

Fort Road and Area Business Association – 2014 Executive Directors  
Report



FORT ROAD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2014

BUSINESS & DEVELOPMENT PROJECT UPDATE

- BCM granted their development permit on December 16, 2013. Were advised that they should be commencing construction early in 2014. No activity at the site in 2014.
- Were advised that Edmonton Transit had purchased the Canada Packer site for the NETG. Had met with the group as the Fort Trail Historical Foundation is keen on preserving the smokestack in to the design of the building.
- Smokestack – inspection July 16<sup>th</sup> structures is in sound condition and repairs required on the upper portion of the stack. Design of site presented to the Edmonton Design Committee.
- Received numerous calls from citizens regarding the status of the smokestack and assured them that the City of Edmonton will respect the structure and will be developing a interpretive feature at the site.
- Communitas had taken their revisions to the Edmonton Design committee. Advertising signs had been placed early in spring. No activity on site in 2014.
- Finalizing of the remainder of the landscaping at Station Pointe subdivision completed.
- The Fort Trail Historical Foundation continued to develop story lines and research for Dwyer Square at the Station Pointe site. Monuments have been completed and tarps have been covering the structures. Lighting elements will be installed the early part of 2015.
- Panels for the structures were produced in late fall.
- Final reporting of the \$200,000.00 grant will be reported to the Province in February, 2015. The Foundation paid the City of Edmonton \$161,000.00 for construction that was completed on their behalf. The remainder of the funds were allotted for panels and plaques for the site. Interest that was accrued was used for Wilf Royer Park and the refurbishment of the Spartan Park Plaque.
- It is anticipated that a Grand Opening of Dwyer Square will be held in July of 2015.
- Londonderry Jeep Chrysler is constructing and new dealership across Manning Freeway. The facility will be a Hyundai dealership. The Londonderry Chrysler will remain at their present site.
- Buffet Royale submitted their plans for funding with the Façade Improvement Program. They are the first project to access the program in the area. Their application was accepted and they immediately progress with their improvements. The project was completed in early October.
- Construction with the strip mall at 66<sup>th</sup> and Fort Road commenced in July. Site to be complete late 2014 – early 2015.
- New ownership of the Fort Road Bottle Depot has resulted in cleaner surroundings. Still have cart issues but less than other years. Owners are keen on being good clean neighbors.
- Construction and landscaping continues on 135<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the units are for sale individually for small businesses.

- Annual General Meeting was held October 21, 2014. Edmonton Transit Group presenting their preliminary design plans for the site. The presentation was appreciated by for business community and Belvedere and Balwin attendees. The façade improvement program was also featured at the meeting and a short presentation was held.

#### COMMUNITY

- December 14<sup>th</sup> – 14years of Christmas Dinners held. Funded by the Edmonton Christmas Bureau, Fort Road Business and the congregation of Fort Road Victory Church.
- Annual Graffiti-Clean-up Event held May 10<sup>th</sup>. The program has been active in the area since 2001. We have partnered with Edmonton Police Services North Division and youth of the area. We have reduced the number of site yearly by contacting business owners in the area and to have them remain active and conscious of the importance of tag removal. In addition, volunteers picked up litter throughout the area. The event is funded by Edmonton Police Services and Fort Road Business Association. A BBQ was held for the volunteers.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Canada Day party organized and funded by the Fort Road Business members. Partners included Fort Road Victory Church and Century Casino.
- Executive Director meets regularly with the Beat Constables in the area on a number of initiatives. We appreciate this partnership and value the changes that they have achieved.
- We continue to add plant material and beautification to the north end site. A project of approximately 13 years. Now that the roadway construction is complete we will be redesigning some of the open spaces with additional plantings.
- Continue to add colour in Old Town with planters. Challenging at times as some plant material is removed from the planters..... But we continue.
- Lighting and the irrigation still needs to be resolved in the area.

Our challenge remains with lack of development. We have done a superb job on the site and will be adding the historical portions in 2015 and hopefully the community will finally realize what was envisioned a number of years ago. We will continue to strive for change that will alter the perception of the area positively. The vacant and derelict properties that remain vacant and unkempt do not add to the areas health or the citizens expectations.