

Ward 2 Report

Councillor Bob Hawkins



SPRING 2020

Dear Ward 2 Residents:

Thank you for staying inside, washing your hands and practising physical distancing. Your actions have kept you, your families and your neighbours safe.

A special thank you to our health care professionals – the doctors, nurses, hospital staff and care-givers in seniors' facilities. You stepped up in a dangerous time, you knew what to do when it needed to be done, and you performed brilliantly.

I have never been more proud of our City Council, administration and employees. Council was prompt to declare a Local State of Emergency limiting gatherings to five persons and closing bars, restaurants and non-essential retail services necessary to protect the public. We set an example for the entire province.

Our city administration spent hours rewriting the budget to find the 20 million dollars necessary to pay for COVID-19 losses and expenses while keeping the budget balanced as required by law. They put in place programs to extend property tax payment deadlines, to suspend late payment fees on utility bills, and to limit parking enforcement except in areas where safety required it.



A winning team!

Our city employees stepped up, too. Our transit workers kept the buses running, our waste collection workers kept pick-up schedules and our road and our utility folks kept infrastructure functioning. The Regina Police Service had additional duties with social distancing and our fire fighters and first responders were busy with emergency preparedness planning. We all appreciate your dedication.

I want to recognize the generous contribution of our community partners. The City has worked with local non-profit organizations to distributed 1,000 lunches a day, seven days a week, to children. It worked with social agencies

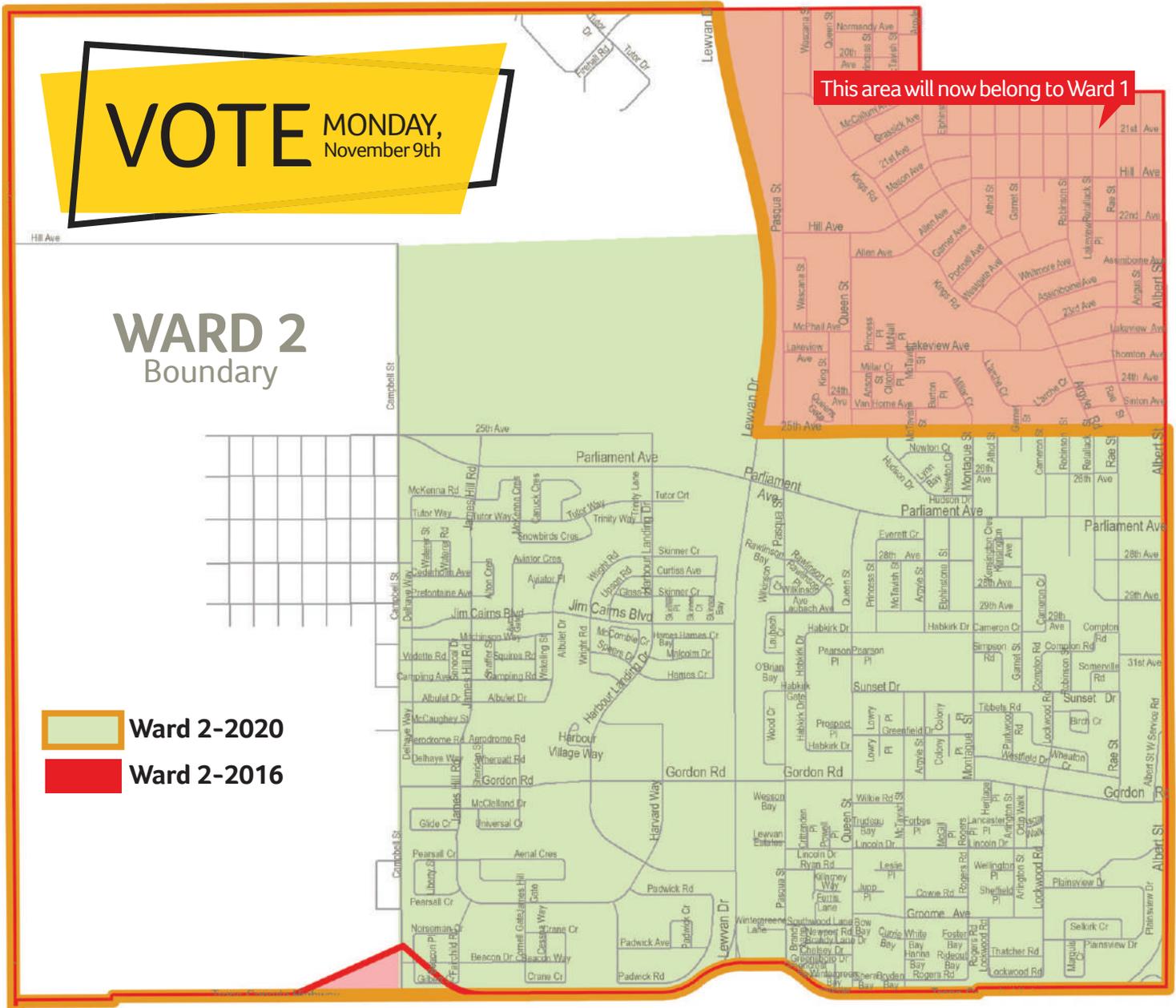
to provide shelter for the most vulnerable and with our suppliers to find masks, gloves and disinfectants for caregivers in need.

