

President Report - June 2018

Firstly I want to thank all those who volunteered at our Community Clean-Up Day on May 27 and of course the City of Calgary and the other service providers for making it happen. I also want to thank all of you who took advantage of the opportunity to dispose of your yard waste and other unwanted items that would normally have been hauled to the landfill. These events are a great opportunity to clean up the neighbourhood.

I am sure that many of you have heard the loud explosions that occur from time to time and are most often heard at night. This has been going on for well over 30 years and the source of these explosions is the shredding operations of the EVRAZ / Navajo Metals operation located on the west side of Deerfoot Trail directly west of the Lynnview Ridge homes. There is no doubt that EVRAZ performs a valuable service as they are a metal recycler – they have been at this location since the mid 1960's and the city has grown up around them over the years. In simple terms, they shred scrap automobiles and other scrap metal items, and the metal is hauled to Regina to be reused in the production of other metal products, like pipe. They have numerous suppliers who bring them crushed autos and other scrap metal, and the theory is that these suppliers will sometimes not handle fuel tanks properly or hide things like propane tanks, and this is what causes the explosions during the shredding process. They continue to improve their internal inspections and controls but sometimes things still slip through, although I do believe we are safe in saying that the frequency of explosions has reduced considerably in recent years.

We recently had a meeting with them directly. EVRAZ actually brought up two senior executives from Chicago, one from Winnipeg, one from Regina, and the local General Manager. Only the residents of Lynnview Ridge were invited to participate because they are the folks on the front line and who have experienced the full effects of the explosions. Anyway, I want to say that the meeting went very well. In fairness, EVRAZ has only been involved for about 7 years when they purchased the business so they kind of inherited this problem, but I believe that we all came away with the feeling that finally, they are starting to appreciate what the residents of the Ridge have been experiencing. What role the valley and the shape of the escarpment play in respect of the effects on the homes on the Ridge is unknown, but it does appear that their concerns are now being taken seriously. EVRAZ have made some commitments to make some changes to their operations, particularly during the night time hours. Obviously they are reluctant to say that they can eliminate problems totally, but I feel confident that they are trying and can be contacted directly with any concerns or complaints.

Our planned Community Hall Expansion Project is still progressing although somewhat slowly, although we do have a Development Permit approved. The project has been scaled back slightly mostly because of the amount of funds that are available at this time, but most features can be added again at a later date. Because this project is located on City land, the City has a process of reviewing this type of project in advance, and we actually agree with this strategy. Because we at the MOCA Board level are all volunteers, we decided that the best strategy was to hire a Construction Manager to oversee the project and to represent our interest as owner of the project. At this point we are waiting for the City's comments and approval of what we are

proposing and once we receive that approval, our Construction Manager will be arranging for final drawings, a Building Permit can be obtained, and he can go to tender. For those who might be interested though, the basic design and appearance of the proposed expansion will not be much different than what you might have seen at our earlier Open House. We are happy to provide any information, or answer any questions about this project.

You may already be aware that the Province of Alberta has redrawn the Constituency Boundaries and Millican Ogden will be located in a new constituency called Calgary Peigan. This will be effective as of the next Provincial election in the spring of 2019. It is early for sure but you may experience candidates trying to position themselves during the nomination process as they try to be the name on the ballot for their respective Party. We do know that our current MLA Joe Ceci has indicated that he will be running in a different Constituency at the next election, so our area, Calgary Peigan, will be totally open with no incumbent. So don't be surprised if you have potential candidates knocking at your door or leaving information in your mailbox. It is important to remember that only Party members can vote at a candidate nomination election which I expect will be occurring this coming fall, so if you are interested in participating, you will need to purchase a membership to whatever Party you support.

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 - are being eliminated. People who currently use this bus route need to determine their best alternatives.
- Routes 41 and 36 that service the area to and from Chinook Station are not being affected – no changes.
- Riverbend Route 136 is being eliminated
- 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.

As spring approaches and the construction season begins, I am sure we will soon see some activity with respect to the preliminary projects that are related to the proposed Greenline LRT. These are the projects we spoke about earlier – the improvements to Millican Road, the improvements to the parking lot and baseball diamond at the north end of Pop Davies Park adjacent to Millican Road, the construction of the small parking lot to be located at the extreme south end of Pop Davies Park, and the construction of the new 90th Avenue at the extreme south side of South Hill Mobile Home Park. At this time we have no idea of when we will see this work start, or how far the City plans to get this year, but I am sure that some of this can be expected and you need to be aware.

The 78th Avenue underpass continues to be an issue with us and I know that many of you share this concern, and we have been assured that Councillor Carra shares this concern as well. City planners have indicated that they understand our concerns about it being used as a truck route and they have said that they will be making the recommendation that 78th Avenue not be a truck

route, but there are other factors including the fact that they need to consult with the businesses on the east side of the tracks and with the trucking industry. However we are also told that preliminary work on this underpass could begin as early as June. Again, we will continue to monitor this project.

As I write this, we still have no idea what the holdup is with respect to the final installation and activation of the traffic signals at 76th Avenue. We are continuing to follow up.

With the ice now out of the arena, it was thought by our arena staff that we could offer roller skating and roller blading on the dry concrete surface. More information and the schedule is outlined in this newsletter. I just want to point out though, that at this time it is a bit of an experimental exercise. In anticipating your questions, we need to determine the level of service before we start investing in an inventory of skates, so rental will not be available for the time being.

I know that I keep talking about this but May 31 is the date when 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 representing the community on the many quality of life issues that present themselves. MOCA 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.

Best wishes

Rick Smith , MOCA President