

## **December 2019**

As we quickly move toward the traditional festive season and the 2019 year end, council continues to work diligently on the completion of budgeted projects as well as 2020 priorities.

The 2020 water utility budget was passed on Monday, December 2, 2019 with an overall increase of 3.17% for the average residential consumer. This is a reprieve from rates of the previous four years. These demanding rate increases were necessary in order to meet our required agreement contributions.

Our community has rallied in support of the Melville and District Food Bank whose "Grand Opening" on November 29, celebrated the relocation of the Food Bank to the new Second Avenue site. We congratulate Colleen Gorecki, the Food Bank Board and the executive team on their quest to provide support to our community members.

We note the historical significance of CN's 100 years of transportation service for our country. Melville has been the beneficiary of CN's presence and we congratulate CN on their longevity, community support and employment opportunities for our citizens.

As noted earlier we are quickly moving into the festive season and we commend the Melville Chamber – Harvey Kormos, Rhonda Bomberak and the parade participants for a most enjoyable light display.

On December 6th our city presented service awards to seven of our employees with special recognition to Jason Dubreuil and Michael Zulyniak for their heroic actions in support of a pedestrian who had fallen on an icy patch.

A community choir under the direction of Audrey Ulmer presented the Cantata " Night of the Father's Love" at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Sunday, December 8th. This musical version of the Christmas story was very well received by the people present. Proceeds of this event were directed to the Melville and District Community Foundation.

As your mayor, I very much look forward to Christmas. We celebrate the birth of Jesus, our family comes home, we share good times with our friends, we do sparkle tours –I consider myself well blessed. But, this may not be so for all. If in any way I can make Christmas better, brighter for you – please contact me at 306-728-4409

Merry Christmas – Happy New Year!

## **November 2019**

Interesting events and visitors happen in our city – At the October 26th Millionaire hockey game I had the opportunity of visiting with the NHL Buffalo Sabres team scout – obviously checking out some Millionaire- Bronco players. At the Fire School # 16 Graduation celebrations of November 1st I, once again, had the benefit of connecting with the families of our fire graduates.

November 5th recognized a historic initiative by our local Legion in the renaming of Prince William Drive to Veteran's Way. The follow-up Remembrance Day ceremonies and banquet were strongly supported by the capacity crowd at Horizon Credit Union Centre. The presence of Member of Parliament Cathay Wagantall and MLA Warren Kaeding was very much appreciated. We congratulate Brian Morris on

receiving the Governor General's "Sovereign Award" for forty years of dedicated community volunteer service. An interesting war time book reading by author Alan J. Buick occurred at the Melville Public Library on November 13th. The book entitled The Little Coat would make for some interesting reading.

On Tuesday, November 12th SaskWater initiated a reverse flush of our water system resulting in water discoloration. This flush was necessary in readiness of the new Water Plant operational start which is to occur early in the new year. We remind our citizens that another flush is required before the system is fully operational. Our citizens will be advised of the flush in advance of the occurrence.

The Cardiac Care Family Fitness Centre plans to offer Cardiac Care early in the New Year dependent on patient registration. Citizens are advised to contact 1-306-786-6363 or contact their family physician to register.

Did you know CN Rail is celebrating its 100th year of operation with a special event experience – "CN100 - A Moving Experience" at the Canadian Western Agribition held in Regina from November 25th to the 30th?

## **October 2019**

In a utopian Saskatchewan, one would like to see each of our four seasons gently transition from one weather period to another, but such was not the welcome into fall – it seemed more like a winter jolt.

