



WARD SUTHERLAND WARD 1 REPORT

Community & Municipal News

March 2018



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Ward 1 Report



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Welcome to March!

By the time this article is published, spring hopefully will have arrived. I'd like to take this time to raise an important question about The [City's Snow and Ice Program](#) (SNIC). At the time of writing, the amount of snowfall in February has been higher than any other February in the past five years.

There were two snow parking bans as a result of multiple heavy back-to-back snow falls. On secondary and neighbourhood roads - under current practices - The City cuts down impassable spots, levels out ruts, and sands and salts the driving lanes. It **does not** include:

- Plowing entire street widths, from curb to curb
- Plowing down to bare pavement
- Removing snow

A **one-time** snow removal city-wide would cost 15 million dollars. A **single** snow removal is equivalent to a **one-percent tax increase**. It is primarily related to hauling all of the materials away and some environmental costs as well. A "general" rule of thumb is that snow removal is ten times the cost of snow clearing, due to how labour intensive it is and the storage infrastructure needed to accommodate it. Calgarians get significant value for their snow clearing budget, as we have the lowest costs per lane (km) in the country for a major winter city. Food for thought.

What is a windrow?

This winter Calgary has seen some significant snowfalls. More snow brings more concerns about windrows and the trouble they cause for Calgarians.

According to [The City's Snow and Ice Control Policy](#), crews are mandated to maintain the driving lane on residential streets to a safe reasonable winter driving condition. Crews do this by "flat-blading," turning the blade under a sander downward to flatten the snow to a hard pack so it is easier to drive on.

While this is good for motorists, **the snow left over after crews have flat-bladed can create some extra work for property owners.** The reason is because flat-blading causes a continuous buildup of snow along the side of a roadway (also known as a windrow) that can be difficult to remove, especially if left too long.



There is a windrow in front of my driveway, who's clearing it?

The clearing of windrows in front of driveways left by snow plowing equipment is the [responsibility of the adjacent property owner](#), much like sidewalk shoveling. Plow operators make every attempt to keep driveways clear or keep windrows as small as possible, but any spillage that does occur is the responsibility of the property owner to clear.

What does The City do about windrows?

City crews do their best to keep windrows small by evenly distributing the snow on either side of the road, however, after heavy snowfalls windrows can build up. If a **windrow is taller than 30 centimetres** and impeding a resident's ability to enter their driveway, a crew can come and assess the windrow and remove it if required.

Citizens should contact [311](#) if they have concerns about a windrow.

Visit calgary.ca/snow for more information on how The City clears snow.

Legalization of recreational cannabis

The federal government has introduced a bill to **legalize** recreational cannabis by **July, 2018**. This bill provides a plan for regulating cannabis and sets standards for:

- Health and safety;
- What actions are illegal or criminal; and
- What aspects of cannabis regulation are the responsibility of the provinces.

Who's responsible for what?

Federal government

Responsible for:

Possession limits; New criminal offences; Advertising; Impaired Driving; Medical Cannabis; Production; Age Limit (Federal limit); Public Health; Education; Taxation; Home Cultivation; Regulatory Compliance.

Regulations in support of legalization:

Cannabis Act:

- Provides laws for controlling the production, distribution, sale, and possession of Cannabis across Canada.

Government of Alberta

Responsible for:

Impaired driving; Public Health; Education; Taxation; Workplace Safety; Distribution/Wholesaling; Retail Model; Retail Locations and Rules; Regulatory Compliance; and Public Consumption.

Regulations in support of legalization:

An act to control and regulate cannabis:

- Provides oversight of wholesale distribution.
- Regulates sales and consumption.
- Provides tools for law enforcement.
- Provides oversight for employers to ensure safety on our roads and at work.

City of Calgary

Responsible for:

Retail locations and rules; Public consumption; Land use and zoning; Education.

Regulations in support of legalization:

Bylaws and policies:

- Regulating businesses operating within the municipality.
- Regulating public consumption.

Education and enforcement:

- Educating citizens and enforcing municipal, provincial and federal regulation of legalized recreational cannabis.

Cannabis Legalization

The City of Calgary approach to cannabis regulation.

