

The City of St. Albert

Second Quarter Report

April – June 2006



CONTENTS

Service and Operational Excellence	3
Managed Urban Growth and Form	5
Safe & Caring	6
Expand, Enhance and Diversify the St. Albert Economy	7
Effective Infrastructure Management	8
Fiscal Responsibility and Leadership Excellence	9
Sound Stewardship of the Environment	9
City Council Priorities	10

City Council Priorities - Legend

- Deliver Value for Taxes Paid
- Confirm West Regional Road as a Provincial Roadway
- Open the Multipurpose Leisure Centre on time and on budget
- Manage Infrastructure Effectively
- Market St. Albert as “The Community of Choice” in the Capital Region
- Exercise Stewardship over our natural areas and green spaces
- Update the Land Use Bylaw
- Update the Traffic Bylaw
- Implement the Affordable Housing Strategy
- Key Planning Activities

Service & Operational Excellence

To consistently and reliably deliver services by valued and satisfied employees; to meet the needs of citizens and businesses through efficient, effective and customer-focused civic processes, programs, facilities and community amenities; to continuously improve and innovatively approach service delivery and manage the cost of service delivery.

The City of St. Albert is proud to deliver a high standard of service and operational excellence to residents and businesses. The City aims to provide quality services while exploring innovative delivery methods to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

Building a Strong Workforce

Continuing the strong trend in the first quarter, the City experienced another record number of job competitions in the second quarter. To date, there have been 113 competitions, a significant increase over the same period in 2005 that saw a total of 71 competitions.

The City and the local firefighters union successfully concluded a collective bargaining process that resulted in a 3-year collective agreement being ratified by both parties.

New Employee Bus Tour

The City implemented an orientation program for new employees called *Get On Board with the City*. New employees were invited to join Senior Leadership Team on June 26 for a tour of St. Albert to learn more about the City of St. Albert, our history, major projects, programs and services.

Employee Staff Survey

An employee survey was conducted and the results were made available to all staff identifying the areas of improvement and excellence. According to the results, City employees continue to be satisfied with their jobs and feel that they make good use of their skills. The results also suggest that supervisors have improved at conducting performance appraisals and communicating with employees.

Improve Staff Reporting

Several City departments are submitting minor restructuring plans to Human Resources and SLT to meet the following objectives: Council's vision, the 3 year business plan, integrate the St. Albert Leisure Centre into community-wide recreation, and succession planning.

Managing Resources Effectively

The contract for the electronic document management software was awarded to Stellent, an industry leader in records and document management software. A project team including Legislative Services, Information Technology, Communications, and the Executive Assistants is working with Stellent on the project plan.

Improving Services to Citizens

The annual Community Satisfaction Survey was conducted in May, with the report finalized in June. Similar to past years, residents are positive about living in St. Albert and the services they receive with 97% providing positive ratings for quality of life. The vast majority of residents (90%) continue to be satisfied overall with the City's services, facilities and programs, while several areas experienced significant increases in satisfaction levels.

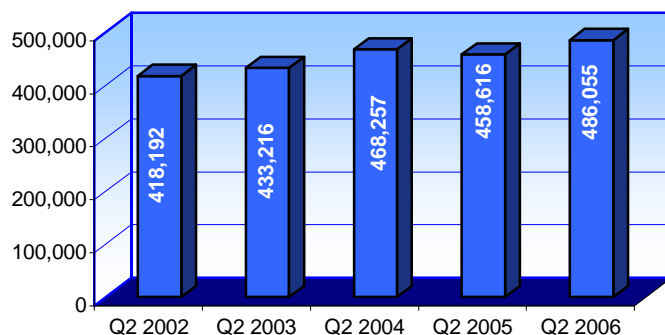
Providing Openness and Accountability

Mediation between the City and the St. Albert Senior Citizen's Club has been successfully completed with signing of the City's funding agreement. The City and the Club worked very hard to reach an agreement that, in the end, is beneficial to both parties.

Providing Excellent Transit Services

St. Albert Transit's commuter ridership has seen a significant increase over the same period in 2005 with an increase of 27,439.

Transit Commuter Ridership



2006 International Children's Festival

The 25th anniversary edition of the five-day Northern Alberta International Children's Festival went exceptionally well with more than 57,000 people attending. Of these, 44% were first-time visitors. The 104 paid venue performances had 75% attendance. More than 650 volunteers contributed 8,260 hours and more than 275 corporations, businesses, individuals, governments and foundations donated cash and in-kind support.

