

President Report - July 2018

Firstly I just want to remind our residents that there will not be a newsletter in August, and nor will there be a General MOCA Meeting over the summer months. The next newsletter will be September and the next MOCA Meeting will be Tuesday September 4. Please be assured however that the business of the Association will continue as usual over the summer with the office hours remaining the same. Decisions requiring the Board approval, or the input of the Director responsible, will continue as required.

I had hoped to have better information by now about when we could expect to have the Lynnview Ridge Site become open to the public, but as I write this Report, I don't. As you might recall, the City Parks Department are required to sign off on the site to accept it under the Parks inventory. I am aware that the site was inspected back in late May, but the grassed areas still showed some patchy spots and it was felt best to give it just a little more time. I was told that the inspections would continue and as soon as they are satisfied with the condition of the growth, they will then allow the fence to be removed. By the way, I am told that the City also plans to open up the small area just north of Lynnview Ridge homes, but they need do some clean-up work including trimming some trees and filling some holes. This work should start soon but I am hopeful that it will not delay the acceptance of the main area.

I spoke a little last month about the Community Clean-Up Day that was held on May 27. Because of publishing deadlines I actually wrote that piece well before it actually happened but again I want to thank our MOCA staff and all of the volunteers, the City of Calgary, and all of the other service providers who made it happen. Our MLA Joe Ceci and our City of Calgary Neighbourhood Partnership Coordinator, Rob Dickenson, also dropped by to lend a hand. 158 vehicles took advantage of the disposal opportunity and many of those vehicles were quite loaded up. This count does not include the trips made by volunteers who picked up yard waste from some residents who did not have access to a vehicle. Many residents waited in line for an hour or more and the sheer number of vehicles is a testament to how important this program is to the community. Unfortunately there were a few vehicles that had to be turned away because we only had the City packer trucks until 2 pm, and that difficult decision had to be made about where the cut-off point should be. We can only get two garbage packer trucks and one truck for organics. We just don't have the space to add more trucks even if they were available. Anyway, it was a successful day and a lot of stuff got removed from the community.

As mentioned, our planned Community Hall Expansion Project is still progressing although somewhat slowly. At the present time, we are waiting for the final approval from the City which will then allow our construction manager to finalize the construction drawings and go to tender. Then we will have a better idea of the final construction cost and make sure that it fits within our budget. Again, we are hopeful for some progress over the summer but the Board will remain active to deal with any decisions that are required. We are happy to provide any information, or answer any questions about this project.

Also as mentioned, there will be a few changes coming to bus service to the community although the actual effects should be minimal for most residents.

- Routes 24 and 302 [BRT] – the changes being proposed are minor and only impact the route through Quarry Park. There will be no changes to these routes through the Ogden area.
- Routes 72 and 73 – Circle Routes - these routes are being eliminated. City transit has determined that these routes that circle the entire City do not provide the service expected.
- A new route 43 is being proposed and it will travel east/west through the community and I am told that it will use 76th Avenue and not 78th. The reason is that 76th Avenue is more central to that part of the neighbourhood. It will travel to Chinook LRT and north along Barlow Trail.
- Existing Routes 41 and 36 that service the area to and from Chinook Station are not being affected – no changes.
- A new Crosstown BRT is being introduced but it will not travel through Ogden. It will service Quarry Park and Riverbend over to the Heritage LRT Station.

Note – how it was explained to us is that these proposed changes, which are occurring throughout the City, are intended to increase service by reducing the number of routes, but also increasing the frequency of buses on the routes. Routes would be designed to be central to the community resulting in them being more straight line and resulting in making trips quicker for the transit user. Any changes being proposed are still in the planning stages and we are told that any route changes will not occur until at least November.

As I write this we have not been advised of any work schedule to begin construction on any of the Greenline related projects that we have outlined over the past few months. I am referring to the improvements to Millican Road, the parking lot and baseball diamond, or the preliminary underground work at 78th Avenue. Please don't be surprised if you notice some activity over the summer.

With respect to the traffic signals at 76th Avenue, we are now told that delay is caused by Enmax who still have some work to do at the site. When that is done, the steel poles can be installed and the lights can be activated. They can't give us a timeline for this but we can only hope that this project will be completed over the summer.

For those of you who recall the caboose that sat on the former Legion property on Ogden Road at 76th Avenue, I have now confirmed that it is now part of the excursion train operated at Aspen Crossing in Mossleigh, just about 45 minutes southeast of Calgary. The caboose has been repainted and is now used as the Candy Caboose where many interesting treats can be found while traveling on the 3 hour train excursions.

I know that I keep talking about this but May 31 is the date when all MOCA memberships expire. Purchasing a membership does not commit anyone to any volunteer responsibilities but it does in some small way, show an element of support for good work done by the Board, the volunteers, and of course the staff, for the management of MOCA's facilities, the programs that are offered, and for the work done in representing the community on the many quality of life issues that present themselves. Not-for-Profit organizations like MOCA are structured around

the requirement to have a membership base. Memberships are not expensive, allow you to vote, particularly at AGMs where your vote really counts, and allows you to benefit through a membership discounts with a few local businesses. If you have a membership now, please renew it. If you would like to purchase a membership, applications are available in this newsletter. Your support is appreciated.

And of course, if you are planning a social event, ie, for your family, or business, or organization, please give some thought to renting the MOCA Hall, - main hall upper floor, or lower level lounge. We would appreciate your business. By the way, the hall is expected to remain open for business during our expansion construction with the least amount of interruption.

As always, if you have questions or concerns that you would like to direct to me, please either call into the MOCA office, or send me an e-mail at president@millicanogdencommunity.com.

On behalf of all of us at MOCA, we hope you have an enjoyable and safe summer !!

Best wishes

Rick Smith , MOCA President