



Councillor Connection

Three days as a councillor

Posted By Don Iveson 5 February 2009

This job brings with it full days, and some are more interesting than others. But last Friday, Saturday and Sunday had some highlights worth sharing.

Friday, I attended the unveiling of the Local Motion Demonstration Project, where the city is partnering with Transport Canada and the Global Alliance for EcoMobility in order to work with a neighbourhood to put in place infrastructure and conditions (transit, cycling, carpooling, etc.) to better enable residents to try alternatives to the single-occupant vehicle.

This launch was gratifying for three reasons: firstly, I am strong believer in making car alternatives more accessible and attractive; secondly, I participated in the launch of our partner group the Global Alliance for EcoMobility in December of 2007 at the UN Climate Change Conference; and thirdly since the neighbourhood selected from 13 enthusiastic applications was Ward Five's Parkallen.

Friday evening, my wife Sarah and I visited Snow Valley to take in the Snow Daze event, part of the Winter Light series of winter festivals. We rode the horse-drawn sleigh and warmed ourselves by the fire, but didn't have time to take in the trail adventure and cross-country ski demonstrations. It was great to see so many Edmontonians of all ages enjoying our outdoors in the winter.

Saturday was a day-long progress briefing from the Capital Region Board on the work leading up to the March 31 deadline for a land-use, transit, housing and information-sharing plan. More than 300 councillors were invited from across the region. There is still more work to be done, but there is more cooperation in the region than there has been in decades and the work to date looks very promising.

[After the briefing, I brought greetings on behalf of the mayor and council to the Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Education Association's lunar new year celebration event at Edmonton Centre. It was a superb display of Chinese arts, crafts and dance presented by students and parents in Edmonton Public Schools' award-winning Mandarin language programs.](#)

Sunday night was the Edmonton Chinese Community's new year's banquet, attended by over 500 including many fellow elected officials and Lieutenant Governor Norman Kwong. Displays of martial arts, calligraphy and Chinese opera were breathtaking.

Happy Year of the Ox to our Chinese community.

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