Participation in City of St. Albert Programs (including Arden Theatre Events & Attendance)

	April-June 2002	April-June 2003	April-June 2004	April-June 2005	April-June 2006
Visual Arts Program Participants	269	339	250	192	86
Performing Arts Participants	290	304	164	198	253
St. Albert Children's Theatre Participants	22	29	28	22	26
Recreation Program Participants	1,132	999	826	675	694
FPRC Attendance	97,990	95,872	88,197	93,626	85,818
Arden Theatre Events	60	55	62	67	55
Arden Theatre Attendance	36,291	41,160	45,962	45,535	36,524

Managed Urban Growth & Form

To flexibly and responsively accommodate the housing demand; to collaboratively and effectively develop land through the Municipal Development Plan; to provide liveable and walkable communities in a modern urban context; to maintain a small-town feel.

Space Planning

Council approved their strategy regarding civic space and directed Administration to conduct public consultation in October 2006 to gather public input. A model, brochure and questionnaire were placed in St. Albert Place through June to provide residents the opportunity to view and comment on Council's strategy. By the end of June more than 150 questionnaires were completed with excellent feedback from the community. The display will be moved to Fountain Park Recreation Centre in July.

Planning for Future Growth

The Municipal Government Board continues deliberations on the proposed annexation. It is anticipated that the recommendation from the Board will go to the Minister early in the third quarter. The City remains hopeful that the effective date for the annexation (assuming the application is approved) will be January 1, 2007.

Ted Hole Park

The Ted Hole Park was designed throughout the winter and spring of 2006, with construction to be completed by fall. The park will honour the contribution of Ted Hole to our community.

Ted and Lois Hole Tribute

The Ted Hole and Her Honour Lois E. Hole Tribute Committee received a number of artist submissions for both Tribute Projects. The jury reviewed submissions and presented their choices to the Hole Family:

- Gerry Nason, a local St. Albert sculptor, has been chosen to create The Ted Hole Tribute.
- Barbara Paterson, the Edmonton sculptor who created the "Women are Persons" sculpture of the famous five, has been chosen to create the Lois E. Hole Tribute.



St. Albert Leisure Centre

The focus over the second quarter of 2006 continued to be on building construction and operational start up. The SALC remains on schedule for substantial completion by the end of August with anticipated opening to the public in September.

The capital fundraising campaign is progressing well. The "Raise the Roof" event was a great success for the awareness and promotion of the St. Albert Leisure Centre. Over 700 guests attended and \$150,000 was raised. To date, the capital fundraising campaign has raised \$4,456,942.

where
do **you**
fit in?



Premier Football Field/Kinsmen Park Master Plan:

A number of challenges surrounding building a premier football facility at the Badger site prompted Council to ask administration to pursue the feasibility of a partnership with the St. Albert Kinsmen Club and the two local football associations to build the football facility on the Kinsmen Park site.

All three parties agreed to participate in a master plan with City staff facilitating a planning committee. The goal is still to have the Premier Football Field completed for August 2008.

Sturgeon County Cost Sharing Project

Staff are well on their way to complete a draft terms of reference for a cost sharing agreement with Sturgeon County on recreation and cultural facilities and programs. We are working closely with Sturgeon County administration to gain common ground. Recently, Sturgeon County administration put negotiations on hold until annexation is complete. The County said from the beginning they are interested in a cost sharing agreement with St. Albert in regards to the St. Albert Leisure Centre.

Fire Services

There is still no clear indication of what the final outcome to the provincial government's review of ground ambulance services will be. The government has provided funding in support of ambulance services again for the 2006 fiscal year and St. Albert received \$996,900. There is no time frame identified when or if the government's position on the delivery of ambulance services will be revealed.

The Fire Department is taking the lead on developing a corporate two-way radio system. This initiative will take 2–3 years to complete and will involve several other departments within the City. The end result will be a corporate radio system that supports effective interdepartmental communication thereby simplifying and improving service delivery.

Grosvenor Outdoor Pool and Grandin Clubhouse

This project is almost complete and is scheduled to open on July 5. The clubhouse should be completed in August and ready to be booked by the community in September.



Land Use Bylaw Limited Review

The signage survey was completed with the recommendation to Council that the existing regulations for portable signs were striking a reasonable balance and should remain as is with no recommended changes. Council agreed with the recommendation.



Affordable Housing

Implementation of the Affordable Housing Board Housing Plan continued in the second quarter of 2006. Specifically, staff are working toward implementing a housing trust to aid in pursuing grants and administering projects.

Safe & Caring

To ensure the safety of residents, staff and visitors to the community; to ensure the safety of property, including City facilities, residential and business assets.

The City is perceived by its residents as a safe place to live and Council places a priority on maintaining high safety standards.



Traffic Bylaw

The traffic bylaw includes new bike helmet regulations. To promote bike helmet use amongst all St. Albertans, the City along with Capital Health and the RCMP held a bike helmet media event. Promotional materials were also developed and provided to Community Services and Bylaw Enforcement for use leading up to the July 1 start date.