Calgarians' views on cannabis legalization

How do Calgarians feel about Cannabis?

There are **4 main viewpoints** when it comes to cannabis in Calgary:

Anti-Cannabis Absolutists

17%

- non-users
- very opposed to legalization
- major retail & consumption restrictions

Out of Sight, Out of Mind

22%

- few users
- most oppose legalization
- major retail & consumption restrictions

THC Tolerant

48%

- some users
- soft support for legalization
- moderate retail & consumption restrictions

Cannabis Champions

13%

- many users
- high support for legalization
- minimal retail & consumption restrictions

1 ^{IN} 4

Calgarians will be **users or potential users** when cannabis is legal



including:

- 7% current frequent users
- 9% current infrequent users
- 11% willing to try

Cannabis legalization engagement and research

Two separate methods have been used to gather input from Calgarians - **engagement and research**.

Read a complete overview of engagement results on legalized recreational cannabis [here](#).

Read a complete overview of research results on legalized recreational cannabis [here](#).

Read a summary of research results on legalized recreational cannabis [here](#).

Public Consumption

Preferences on public consumption

55%



treat it like alcohol

32%



treat it like tobacco

"[Cannabis] should be more like alcohol, where you can't consume it in public." (focus group)



Secondary suites

The City has proposed changes to improve the process for Secondary Suites and Backyard Suites for Calgarians, which will be debated on **March 12, 2018**.

These changes mean that applications will **no longer** be considered by council in a public hearing: **they will instead be reviewed by planning staff**. Under the existing bylaw, if you wanted to develop a suite in your basement or in your backyard or above your garage, you would have to ask City Council for permission through a land use redesignation. The proposed changes would mean property owners would have the ability to develop a suite without City Council approval, **but would still work with Planning and Development staff at The City of Calgary to obtain Development and Building Permits**.

Land owners who are directly affected by these changes will be receiving a letter in the coming days but Calgarians can search their address immediately on calgary.ca/suitereform to see if they are impacted. Citizens who would like to attend the Public Hearing to voice their opinion on the changes on **March 12** are welcome to do so. The Public Hearing takes place in the Council Chambers located in the Calgary Municipal Building.

Written feedback can also be included in the Council Agenda package; citizens may provide submissions by noon, Tuesday **March 5, 2018** at publicsubmissions@calgary.ca.

For information about the proposed changes and how you would be affected or if you are unsure what your land use designation is, please click [here](#).

To find out more about the current rules regarding Secondary Suites and Backyard Suites, and what the steps are to build a new suite, or bring an existing suite into compliance, visit the following [website](#).

If you do not have access to the internet please contact the City's Planning Department at 403-268-5311 for more information or visit in person at the Planning Services Centre, 3rd floor of the Municipal Building 800 Macleod Trail S.E., Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

[Secondary Suite Process Reform Notice of Motion - Q&A](#)

Secondary suites

Background



On December 11, 2017, Council passed a **Notice of Motion** that directed administration to pursue reforms to the process for secondary suite applications.

City Council directed Administration to bring forward amendments to the Land Use By-law to include secondary suites as discretionary uses within the **R-1, R-C1, and R-C1L** land use districts no later than the public hearing on March 12, 2018. Proposed amendments also impact **The City's Suite Registry Program**.

On March 12, 2018 Council will meet to debate on the proposal to streamline secondary suite applications. If Council approves the land use change, then the next step is obtaining the proper building permits.

If the proposed bylaw changes are approved, the rules will be consistent across the city and Council approval will no longer be required because homeowners with the permitted land use designation will have the ability to develop a suite. Moving forward a homeowner would go straight to the development permit or building permit stage.

Who is affected by these changes?

Homeowners with the land designation: R-1, R-C1, and R-C1L land use. The proposed change means that secondary suites (suites within the primary dwelling) and backyard suites will both be discretionary uses in these land use districts.

The difference between a permitted use and a discretionary use:

- If both types of suites are approved as discretionary use in R-1, R-C1, and R-C1L land use districts, it means that community associations and neighbours are given the opportunity to provide comments during the development permit review process.
- A decision on a discretionary development permit may be appealed.
- Backyard suites are always a discretionary use in every other low-density district since they result in a visible change to the property.
- Where a suite is a permitted use (as they are in every other low-density district), the development permit exemption will allow the property owner to proceed directly to the building permit stage, as long as the application does not require any relaxations from the Land Use Bylaw rules.



