

President Report - January 2018

The Christmas Holiday period is a great opportunity to spend valuable time with family, and to reconnect with friends. On behalf of the MOCA Board, staff, and volunteers, we sincerely hope you had a safe, memorable, and relaxing time over the holidays.

As we look forward to the year ahead, it is with a mixture of enthusiasm and concern. Firstly we are enthusiastic about our plans to expand the community hall with a major addition to the south side of the building. We have had to delay things a little as we continue to work with the City on various aspects of the project, and with the designers as we try to determine final construction costs. We still hope to be able start construction by mid-summer.

Just as a reminder, the community hall building is fast approaching 60 years of age and it is showing its age. Simply upgrading the mechanical [ie heating, plumbing, and electrical] still leaves us with an old building. As the owner of the facility, it is MOCA's responsibility to keep it maintained or it will continue to deteriorate and become worthless. But more than that, it is also our responsibility to ensure that the building has a purpose for the local residents for the decades to come. Our plan is to modernize the building and to expand its usefulness to make it more attractive and more flexible for users, and we were given that opportunity with the financial gift we received from the former Ogden Legion Branch 154 when the Branch ceased to exist. The money received provided the seed money for this expansion project and will be the legacy of Ogden legion Branch 154.

On the concern side, we anticipate the beginning of various construction projects that are related to the future Greenline [LRT]. It would seem that there is very little that we can say or do in respect of these projects as the City calls these preliminary projects a necessity and fully intends to proceed regardless of the opinion of others. I am referring of course to the upgrading of Millican Road, the reconfiguration of the northern baseball diamond on Pop Davies Park and the upgrade to the parking lot, and the construction of a new parking lot on the south end of Pop Davies Park to accommodate the users of the south sports fields. The closure of the level crossing at 69th Avenue is seen as a good thing by some but the trade-off is that the City plans to build a new underpass to the east side of the CP railway tracks at 78th Avenue and there is concern that this will impact the neighbourhoods at the south end of the community. On the South Hill side, the City is planning on the construction of a new road which will be called 90th Avenue and located along the southern edge of the South Hill Mobile Home Park. I do anticipate some controversy on these projects as they move forward, but suspect that all we will be able to do is to work with the City to somehow deal with whatever impacts we are going to experience.

On a positive note, MOCA as an organization is in a very strong position right now. We have a very solid Board made up of individuals with skills and background knowledge that complement the needs of the organization. And beyond that, we have very good managers and excellent support staff who make the Board look good !! Essentially, with the community hall and the arena, we are a facility manager, and we have a customer base that is very happy. We have been told that we have one of the best ice surfaces in the City at Jack Setters. The Resource

Centre is a little different perhaps in respect of circumstances, but the clients being served are still our customers. At all levels, when we all pull in the same direction, we manage to get ahead and it all works.

This is another reminder that this is the season of cold weather vehicle thefts. Please bear this in mind if you are warming up your car or making a quick stop at a convenience store. And if you do experience any type of criminal situation, vehicle theft, break-in to your vehicle, break-in to your home, break-in to your garage, etc, please report these to the police. Even the most trivial situations need to be reported so the data becomes recorded. As I have mentioned in the past, no reports means no problems, which results in police resources being deployed elsewhere.

Public skating is offered at Jack Setters Arena. The schedule is outlined in this newsletter or you can get more information by calling our staff at the arena or our MOCA admin Office. For those of you who might enjoy the outdoors, I understand that public skating will again be available at Carburn Park this winter.

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 for a fantastic year ahead !!

Rick Smith , MOCA President