Emergency Preparedness

A full-scale mock disaster involving several City departments was conducted on June 21. A report and recommendations resulting from the exercise is being developed.

Community Mapping Project

The Community Mapping Project/Community Partnership Workshop introduced initial maps for St. Albert demographics and services and the Strategy and Mobilization partnership model to service providers in St. Albert. All partners agreed that both projects were valuable and struck a sub-committee to flesh-out the model for a future workshop.

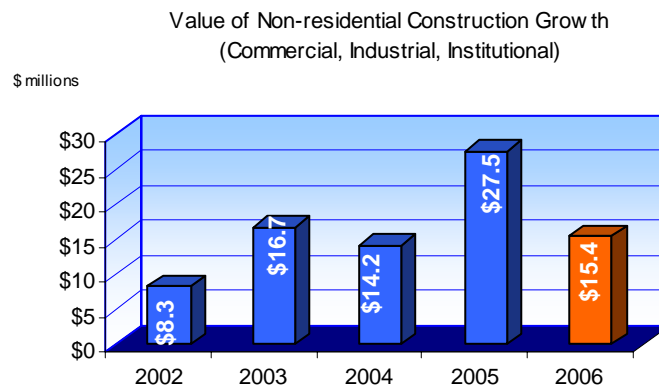
Expand, Enhance & Diversify the St. Albert Economy

To ensure improved and effective use of land to improve business investment; to manage the decline in the proportion of non-residential tax assessment; to increase the proportion of taxes funded by commercial and industrial development. To maintain an appropriate portion of taxes funded by residential taxpayers and to implement the Economic Development Master Plan strategies.

Non-Residential Construction Growth

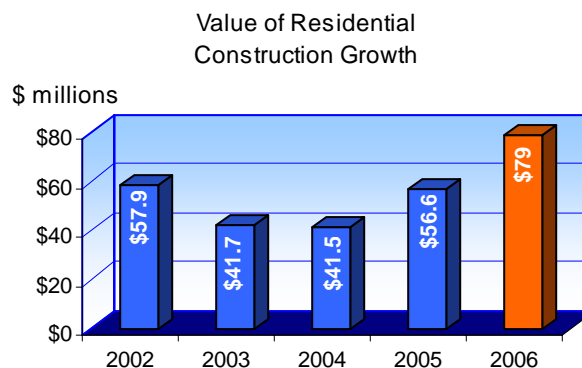
Non-residential building permit values, which include commercial industrial and institutional permits, reached \$15.4 million for January-June 2006, compared to \$27.5 million in the same period of 2005. The largest difference is the decline in institutional building permits that accounted for \$21.6 million in the first half of 2005 as compared to only \$2.7 million in 2006.

The good news is that commercial and industrial building permits (equating to increased non-residential tax assessment) reached \$12.7 million in 2006 as compared to only \$5.9 million in 2005. With continued land sales in Campbell Business Park North, commercial infill and re-development and the commercial phase of the Hospital Urban Village, 2006 building permit values for non-residential construction should reach or exceed the target of \$20 million.



Residential Construction Growth

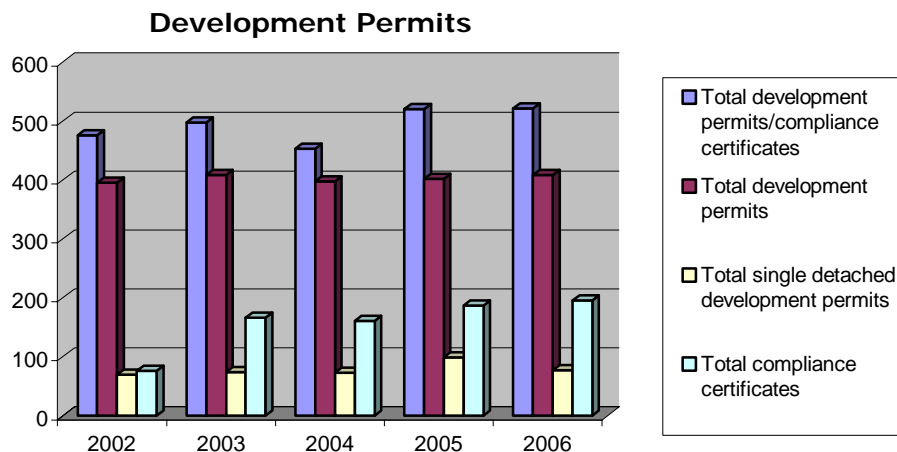
Residential construction growth continues its strong trend in 2006 with \$79 million (YTD) in permit values.



