

The following article will give the residents of East Village some information regarding the progress of the development of East Village. Some projects have already begun, such as the new River Walk pathway and the wet pond at Fort Calgary. The Downtown Friendship Centre, through its newsletter and website, will continue to provide update information as we receive it. For additional information you can call Chris Ollenberger, President of the City of Calgary's Municipal Land Corporation at 718-0300.

Over the next two to three weeks, we will be continuing a drilling program generally north of 6th Avenue SE in East Village, but also within the area of Eighth Avenue SE around the St. Louis, King Eddie and Hillier Buildings. The drilling rig is quite large, usually has or two support vehicles with it, and is a type of drilling rig called a "Becker Hammer". The Becker Hammer uses a large diesel fired piston to hammer hollow steel tubes into the ground through which air circulation is used to bring the soil materials to the surface. This type of drill rig is required as most of the soil beneath East Village is a layer of thick cobbles and gravel.

The borehole drilled is used to collect soil and groundwater samples to determine the geotechnical conditions for constructing roads and utilities, and to look for environmental contamination that may exist from previous uses of the land in the area in the soil or groundwater. Sometimes the boreholes are just immediately filled back up, and sometimes they have a well installed for future water sampling.

The drilling will only take place during the day, and if the drilling is located on a road, the area will be barricaded off for safety.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Also over the next couple of weeks, we will have an archaeologist out in various spots all over East Village using a rubber-tired backhoe to dig testpits. Some of the testpits are quite close to your complex within parking lots or vacant lots, including such as the old Safeway site or the vacant piece of land immediately west of your parking lot. The testpits are about 15 feet x 15 feet, and generally only go down about 6 feet or so. They are backfilled almost immediately after they are dug and after the archaeologist has had a chance to look for any history or artifacts in the soil.

The archaeologist is looking for any evidence of previous use by humans in the area, even before Calgary was established as a town. The spots he digs in are generally chosen to be representative of a general area, and not specifically because something might be in that very location.

We have found bottles, spoons, forks, cattle bones and other artifacts within the site at Fort Calgary from previous use as an industrial rail yard, so the archaeologist plays an important role in documenting our history in the area.