VALUING YOUR PROPERTY

Assessment

The City of Calgary Assessment annually prepares, communicates and defends property and business assessments within Calgary. Through fair and equitable assessments, the resulting property and business taxes support the essential City services provided to Calgarians.

About Assessment

To ensure all Calgary property and business owners pay their fair share of municipal taxes, The City conducts assessments each year that reflect the market value for property or the typical net annual rental rate for business as of **July 1** of the previous year, as provisioned by the Municipal Government Act.

Assessment notices are mailed each year in early January. As mandated by the Municipal Government Act assessment notices show a "Mailing Date" and "Notice of Assessment Date". The mailing date will

be seven days prior to the notice of assessment date. The City of Calgary recognizes the mailing date as the beginning of the Customer Review Period, which extends the mandated 60-day review period to a 67-day review period.

Property and business owners should carefully review their notice and contact Assessment if they have any questions or would like more information. Each notice includes either a roll number or a business identifier and confidential access code.

Assessment notices are not tax bills. Tax bills are

mailed in February to business owners and May to property owners.

Customer Review Period

Each year, following the assessment notice mailing, there is a Customer Review Period. During this time frame, you are encouraged to review your assessment for accuracy and contact us if you have any questions. The 2018 Customer Review

Period runs from the date you receive your assessment notice in **early January 2018 until March 12, 2018.**



Access your information online

The information you need regarding your assessment and property/ premises details is available by logging into [Assessment Search](#). If you have any questions and/or don't think your assessed value is an accurate reflection of what your property or premises would have sold for on July 1 of the previous year, contact us during the **Customer Review Period**.

Changes to your assessment will only be considered if an inquiry is received during the [Customer Review Period](#).

Questions? Contact Assessment:

403-268-2888

TTY: 403-268-4889

Check your assessment to ensure:

- The factual information we have on record for your property or business premises is correct.
- It seems to be a reasonable estimate of market value (for property) or typical net annual rental value (for business) as of July 1 of the previous year.
- It is equitable compared to similar properties or premises.

If you have any questions and/or don't think your assessed value is an accurate reflection of what your property or premises would have sold for on **July 1** of the previous year, contact us during the Customer Review Period.

Changes to your assessment will only be considered if an inquiry is received during the Customer Review Period.

Service Updates

Bus route changes in northwest Calgary starting **March 19, 2018**

Calgary Transit is introducing four new bus routes in northwest Calgary to enhance connectivity and replace four existing routes that will be retired. These route changes will be implemented with Calgary Transit's Spring 2018 Service Changes starting **March 19, 2018**.

Route Changes

The new bus routes will better serve the expanding communities surrounding northwest Stoney Trail, with improved connections to shopping centres, the Sage Hill Hub, **Shane Homes YMCA at Rocky Ridge**, North Pointe bus terminal and Red Line LRT stations. The design of the new routes in this area was informed by ongoing feedback received from the public on the current bus route network.

The Sage Hill Hub has been identified as an important transit-oriented node in the Symons Valley Community Plan, and these route changes will provide a direct connection for the communities of **Rocky Ridge, Royal Oak,**

Panorama Hills, Evanston and Sherwood. Service coverage is also expanding in the communities of Evanston and Sherwood, and realignment of service between Evanston and North Pointe will result in significant travel time savings to the downtown core. The new routes also align with two other major City of Calgary initiatives - the **Shane Homes YMCA at Rocky Ridge** and the Sage Hill Civic Centre. These facilities will have convenient transit connections with their surrounding communities, as well as each other.