This will be the last Ward 2 newsletter before the November 9 municipal election. After COVID is over, I hope to meet you on your doorsteps. It has been an honour to serve you these last 8 years and a very special privilege to do so over these past challenging months. Thank you all.

Stay safe look after each other,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bob Hawkins'.

Bob Hawkins, Councillor, Ward 2



Municipal elections, held every four years, are scheduled for this year on Monday, November 9.

Boundary changes, to ensure an even population distribution within the wards, were recommended by an independent commission last year. The size of Ward 2 is being reduced from 29,000 to 23,000 residents. The new Ward 2 boundaries run west of Albert street and encompass Albert Park north of 25th Avenue and Harbour Landing.

Polling stations are planned for Dr. A.E. Perry School, Deshaye Catholic School and Ecole Harbour Landing as well as at a number of seniors' residences. Bus transport will be free on election day. Detailed information will be posted on the City of Regina web site.

Municipal government provides vital services like water, waste water, garbage collection, local roads, parks, community recreation, city planning and police and fire services. Make your voice heard. Please vote.

A Bike Helmet Bylaw



Ready for the road – with his helmet

At a recent Community and Protective Services Committee meeting I introduced a motion that would make it mandatory for all cyclists to wear approved bike helmets while cycling on roads within Regina. While there would be a fine of \$29 for disobeying the bylaw, it is anticipated that police would focus more on education and warnings than on issuing tickets.

All Canadian provinces have made it mandatory to wear helmets while cycling except Quebec and Saskatchewan. Moose Jaw has recently made this a requirement for cyclists 16 and younger. They have also developed a program working with a private sector partner to supply a helmet to any young person unable to afford one. It would be relatively inexpensive to do that in Regina. The average cost of an approved helmet is around \$25.

It is important for the lives of our children, for the adults who support them and for our medicare system that we wear helmets when cycling. Helmets are like car seat belts or motor cycle helmets or sports gear or other personal protective equipment that is mandatory for workers engaging in dangerous occupations. The Canadian Pediatric Society, the Saskatchewan Medical Association, the Canadian Automobile Association and SGI all support the wearing of bike helmets.

In addition to helmets, there are other measures that can be taken to promote cycling safety. One of the most important is to build infrastructure that separates bicycle and vehicular traffic. The city is investing \$250,000 a year for the next five years to implement new bike infrastructure that will do this.

Single-use Plastics

A year ago, I placed a motion before Council asking that the Administration prepare a report outlining the environmental impact on Regina of single-use plastics including plastic check-out bags, plastic straws and polystyrene drinking cups and food take-out containers.

These materials are clogging our landfill, littering our streets and polluting our waterways. In many jurisdictions they have been banned or fees placed on them to discourage their use. Alternatives such as paper bags and reusable bags are readily available.



SAY NO TO PLASTIC BAGS



BRING YOUR OWN BAG

What we can do for the environment

I have heard from many Ward 2 residents who want action taken. The City recently conducted a survey that showed very strong public support for limiting these plastics, especially single-use check-out bags. I will continue to advocate for this so that Council's wish to make Regina a sustainable city can be realized.



COVID-19 Financial Relief Measures:

- Property tax notices will be issued on schedule in May but property owners will have until October before penalties are applied.
- The City is suspending collection activity on overdue utility and property tax accounts, and no water service will be shut off for residents with outstanding account balances or who are unable to pay.

Bill Payments

No More Paper and Stamps:

- Sign up for [Utility eBills](#) to receive paperless notices via email.
- Contact your financial institution to set up your water/utility and property tax account for online or telephone payments.
- Visit [Regina.ca/utilitypayment](https://regina.ca/utilitypayment) to enroll in the Direct Debit Plan which authorizes the City to automatically withdraw monthly deductions for your financial institution to pay for your utility bill; or the Budget Billing Plan if you prefer equalized payment.
- Parking tickets may also be paid with credit card online at Regina.ca.



