

Arthur and Margo Baptista
4 Harmony Place
St. Albert, AB T8N 6G3

October 14, 2005

His Worship Mayor Paul Chalifoux
City of St. Albert
5 St. Anne Street
St. Albert, AB T8N 3Z9

Mayor Chalifoux:

RE: *Traffic Lights 184th Street and Heritage Boulevard*

Thank you for the opportunity to address this issue directly with you.

We are long-time residents of both St. Albert (30 and 17 years respectively) and residents of the Heritage Lakes subdivision for over thirteen years. Over the course of this time, we have seen our subdivision grow to be the 4th largest one in our City with over 4000 residents, an increase of almost 1500 since 1998¹. As well, both 170th and 184th Streets have become significant commuter/transportation routes to and from St. Albert. We know you can appreciate the benefits as well as challenges that come with growth. In this case, we would like to bring the matter of traffic lights for the Heritage Lakes subdivision to your attention.

Currently, there are three traffic signals locations with one full system and two pedestrian-activated systems (map attached). Our primary concern is the safety of the current pedestrian-activated traffic lights located on 184th Street and Heritage Boulevard. On any given weekday morning the potential for accidents at this intersection is significant for the residents as well as school buses needing to turn left when exiting the subdivision. Most mornings, it is necessary for someone to leave their vehicle idling with the driver's door open, run to press the activation button, and sprint back to their vehicle in time to proceed through the intersection. On many occasions, school bus drivers do this themselves or have one of their passengers (a child) do it. There are times when the light changes back to red before the sixth car has gone through the intersection. Consider how the potential for injury and accident increases in the winter months – falling on ice is a reality and has happened to us personally. A fact that has greatly increased the traffic volume has been the opening of the overpass at 184th Street and Yellowhead Trail – again a situation that brings both opportunities and challenges. This issue is not a matter of impatience on the part of drivers rather it is caused by the volume of traffic on 184th Street and the challenge this presents to proceed safely through a very busy intersection. Further, as the attached map shows, the majority of our subdivision is not serviced by the current full signal system located at Hudson and Grandin Roads.

¹ based on the 2003 City Census