Communications

Information about the route changes is being distributed through a variety of means to reach

as many customers as possible, and includes:

- Detailed information on the [Calgary Transit website](#)
- Notices at all affected bus stops
- Social media alerts
- Route notifications on the Calgary Transit App
- Posters at Tuscany Station, Crowfoot Station, North Pointe Bus Terminal, and Sage Hill Hub
- On-board notices on the affected bus routes

Calgary Transit

Route 138 – Citadel

- This route replaces Route 199 in Crowfoot, Arbour Lake and Citadel. The new route continues from its current terminus location in west Citadel, continuing along Country Hills BV NW across Stoney TR NW. It then replaces the current Route 157 service along **Royal Birch BV NW** and **Royal Oak DR NW**.

- The revised routing provides a new connection to a second LRT station (Tuscany), and significantly improves bus travel time from west Citadel.

- Citadel residents will now have a direct bus connection to the Royal Oak shopping centre.

- **Royal Oak residents** will now have a direct bus connection to Robert Thirsk High School, Crowfoot Library, Crowfoot YMCA and the Crowfoot shopping centre.

Route 115 - Symons Valley Parkway

- This route replaces Route 157 in **Royal Vista**, as well as introducing a new service to improve transit connectivity in Evanston and Sherwood.

- Parts of south Sage Hill and Kincora will be within walking distance of route, providing an additional bus service option for the area.

- These communities will have improved connections to the Sage Hill Hub, Beacon Hill Shopping Centre, **Shane Homes YMCA at Rocky Ridge** and **Tuscany Station**.

Contact Us

General Inquiries:

403-262-1000

Calgary Transit Access:

403-537-7777



Q+A: Ward 1 office

Ralph is responsible for the investigation and resolution of resident complaints, and for community issues and concerns. If you have contacted 311 about a situation and are still not satisfied with the resolution, contact Ralph at CAWard1@calgary.ca with the Service Request number and a brief summary of what transpired. Alternately, you may call him at (403) 268-2430. Please note The City of Calgary protocol requests that before a councillor becomes involved in a service request, the citizen must first go through 311, as 311 effectively records requests and serves as a permanent record for the City.



Dear Ward 1.

I'm having issues with my neighbor about the location of the fence between our two properties. What do I do?

Dear Constituent.

In this situation, the Councillor's Office must defer to Calgary Community Standards (formerly Bylaw) as to how they would handle matters. You can reach the appropriate people by contacting 311, and they will forward matters from there.

Alternatively, there is a service available to homeowners in the midst of neighbourhood disputes, which can be found at www.communitymediation.ca/

Dear Ward 1.

I submitted a 3-1-1 online request to have potholes filled. The entire stretch has become extremely bad, and cars must zigzag along here to avoid them. Since this is a designated cycling route, the bikes are starting to come out also, as well as groups of hikers and runners. This is very dangerous for everyone, not to mention really hard on a car's suspension. As this is urgent, I ask that you look into this matter for me. Thank you.

Dear Constituent.

Potholes can develop on any of the 16,000 lane km of paved streets and 2,900 lane km of back lanes in Calgary. Potholes form when snow melts into cracks in the asphalt and then freezes, expanding in the cracks.

Meanwhile, the frost in the ground pushes up, weakening the asphalt. See an [illustration of how potholes are created and how they are repaired](#). Repairing potholes is a major part of Roads' continual maintenance of Calgary's roadways.



Chief of Staff, Ralph Smith

To help locate and quickly repair potholes Calgarians are encouraged to contact 311 or download the 311 app to report a pothole.

In order to permanently fix potholes, dry pavement and warm weather conditions are needed. Pothole repair generally begins in April and goes throughout the summer months. Dry pavement and warm weather is needed for a lasting fix. Repairs are completed on a priority basis.

During the pothole repair program, crews are out working seven days a week. The majority of repairs are done during the day, but repairs on major roads are often done at night when there is less traffic. I'm forwarding you the link to the [City's website](#) about Pothole Repair – hopefully it will explain Roads' process and answer your questions.



Dear Ward 1,

What's going on with The City of Calgary's recycling program now that China has stopped accepting foreign recyclables?

Dear Constituent.

The City is working with a private third-party company that sorts and markets the recyclables collected through City recycling programs to find new potential buyers. For more information, click [here](#).

The City is encouraging citizens of Calgary to stay in the habit of recycling and keeping these materials out of the landfill. Please keep on recycling acceptable items in your Blue Cart!