Many different events of significance occurred over the past month. I had the privilege of attending the 25th Anniversary celebrations of the Oasis Youth Club. Hats off to the leadership and the many young individuals that are part of this most successful initiative. Orange Shirt Day occurred in Melville on September 30th. This is an event designed to educate people and promote awareness about the Indian residential school system. The declaration of Railroad Safety Week September 23-29 stressed the need for exercising great care in and around railroad properties and transportation sites. Fire Prevention Week of October 6-12 focused on our need to be conscious of exercising fire safety habits. Congratulations to Deputy Fire Chief Norm Konechny on 50 years of stellar service in this regard. Donors' Choice October 3-15 is our community's way of contributing to the many services we benefit from. Your support is greatly appreciated! Free landfill tipping scheduled for October 12-19 allowed our citizens to rid their yards of leaf-grass residue.

Our city is most grateful to the Rodz N' Relics Car Club for volunteering to replace the lights at the Centennial Light Parade. Their efforts are truly appreciated and provide a sparkling exhibit to those people passing through our community.

We commend the efforts of our local Legion for their "Commitment to Remembering" – the "Lest we Forget" Silhouettes at the cemeteries, the naming of the city corridor street to Veteran's Way as well as their untiring support of veterans and our community.

Hats off to Fire Chief Mogenson and Canadian Tire for the great fire works show after a recent Millionaire game.

Did you know that 3897 people visited our Public Library during July and August and that 476 children took part in their summer programs?

## **September 2019**

The American "Low Pressure" system that centered on Melville on September 9-10-11-12 reminded me of the challenging flood that occurred in our city in 2014. That flood has left a mark on our city to this day. This summer, five years after the flood event, we completed our bridge connector from our east-side residential area to our Regional Park. We have just approved \$425,662.00 to repair the City Reservoir in order to reduce the flood risk potential because of the compromised dike. We have received \$142,000 in provincial funding for this project. Our Public Works Director, Mr. Fahlman, noted that 47 different applications were submitted to the province for financial assistance because of the 2014 flood.

September 3rd saw the start of another school year. Welcome to new teachers and students in our community. We hope all students are successful in their educational endeavors. Always a reminder to students, cross only at crosswalks and vehicles please respect the 30 km speed limit in the school zones.

City wide "Registration Night" occurred on Monday, September 3rd with many opportunities provided for both our youth and adult community.

Our Community based Melville Millionaires begin their new hockey season with their first home game opener on September 14th . We wish our Millionaires a successful season.

It was good to see an additional layer of new pavement leading into Melville – making the CN overpass portion a more gentle journey. Much necessary construction work has been evidenced on our provincial highways – this initiative is greatly appreciated.

Did you know that in 1909 Melville was served by two newspapers – The Melville Progress and The Melville Canadian?

## **August 2019**

Ah, the beauty of summer – long sunny days, the water park attraction, a variety of summer recreation programs and hopefully some vacation time. At the city level this is our time to deal with the many summer budgeted items – attend to the HCUC chiller, patch those pavement holes, begin the Community Master Recreation Plan process and attempt to resolve the cardboard-paper collection issue.

Fire School #16 is now in its 3rd week of development. This session accommodates 21 individuals seeking their 10-01 Fire-Fighter Certification. Interesting to note that our training program attracted participants from three provinces.

On August 7th our community celebrated Gordon Matthew's "Celebration of the Portrait" viewing event at Melville Community Works. We recognize and appreciate Mr. Matthew's talent and his artistic gifts evident throughout our city.

Expanding on our Community Recreation Master Plan initiative our city intent is to take stock of our facilities and align these with our future requirements. Community involvement is an important part of the process.

Our Recreation Department's Annual Registration Night occurs on Tuesday, September 3rd at Horizon Credit Union Centre from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. We encourage community members to explore the various recreational options available in our community.

A community barbeque sponsored by CUPE in July was well attended and much appreciated.

Congratulations to Keaton Kreklewich winner of the eight and under Maple Leaf Golf Championship in Saskatoon.

Our 2019 baseball season has ended for the summer. Did you know that the first Millionaire baseball game took place in Melville in 1910 with Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier, Premier Walter Scott and Federal Minister of Railways George Graham in attendance?

