

On March 16, 2021, Irene Blain, President and Civics Director for the West Jasper- Sherwood Community League, passed away. This sad news was not expected and shocked her husband, extended family, friends and the residents of our communities. Irene was a dedicated and passionate leader. She accomplished many goals for the residents.

The City of Edmonton had plans for the Jasper Place communities. Their goals were to densify the mature neighbourhoods in Edmonton and to build the West Valley Line LRT along Stony Plain Road and 156 Street adjacent to Canora and West Jasper Place. This presented many problems for our communities. Irene researched all information available and informed our communities of WJP and Sherwood as well as many businesses along Stony Plain Road (SPR) of the City of Edmonton plan to expropriate the east side of the Jasper Gates Shopping Centre in order to build an underpass at the corner of 149 St and SPR to accommodate the LRT. This proposal by the City was cancelled due to Irene's leadership. We presented our concerns to council on March 21, 2018.

Irene founded a focus group to help evaluate the City of Edmonton Jasper Place Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) for West Jasper Place (WJP) which is one of the four communities of Jasper Place. The focus group presented our concerns at council on March 11, 2019. We initiated several recommendations with some success for the ARP.

A developer in our community of WJP wanted to build a 4 story apartment with ground floor commercial on the west side of 153 St. at 95 Avenue which was not allowed by our ARP regulations. The ground floor would include a large bar (more than 100 seats) and would be situated across from an elementary school playground. Irene organized meetings and asked residents of WJP and Sherwood to connect with their alderman to express their concerns. The residents responded with a very large presence at City Hall to defeat this development.

Our community has lost a talented, dedicated and very hard working leader who will be greatly missed. Irene spent many hours on the computer researching development in our community.

Irene enjoyed gardening and loved animals. Irene and her husband Paul kept fit with exercise classes at the Central Lions Seniors Association. They convinced me to join them which I enjoyed very much. Irene and Paul were good friends and I miss Irene very much.

Dawne Colwell