will be used as a staging area throughout the construction phase.

The upper soccer field and track will remain accessible to both students and the public throughout the construction period.

The Yukon Government will prepare a tender for the construction of the new school later this year, which is scheduled to open for classes in September 2015.

Ten More Beds Open at the Thomson Centre

Throughout the month of August, 10 more residents moved into the Thomson Centre for a total of 28 residents in the facility, which opened its first 18 beds late last summer.

The occupants of these 10 additional beds come from the communities, other care facilities and Whitehorse General Hospital.

The Thomson Centre was built as a long-term care facility and was designed to house 48 residents. Plans are underway by Yukon Health and Social Services to renovate and open the facility's remaining beds.

MOVING YUKON FORWARD

Yukon Government Pursuing New Home Ownership Program

The Yukon Housing Corporation is examining the development of a new Yukon home ownership program to help working Yukoners in lower and middle-income brackets purchase their own homes.

Similar programs - often referred to as Attainable Home Ownership programs – exist in other Canadian jurisdictions and the Yukon Housing Corporation will review these other models and recommend how a program may effectively be structured here in the territory.

This type of home ownership program can help bridge the affordability gap that sometimes prevents working people from moving out of the rental market and into home ownership. In addition, as more Yukoners become able to purchase entry-level homes it frees up more rental housing for others.

New Affordable Housing Announced for Seniors in Whitehorse

As seniors continue to represent an increasingly larger segment of Yukon's population, the Governments of Canada and Yukon have announced a new \$12.65 million housing development to assist low-income seniors.

The funding comes as a result of a \$5.91 million Investment in Affordable Housing 2011-2014 Agreement between Canada and Yukon.

Canada will invest \$2.55 million towards the 34-unit seniors' complex, Yukon will contribute almost \$7.4 million and \$2.7 million will be funded through the Yukon Housing Corporation's Seniors' Housing Management Fund.

The new complex will be located on land owned by the Yukon Housing Corporation at 207 Alexander Street close to amenities, medical services, transit routes and other social services. The facility is scheduled for occupancy in the summer of 2014.

Lottery for First Phase of Residential Lots at Whistle Bend

The Yukon Government will release 111 new residential lots in Phase One of the Whistle Bend subdivision in Whitehorse later this month.

On September 26, a lottery was held to release 90 single-family lots and land for eight duplexes and seven multi-family lots. A pair of duplex lots, which will accommodate two families, has also been designated for Habitat for Humanity.

The Yukon Government is constructing the subdivision based on work conducted by the City of Whitehorse.

Whistle Bend is the single largest subdivision project ever undertaken in the territory and once all phases are complete, will eventually accommodate 8,000 residents.

In this fiscal year, the Yukon Government allocated a near record land development budget of \$34.8 to complete Phase One of Whistle Bend, carry out work to prepare for the next phases of the subdivision and proceed with other developments in a number of Yukon communities.

For more information, visit www.community.gov.yk.ca

New Investment in Options for Independence Society Housing

The Governments of Canada and Yukon, in conjunction with community partners, announced funding in mid-August for a new building to provide 14 new housing units in Whitehorse for clients living with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

Funding for the \$3.05 million project was provided through the extension of the 2009 Affordable Housing Initiative. The federal government will provide \$1.05 million to the non-profit Options for Independence Society and the Yukon Housing Corporation will provide \$2 million in construction and mortgage financing.

The Options for Independence Society delivers housing, support and supervision for adults living with FASD to promote independent living. The new units will allow the society to provide housing and program services for up to 26 residents and are expected to be complete next year.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Yukon today enjoys one of the most prosperous economies in all of Canada.

The Yukon Government's \$1.1567 billion budget is the first budget presented by the new government and the \$80.009 million surplus will help enable the government to address future funding pressures.

Some highlights include:

- \$1.875 million for improvement projects for the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport including taxiway improvements, rehabilitation and installation of a second bridge or jet way.
- \$1.39 million to continue the campaigns to promote Yukon overseas and the three territories as travel destinations to southern Canadians.
- \$5 million over five years for the Yukon Research Centre and the Yukon Cold Climate Innovation Centre at Yukon College.
- \$34.984 million for land development to address land availability and housing needs, including Phase One of the Whistle Bend subdivision.
- \$452,000 for the Department of Environment to conduct a three-year Cumulative Effects Baseline Study in order to acquire information on the cumulative effects of quartz mining exploration.
- \$1.86 million to extend the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) program to 2016.
- \$4.5 million for housing in Whitehorse in conjunction with Kaushee's Place.
- \$457,000 to add six full-time employees to meet the significant growth in the Home Care client and the complexity of care needs.
- \$2.244 million for an additional 10-beds and operations and maintenance at the Thomson Centre.
- \$797,000 for six additional beds at Whitehorse General Hospital.
- \$7.3 million for a new Emergency Response Centre that will serve as Whitehorse's primary ambulance station in addition to Riverdale Station.



Scott, Nathan Peterson (left) and Skills Canada Yukon President Julien Plourde (centre).

IN THE RIDING

Congratulations to Riverdale North Resident Nathan Peterson, who won his second consecutive gold medal in Heavy Duty Equipment Repair at the 18th Annual Canadian Skills Competition in Edmonton this past May.

Nathan and the entire Skills Canada Yukon team did the territory very proud with a total of two gold medals, a silver and a bronze and helped all of Canada recognize that Yukon has some of the most skilled students and apprentices in the country.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Riverdale has a community organization established to support and promote positive activities that enhance the community.

For information on meetings and issues please contact Doug MacLean, President at macleandoug@yukon.net.

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