We planted every tree on the bald prairie

Regina Tree City!

The City of Regina has been recognized with the Tree Cities of the World designation by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Arbor Day Foundation.

The City has just over 179,000 trees in its street and park inventory and continues its work to increase that number to one tree per person in public spaces. Last fall, the City celebrated the contribution of 100 new trees donated by Tree Canada and each year the Lady Bug event in Victoria Park helps to educate young residents on tree care and natural pest control.

Investment in our urban forest benefits the whole community. Along with aesthetic appeal, trees aid in removing air pollutants, create habitat for wildlife, provide shade and help keep homes cool in the summertime, give protection from the wind and assist in managing stormwater runoff.

At City Council, I have consistently supported environmental issues including planting full-growth large trees rather than the miniature ones that we so often see in newer developments.

Spring Clean-up / Landfill

The Landfill and Yard Waste Depot is now open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., including statutory holidays. Entry gates will be closed 15 minutes prior to closing. Use paper yard waste bags or reusable containers for yard waste. Keep physical distance, at least two metres or six feet, from anyone outside of your household and at the Landfill and Yard Waste Depot.



Humane Society Animal Community Centre

Regina loves its pets. For the past 32 years, the City of Regina and the Regina Humane Society have worked together to provide centralized animal services that promote the health and safety of Regina's residents and its animals.

The current Humane Society facility, built over 50 years ago, is well past its service life. The Society is proposing to build a 3,500 square meter facility at 4900 Parliament Avenue between Harbour Landing Drive and James Hill Road, west of the Co-op Food Store.

The new building will be more than a shelter. Home-like enclosures for dogs and cats will replace cages. Small animals will be cared for in quiet, odor-free environments. An education centre to support Humane Society programming, available to community and recreational groups after hours, will be available. A fully equipped veterinary hospital, an adoption centre, a pet supply store and two publicly accessible, enclosed, off-leash dog parks will complete this "animal community centre."

This is a wonderful opportunity for Harbour Landing and all of Regina.



'Bruce Almighty' the kitten recovered with lots of loving care

Staying in Touch e-Newsletter

I would love to stay in touch with you. If you would like to receive my newsletters and other information from me by email, go to Regina.ca/ward2, click on the 'Sign up for the Ward 2 E-Newsletter' button and fill in your email address.

Please call me anytime at 306-789-2888. I'll answer or reply to your message promptly.

Email works too:
bhawkins@regina.ca.