### **July 2019**

What a memorable July 1st Canada Day Birthday party! Our Centennial Park was filled to capacity with visitors, families and entertainers all gathered in celebration of Canada's 152nd Birthday. We are very fortunate to live in this wonderful land of peace, freedom and opportunity. July 1st also recognized a host of events and activities on Main Street. Thank you to all who contributed and participated in these festive events.

Pole Bending and Barrel Races occurred at Melville Agripark on June 23 despite challenging moisture conditions.

As of June 24, 2019 we are pleased to welcome our fifth physician Dr. R. Ibrahim to our community.

The July 5-6 weekend saw an interprovincial 9-Man Football challenge between Team Saskatchewan and Team Manitoba. This Challenge initiated by John Svenson consisted of some 35 grade 12 football graduates from each province, which, after a week of hard practice, took part in the "Challenge Cup." Hats off to John, his coaching assistants, the 70 plus football players that were billeted by our citizens and the large crowd that cheered Team Saskatchewan on to victory.

On June 27, 2019, Melville Comprehensive School Graduates celebrated the completion of High School. These young citizens will now move in pursuit of a wide range of opportunities. We wish them well as they embark on their life journey.

We extend a warm welcome to Mr. Scott Savard who has taken on the "News Reporter" role for the Melville Advance.

The 2019 edition of the "Vacation Guide" has now been distributed throughout Southeast Saskatchewan, which highlights events and activities of our community. This booklet would serve as an exciting summer experience planner.

This past week I was invited to a party of a former resident of Melville. The entire Yachyshen family gathered to reconnect and celebrate their time growing up in our city. A very heart-warming event.

Did you know that from 1867 to 1983 July 1st was known as "Dominion Day" in Canada. In 1983 by an Act of Parliament, July 1st became celebrated as "Canada Day?"

## **April 2019**

Our City had the opportunity to celebrate several festive events over the last month. Skate Melville presented the exciting "Inspiration on Ice," Parkland College presented a number of scholarships to deserving students, Melville and District Minor Hockey recognized its hockey player participants by hosting a huge banquet and finally The Melville and District Chamber hosted a most successful Gun and Trade show event.

The City of Melville completed its budget discussions, which has resulted in a 3.68% General Operating and Capital Budget. Our City Staff is now in position to attend to the many projects that received council approval. The Province of Saskatchewan presented its balanced budget with no new tax increases.

On April 8, 2019 a huge Hercules Transport plane and some rescue personnel were involved in a Search and Safety Rescue demonstration on the Melville Airport site. This was a practice session designed to advance the skills of the rescue team in a variety of different weather and topographical conditions.

There was a certain nostalgia as we watched Melville's last prairie sentinel – Melville Mustard Plant Elevator come crashing down. We do have two huge terminals serving our agricultural needs, but another unique historical structure built circa 1911 is no more.

The City of Melville will recognize and participate in World Earth Day on April 22, 2019. As citizens of our world we, as a community, have the opportunity to attend to and enhance climatic and environmental issue. A variety of events and suggestions have been made available to encourage everyone's involvement – BLUE BAGS available at City Hall

The Melville and District Community Foundation, with support from the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation, is hosting a "Community Conversations" event on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at 7:00pm at Melville Community Works. The purpose of this meeting is to explore community needs- priorities- challenges and to look at possible resources and solutions to make for an even better community. Plan to Attend!

Did you know our Melville Rail Station was designated a National Historic site in 2016?

## **March 2019**

After a frigid February we very much look forward to spring solstice, the crocus and the return of the beautiful Canada goose.

Council is working hard to establish its 2019 operational and capital budget. The budget is always a very demanding process where we try to meet the needs of our city – of our residents, yet always with the intent of not overburdening our citizens. Hopefully, both progress and affordability will be the true measure of our efforts.

It was a real pleasure to have our Melville Curling Club host the Provincial Men's Senior Curling Championship. All eight regions of our province were represented with the Bruce Korte rink of Saskatoon coming out as winners. The members of our club did a bang-up hosting job – Well done all! Good News for 2020! Melville will, for the second time, host the provincial Men's Tankard at Horizon Credit Union Centre.

