

President / Chairman Report - July 2017

This is my favorite time of year ! Lots of daylight with the early sunrise and late sunset - warm temperatures, Calgary Stampede, lots of deck time, barbeques, and generally all kinds of summer activities. The long winter period causes us to appreciate this time of year even more.

Firstly I want to thank our staff, Board members, and especially our volunteers and sponsors for their help with both the June 11 Clean-Up Day, and MOCA's Red & White Summer Carnival. Both were extremely successful events, and while we appreciate all of those who help us with the coordination of the events, we also appreciate those who participate, as your participation really make the efforts worthwhile.

And speaking of the Clean-Up Day, this seems like the appropriate time to talk about the City's Community Standards Bylaw. One of the reasons that the City offers this service, and we like to take advantage of it, is that it gives our local residents a chance to dispose of unwanted material that typically will not go into the black garbage bin, without having to make the trip to the landfill and pay those darn landfill fees. But another reason is that we hope that it will encourage residents to do that necessary yard clean-up and generate that pride of community that we try to promote. The Community Standards Bylaw no. 5M2004 is a Bylaw intended to set some minimum regulations for those of us who live together in a municipality, and set some basic expectations of what we should expect from each other as neighbours. Essentially the Bylaw gives the City some authority for enforcement action for those who do not meet those expectations by allowing stuff to accumulate on their property or generally allowing their property to become unsightly. Bylaw enforcement is typically complaint driven, so to avoid a complaint, or this type of enforcement action, residents are encouraged to take pride in their yard and keep it maintained.

Another highlight in June was a grounds clean-up event involving 747 students from the three schools of Sherwood, Banting & Best, and St Bernadettes.. They did a grounds clean-up of the all of the green space around the community centre, St. Bernadettes School, and Harry Huish Park. Many thanks to the students, but also to the school teachers and administrators. But a special thanks to our own Kaylynn Miller for coordinating this event. We are very lucky to have her.

The Outdoor Swimming Pool is now open but I would again remind residents that it is now being operated by the Calgary Outdoor Swimming Pool Association. As explained in earlier Reports, MOCA has withdrawn from being the pool operator because of the financial operating losses that we were experiencing as the operator, and we were denied the opportunity to obtain a reimbursement for those operating losses. Unfortunately the regulations and controls that apply to the operations of a swimming pool restrict the opportunities to increase revenues or reduce operating costs, and MOCA simply is not in a position to continue to absorb those losses on an ongoing basis.

As I am sure you now aware, the City is in the process of Phase Two of the Bow Riverbank Stabilization Project intended to restore and strengthen the riverbanks. The current work is located on the east side of the Bow River just to the north of Glenmore Trail. It was projected to be completed by May 15 but work had to be put on hold for a short time as they needed to ensure that they were in compliance with regulations from Alberta Environment and Parks. Perhaps it should not be surprising, but I found it fascinating that they discovered bison bones in the riverbank and this discovery caused some delays in the stabilization work. There were other issues as well with regard to the height of the water level in the river. Anyway the Provincial Regulation states that no work activity can take place in the water from May 15 until July 15 and the delays took it beyond the May 15 deadline. Work is expected to resume after July 16. The pathway will remain open but the area will remain fenced.

I have been provided with the Police crime stats for the community for the 5 month period - January to end of May. The one stat that jumps out at me is that there were 23 assault charges but most of those were domestic related meaning they were not random. Beyond that, there were 35 theft of motor vehicles, 21 shoplifting and gas drive-offs, and 25 car prowlings most of which were unlocked vehicles. There was only 1 break-in to a home, but there were 10 break-ins to garages. And finally, there were 9 fraud charges, and 9 mischief to property [ie- vandalism] . Generally we remain a safe community, but this highlights the fact that we all must remain diligent about how we care for our own property – ie: lock your doors and don't leave your car running.

And again, as I have mentioned before, it is important to report all crime situations to the police. While we all want to do our best to keep the numbers down, the reality is that it is the numbers that determine how police resources are deployed. If there are no stats, we will not get the police officer coverage.

As mentioned last month, the Board is recommending a few changes to the MOCA Bylaws and these were outlined at the General Meeting of April 4. These are also now available for viewing on the MOCA website. Any questions or concerns are welcome and will be considered with final presentation and approval of the Bylaw revisions at the AGM in October.

I hate to appear to harp on memberships but we really do need your help in this area. There are very few tangible benefits to having a MOCA membership, but there are some. In my opinion, the primary one, from the Board's perspective, is that memberships show a level of support for the work done by the Board, the staff, and the volunteers on behalf the local residents. We continue to work on quality of life issues and programs that together make Millican Ogden Lynnwood a great place to live and to raise a family. Of course a membership does also allow you to participate in the voting process at AGM time, and maybe even allow you to become a member of the Board. There is a lot going on in this community and it is a very exciting time to be involved. Memberships are annual and expire on May 31 – if you have one please renew it, if you don't, please buy one. Note – they are not expensive, and seniors are free !!

And of course, if you are planning a social event for your family, or business, or organization, please give some thought to renting the MOCA Hall, or Lounge. We would appreciate your business.

Just as a reminder, this is the last newsletter until September. There is no newsletter in August. Similarly we put a hold on the MOCA General meetings for the summer and there will not be meetings in July or August. The next MOCA General Meeting is Tuesday September 5-- 7 pm at the Community hall. Having said that, please understand that MOCA's operations will continue as normal over the summer. Our Administration office remains open for your convenience, The arena is scheduled with ball hockey teams and the usual summer maintenance in preparation for ice in September, and of course the Community Resource Centre will continue to offer their services and programs. And the Directors will continue to oversee these operations and will continue to respond to local community and City Planning issues that come up from time to time. Things might slow up a little over the summer, but they certainly do not stop.

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 chairpersonmoca@shaw.ca .

Best Wishes

Rick Smith , MOCA President/Chairman