

President Report - May 2018

I hate to begin this report on a negative tone, but I do want to express our disappointment in whoever placed the graffiti to our Community Entrance sign on 18th Street. This vandalism was discovered on April 3 and it was reported to the police. We appreciate all the comments that have been forwarded to us, and those that have appeared on various social media sites. Over the years, many people have put in countless hours of their personal time to make this community a better place, a more attractive place, and many of us do consider this neighbourhood to be hidden a gem. Fortunately most residents do take some pride in the neighbourhood, but there is always the odd one who is so disrespectful of property that they just have to damage it. This sign took three years and a great deal persistence, not mention a great deal of volunteer time, to get through all the approvals with the City, and there are two more that are currently going through the approval process. Several neighbourhood improvement projects are currently being considered and this sign has gone a long way to start that process. I am guessing that those so immature as to cause this type of damage are likely not going to read this newsletter nor will they be looking at community social media sites – so I am asking a favour. Please talk about this at your family dinners, or with neighbours, etc, about how disgusting and disrespectful this vandalism is. I am sure that someone knows something, and just maybe it will filter down to whomever did this, about just how disappointed we are in your lack of respect for community property.

And just comment further, incredibly we have received a few messages that suggest that, if we did not know, we should have known, that this type of sign would just invite this type of vandalism. This sign, and the two others that will follow, are intended to make the community a more inviting place. Judging by the other comments we have received, this attitude is not the attitude of most, but why would anyone suggest that this type of damage is something that we should expect ?? To be honest, this negative point of view is almost as disappointing as the vandalism itself.

And while we are on the topic of community pride, I would like to remind you of MOCA's Community Clean-Up Day which is scheduled for Sunday May 27th. I know this is a Sunday but there is now so much demand for this program by many communities throughout the City that this was the date that was offered to us. Mark this date on your calendar as this is a great way to dispose of your waste materials, and to clean up your yard, without having to pay the landfill fees. By the way, we also need volunteers for this and all help is appreciated.

The 78th Avenue underpass continues to be an issue with us and I know that many of you share this concern. The City won't admit it but I believe that this was a negotiated matter between the City and C P Rail caused initially by C P Rail's desire to close the level crossing at 69th Avenue, and the subsequent need for another access point to the east side of the railway tracks to Ogdendale Road. I believe that 78th Avenue was chosen because at that point the future LRT tracks will be elevated to the same height as the main C P Rail tracks making this location more suitable for an underpass. At a recent Open House in March, the City planners did indicate that they understood our concerns about it being used as a truck route and they have said that they

will be recommending that 78th Avenue not be a truck route. Apparently we are not out of the woods yet as they have also said that they need to consult with the trucking industry.

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.

Our planned Community Hall Expansion Project is still progressing although somewhat slowly. The project has been scaled back a bit mostly because of funds that are available at this time but some 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. At this point we are waiting for the City's comments and approval of what we are proposing, and once we receive that we will be arranging for final drawings and then going to tender. Hopefully that will happen within the next couple of months.

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.

At this time I would like to introduce two new Board members - Jim Logan and Angela Cruickshank. Jim and Angela are relatively new to the community and have already become active volunteers. Jim has a construction background and Angela has a background in Human Resources. I am sure they will both be valuable assets to the Board. The MOCA Bylaws allow for Directors to be appointed mid-term but of course Jim and Angela will have to go through the usual election process at the next Annual General Meeting.

MOCA's winter programs at Jack Setters Arena have now come to an end and the ice is being removed. A big thank you to our arena staff, beginning with Manager Heather Inouye and Assistant Manager Kevin Solomon. Together with the other arena staff, they kept our customers [the arena renters], happy, and once again they got huge compliments on the quality and condition of the ice. Along the way, they even managed to make a number of other internal improvements to the arena operations. Their hard work and dedication is appreciated. They are now preparing for the summer programs and of course the usual annual maintenance.

MOCA's fiscal year end is approaching on May 31 and as will be reported by Treasurer Pieter van Lindenberg, our finances are on solid ground. Pieter, along with the managers of the arena, the Resource Centre, and of course our General Manager are now finalizing the budget for the 2018-2019 year. Like all organizations that have facilities to operate and have staff responsibilities, we have seen an increase in our operating costs and this is going to have to be reflected in some of our rental rates going forward.

May 31 is also the date when MOCA memberships expire. I will admit that with approximately 3000 families living in the Millican, Ogden, Lynnwood, and South Hill districts, that I am a little disappointed that our total memberships are only slightly above 100. 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 inexpensive, 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.

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. [note-this is a new e-mail address].

Best wishes

Rick Smith , MOCA President