To ensure you are recycling the right things in your blue cart, check out the City's [Blue Cart Recycling page](#).



Coyote awareness



Coyotes are not usually dangerous to people. A potential exception is if they become habituated to people and lose their natural fear.

Calgary's natural spaces are part of what makes our communities unique. Many of us appreciate the abundance of green spaces within the city limits where we can enjoy nature and for a little while, remove ourselves from the bustle of the city.

Enjoying those special places brings a responsibility—we must realize we share these spaces with other creatures, some of which can be dangerous on occasion.

Coyotes are one such species. They exist within Calgary and residents

need to be aware of their presence and what to do if they are encountered. Because of several factors, coyotes are not necessarily staying in traditional natural areas—they are present in many urban areas within the city. This may be happening because they are finding food sources within the city and are not discouraged from utilizing those sources.

Although coyotes mainly feed on small mammals such as mice and rats, they will attack domestic pets. Coyotes are generally no threat to people but should be

treated with respect and never approached or fed. People with small children should be especially careful with their children around animals.

While there have been reports of coyotes attacking people, these attacks are extremely rare.

Coyotes are part of our urban wildlife and should be enjoyed, but from a safe distance.

The Alberta government is responsible for wildlife management. The City of Calgary is providing this information as a public service.

What to do if you see a coyote?

Coyotes are common in Calgary. Keep your dog leashed at all times, and pick up children or small dogs if a coyote is spotted. If you are in a remote location and spot a coyote, leave the area immediately. Never leave food in your yard, even pet food, and avoid hanging bird feeders that contain lard or suet.

Who should you call regarding coyotes?

- In an emergency situation where there is immediate danger, call 9-1-1.
- For non-emergency situations and to report coyote sightings or injured coyote sightings, please call 311 or report [online](#).

The following is a list of frequently asked questions about coyotes.

What should I do if a coyote approaches or acts aggressive?

- Do NOT run or turn away.
- Try to scare the animal by shouting and waving your arms overhead.
- Bang sticks or clang pots together towards the animal.
- Maintain eye contact with the animal and back away slowly

What else can I do to avoid a negative encounter?

- Never leave small children unattended.
- Never approach wildlife and teach your children not to either.
- Carry a shrill whistle or portable alarm with you in areas frequented by coyotes.
- Never feed coyotes or leave pet food (including bird seed) outdoors.
- Clean up all loose garbage and put garbage in approved waste receptacles with the lids on.
- Keep dogs on a leash – even in off-leash areas and especially in areas where coyotes are known to frequent.
- Coyotes can be attracted to an area by dog feces, so please clean up after your pets, even in natural environment parks.
- Cat owners should keep their pets inside their homes.

I've seen coyotes moving through my yard a lot recently. Why?

Regular coyote presence in your backyard is likely a result of a nearby food source. The coyote may be finding a meal in your yard, your neighbour's, or at a house down the street from you. It

Ensure pet food is not stored or fed outside, garbage bins and compost piles are not accessible, and fruit fallen from trees is picked up. Even a poorly maintained bird feeder may attract wild animals.

Coyotes are very adaptable and though the majority of their diet consists of small rodents. They enjoy apples, berries and other fruit, birds, eggs, fish and small crustaceans. These food sources also attract rodents which are the mainstay of urban coyote meals.

If a coyote is in your yard it is imperative that you make the animal aware it is not welcome there. Coyotes are frightened by aggressive gestures, loud noises and large forms. Coyotes have been scared off properties by waving hockey sticks or brooms at them, and clanging pots and pans in their direction. Coyotes should not be ignored on your property. They should be discouraged from being there.

How can I help to reduce or avoid problems with coyotes?

- Don't approach or feed coyotes.
- Secure open areas under porches, decks or steps.
- Clean up your compost, garbage and other potential food sources.
- Don't store food outside.
- Clean up around bird feeders.
- Clean up fallen fruit.
- Keep pets on a leash, in your enclosed property, or inside your home, especially at night.

Community

EASTER EGG HUNT!



Join the North West Family Church & RRROCA for a
COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT
on Saturday March 31 at 1pm
at the greenspace North of Royal Oak School
on Royal Birkdale Drive