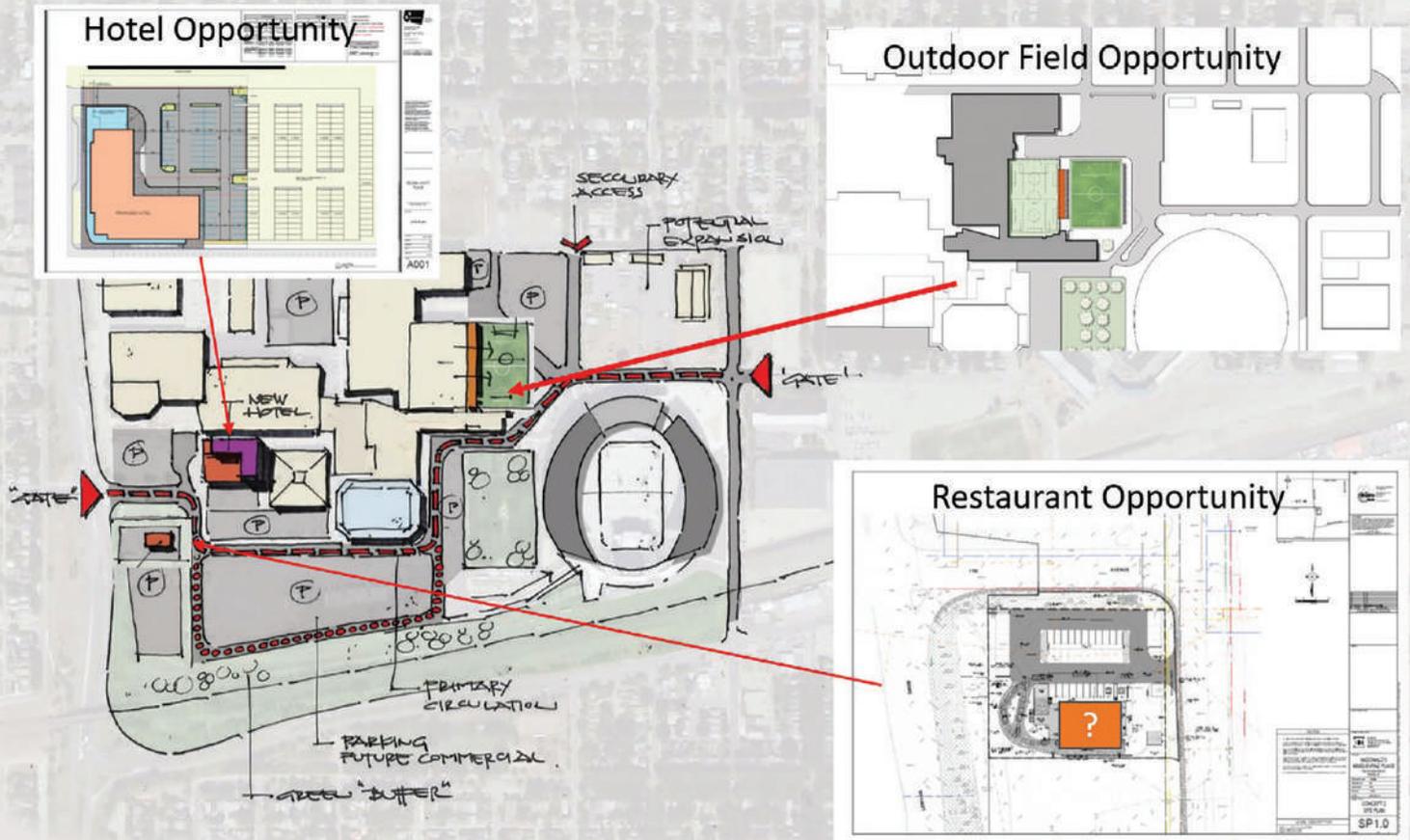
I'm looking forward to hearing from you.



City of Regina | REGINA
Infinite Horizons

Thank you to all who have lent a helping hand

The plan to revitalize Evraz lands



Real 2.0

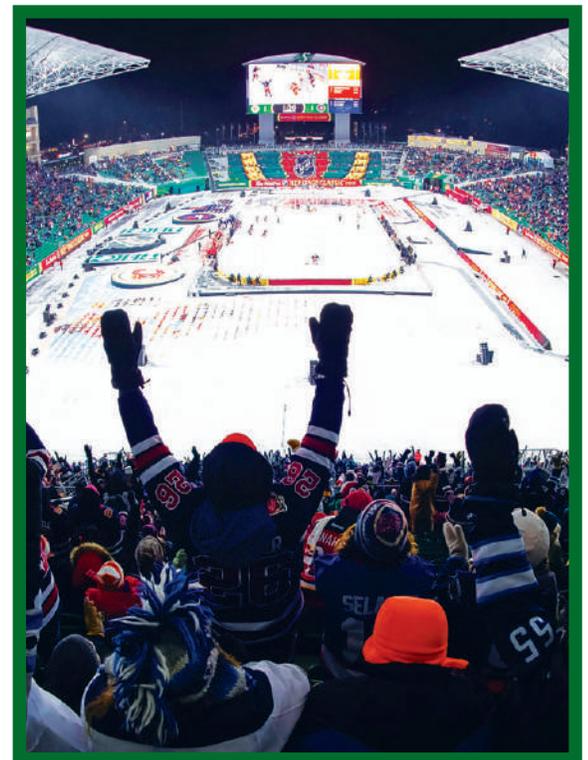
The mission of the Regina Exhibition Association is to deliver exceptional experiences and foster meaningful memories. They've done that! We know them for Queen City Ex, Rider Day, Agribition, the NHL Heritage Classic, great concerts and athletic facilities where our families come to play.

For many years REAL has relied on yearly grants from the City to break even. It also faces significant costs to upgrade aging infrastructure.

REAL has presented the City with a plan, REAL 2.0, that would make it sustainable without annual city grants. The plan involves new commercial developments on the EVRAZ site that would include retail, hotel, restaurant, sporting and parking ventures that would generate leasing and tax revenues.

The site would be transformed from a place hosting a finite number of major events each year into a vibrant, continuously operating sports and entertainment complex with state-of-the-art facilities that would connect with our downtown and attract local residents and tourists year round.

Executive Committee liked what it saw. It is recommending to Council that REAL pursue these opportunities.



*Oh what a night!
NHL Heritage Hockey at Mosaic*