The Millionaire season came to an unfortunate end on March 5th – thank you coaches, players and the executive for a season of hockey entertainment. The Prairie Fire girl's hockey team has completed their season and with it the end of a team franchise here in Melville. As a community we acknowledge the efforts of all those involved in making this group of young women a viable and enjoyable hockey team.

We encourage citizens from Melville and area to take advantage of the free cardiovascular services provided at Horizon Credit Union Centre. On site are two registered nurses and a physiotherapist to assist individuals with cardio or respiratory issues. Contact your attending physician or phone 1-306-786-0236 to set up an appointment.

Congratulations to Andrew Fahlman, Director of Public Works, who was the recipient of the Saskatchewan Public Works Person of the Year Award for 2018.

We wish Jason Antonio well as he pursues a new opportunity in the City of Moose Jaw. Mr. Antonio served our community for nearly four years as a hard-working reporter for the Melville Advance. We commend Jason for his diligence and efforts.

Upcoming Events: Skate Melville Carnival March 16 – Melville District Chamber of Commerce Trade and Gun Show March 29-31

Did you know that the City of Melville prior to 1908 was called Bethania?

## **February 2019**

On behalf of Melville City Council and the City of Melville I am pleased to welcome Mr. Ron McCullough to our community. Mr. McCullough has been hired as our new City Manager and assumed his new responsibilities on February 11, 2019. He, along with his wife, have taken up residency in our city and we look forward to a satisfying working relationship. Welcome to Melville!

Councilor Rondeau, Councilor Van Zyl, Acting City Manager Audrey Ulmer and I attended the 114th SUMA Convention in Saskatoon recently. Some major happenings noted was the fact that the 1% PST was reduced to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of 1%. However, with this adjustment will come an actual increase in funds because of the wider PST collection net. It is my hope that the Revenue Share agreement reached in 2007 will not be compromised by the 2019 cost-share formula.

We commend Fire Chief Mogenson and the other members of the Melville Volunteer Fire Department for their leadership role in the fire burn exercise at Starblanket, Okanese and Peepeekisis. This event served as a training opportunity to gain an understanding of how best to fight a structure fire as well as how to implement the highest of safety standards.

On Saturday, February 2 a trio of talented musicians featuring a soprano, a cellist and a pianist performed at the City Hall Opera House as part of a "Living Room" concert tour. Another "Living Room" concert will be performing in Melville in the spring.

Did you know that some reminders of our historic past are still present at the City Hall-Opera House? At one time an elevated space on one side of the hall served as the jury box while the other side was used as a witness box.

### **January 2019**

After experiencing the shortest day on December 21 and the onset of the winter cold we see hope for warmer brighter days as we slowly creep minute by minute to longer days and eventually spring.

Looking back to the end of 2018 some very exciting events occurred – the ninth annual Filipino Christmas party was a most enjoyable success, the OK Tire travelling Sing-a Long float entertained many over the holiday season and a special "thank you" to the anonymous person who paid for a free children's holiday movie at our local theatre.

Our community, as well as the players, parents and executive are totally DISHEARTENED by the Saskatchewan Hockey Association's decision to eliminate Melville Prairie Fire from the league. This girls' hockey team, features players from many different communities. This decision may well bring an abrupt end to their hockey ambitions and future hockey careers. As community members, we can sign an on-line petition or send a letter of support to the Prairie Fire Executive in support of our Prairie Fire Team. The public is encouraged to show support by attending their entertaining and exciting competitive games. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Please note Sask Highways has posted new signage indicating that travel on Highway 10 within city limits has been consistently set at 70 km.

Our deepest sympathy to the families of the tragic Highway 10 accident on Christmas Day.

Did you know that in 1914 Melville's Board of Trade mission statement was to encourage economic, social and recreational development in the community?