Construction has been initiated on the \$5.3 million of servicing stages 4 & 5 in Campbell Business Park North. It is expected to be complete in late summer or early fall. As a result of multiple offers for the same parcels of land in Phase 4 & 5 a Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued in early June, to attain the best possible projects for the long-term benefit of the City. The RFP was presented to interested parties, commercial real estate companies and local developers. By proposal submission deadline of June 30th, 60 packages were distributed. Six proposals were received, and the City's Land and Development Team are in the process of reviewing and determining the most suitable proposals.

Development Permits

Development permits are on par with the 2005 results.



Other Economic Highlights

Overall, there was an increase of 97 licensed businesses operating in St. Albert over the same period in 2005.

Effective Infrastructure Management

To ensure effective physical infrastructure by managing investments in existing and new St. Albert civic assets including utilities (water, waste water, storm water); roads and sidewalks; buildings; vehicles; bridges; parks and trails; and traffic signals.



West Regional Road

Contractors are gearing up to resume construction on August 1 to complete Stage One of the West Regional Road project. Some work has already recommenced outside of the environmentally sensitive areas to help meet the tight construction schedule. The bridge should be complete by September 1 with landscaping of Riel Ponds and Wetlands and the actual roadway structure complete by mid-November. Over the summer months (April 1 to July 31) the project team monitored the site closely to ensure all environmental and safety conditions were met. Stakeholder meetings with the environmental group were resumed and now occur on a regular basis every four to six weeks. To date, over \$16,000,000 has been expended against the approved \$28,400,000 budget.

St. Albert Leisure Centre

For an update, please turn to page 5.



Woodlands Water Park

The Woodlands Water Park is undergoing an exciting transformation into a medieval themed water park. It will reopen next summer.

Fiscal Responsibility & Leadership Excellence

To maintain accountability to the community and act cost effectively; to practice prudent financial stewardship; to continue long-term planning; to engage and involve the community; to maintain strong regional and intergovernmental relationships.

Two-Year Budget

The option of implementing a 2-year budget was brought to Council April 3 and approved April 18. Administration will prepare a draft budget for Council that consists of budget requirements for 2007 and 2008.

GST Reduction

The Federal Government will reduce the GST from 7% to 6% effective July 1. Financial Services are working on making the adjustment however; the City will not immediately make adjustments for GST inclusive items such as concession, admission to Fountain Park and City maps.

Carefully Managing Budgets and Investments

- Working on Natural Gas and Electricity RFP (Electricity signed with current provider – Constellation)
- Working on Photo Radar scenarios and RFP. The Photo Enforcement Review Committee received several proposals for photo enforcement services in May. A final recommendation will be presented to Council in September.
- Looking at new cheque signer – will review contract with Paystation. Banks are changing the requirements for all cheques.

Sound Stewardship of the Environment

To manage natural assets responsibly; to minimize negative impacts of growth and development on natural assets.

Clean Air Day

The City celebrated Clean Air Day on Wednesday, June 7 by offering free transit anywhere St. Albert Transit operates. Employees were also encouraged to demonstrate their commitment to the environment by walking, biking or taking transit to work.

Former Landfill and Sewage Lagoons – Riel Park

The City of St. Albert is moving forward with an action plan to address environmental issues related to a former landfill site in Riel Business Park. On June 19, St. Albert City Council unanimously approved the action plan, which focuses on remediation goals on three levels: ensuring the site is well-contained and that distinct pathways for leachate are removed; minimizing the potential for leachate to be generated; and ongoing monitoring of the site. Some of the key activities that have commenced include: capping and infiltration assessment, final grading and drainage plan and the continuation of groundwater quality and surface seep quality monitoring.

Site Management Action Plan/Landfill Risk Management Strategy was presented to Council on June 19. The plan is based on recommendations from the Site Management Alternatives Report and suggestions from the two stakeholder meetings on May 17 & 18.

Parks and Open Spaces Management Plan

A corporate working group representing each affected municipal department is completing a Parks and Open Spaces Management Plan. This project is following up the 2002 study, "A sustainable Future for St. Albert's Parks and Open Spaces". The City is working to establish a direction and time frame to complete this project, which will be ongoing over the next three years. Some of the important areas to be addressed in this plan are: a tree and natural assets bylaw, inventory, GIS systems, maintenance standards, landscape standards, integrated pest control, and integrated corporate parks master planning.

The terms of reference for this project will be completed in August. The terms of reference outline how the City proposes to implement a Parks and Open Spaces Management Plan. The terms of reference will specify:

- Scope of the plan,
- What will be completed internally and what will be outsourced,
- Project budget of \$300,00 total for three years.

For more information contact:
The City of St. Albert
Phone: 459-1500
www.stalbert.ca