

December 2017

To have the opportunity to celebrate yet another Christmas is truly dependent on and reflective of God's grace. It is my sincere hope that you have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

The annual Remembrance Day events are both somber and yet gratifying. Somber by virtue of the devastation and horrendous loss of life. Gratifying in the fact that so many attend this event in appreciative remembrance.

We are very pleased to see the near completion of our 23-kilometer pipeline – a huge undertaking by KMS pipeline contractors in preparation for the plant construction phase. This construction project was financed by a 10.3 million dollar grant provided by a Provincial-Federal partnership. Progress on this 36.8 million dollar project is proceeding as scheduled.

The Melville Chamber Santa Day parade and events were most successful—thanks to the efforts of Harvey Kormos and volunteers. The community turnout and support was greatly appreciated.

During the past month five of the perspective new premier candidates have visited our city providing us with information on their leadership initiatives.

Hats off to the Melville Lions for their steadfast "Chase the Ace" effort in raising funds for our swimming pool. Also to Colleen Gorecki and Tom Dick, recipients of the Governor-General Sovereign Medal Award. Kudos, as well, to the organizers of the family based Filipino Christmas party and the Kinsmen for hosting the Community Christmas Celebration.

Congratulations to John Svenson who was recognized at the Melville Minor Football Banquet for his 27 years of coaching commitment to youth football.

In preparation for this season of peace and goodwill – please note the Community Christmas Cantata and the Bethlehem Live pageant both occurring on December 17th.

I am honored to serve as the Mayor of Melville and I very much cherish this opportunity. I am also aware that during this Christmas season there are folks in our community who are experiencing loss and sadness. If there is any way I can assist in lightening your burden please contact me at 728-4409.

Merry Christmas – Happy New Year!

November 2017

It seems that we have quickly moved from fall to winter's fury. From the city perspective, we will work hard to keep our streets and sidewalks clean with our resident's safety being paramount.

I received a surprise parcel recently containing a variety of possessions, circulars, and mementos from the family of the late Peter Blake –former Mayor of Melville during the 1940's. These articles will be displayed at City Hall and some items will be forwarded to Melville Heritage Museum. The City is most grateful to Mr. Blake's family for sharing the history of Melville's past with us.

On October 25th I had the opportunity to attend the 28th Legislative Assembly which also recognized Mr. Brad Wall's final presence as Premier of the Province of Saskatchewan. Our City, on many occasions, was the beneficiary of his talented leadership efforts.

Thank you to all that assisted in setting up the new playground equipment at Kinsmen Park on the weekend of October 20-22. Your committed efforts are greatly appreciated. Our children will welcome spring with great joy as the park will once again be a busy site.

Hats off to the "Friends of the Library" who raised \$1185 at their book sale held recently... to Colleen Gorecki on receiving the Canada 150 Community Volunteer Award, and to Independent Grocers for adding to our community consumer services.

City Manager Audrey Ulmer, and I attended the City Mayors' Caucus meetings in Regina on November 1-2, 2017. On that occasion, we had the opportunity to meet with Cabinet Ministers, MLA's and leaders of the opposition. Minister Doke, Government Relations attended our Nov 2nd meeting. Discussions centered on revenue sharing, grants-in-lieu, cannabis and homelessness issues.

We very much look forward to the Santa Day Parade of November 25th sponsored by the Melville and District Chamber of Commerce.

Did you know that "Wild Bill Hunter" who once tried to bring an NHL franchise to Saskatoon served as our Melville Rink Manager in 1950-51?

October 2017

It always amazes me, almost overwhelms me, as to the involvement of so many of our citizens in the host of activities our community provides. Fall teas, sport schedules, budget preparations, sick and visiting committees, youth groups, church activities. So much to do, so capably done by volunteers. Thank you all, Volunteers!

A host of notable events occurred during the last thirty days. Caleb Village celebrated its fifth anniversary of care in our community. We were the destination for two bus tours out of the city of Winnipeg. Their tour itinerary included the Qu'Appelle Valley, the fish hatchery and many City of Melville sites. Speaking of sites it is nice to see the steady development of the G3 elevator along Highway #10. We commend the "Growing with the Community" individuals and sponsors have taken on a very active and supportive role in our area by providing funding for community initiatives. Cultural Days occurred on the September 29th weekend with a variety of different events and activities taking place. Congratulations to Simeret Miller on receiving Baseball Canada's Umpire kudos for her exceptional role as a baseball umpire serving Parkland Umpire Association during the last three years.

Our city crew is working hard in readiness for winter. A large number of potholes were attended to, but our roadway infrastructure certainly needs much future attention.

The City Manager and I will be attending several meetings in the next few weeks - meeting with the City Mayors' Caucus and with the Provincial Cabinet in order to gain an understanding of the direction and support of future budgets. These meetings are crucial as we proceed with our own budget deliberations.

Did you know that our city received a \$10 million dollar grant in support of our Regional Water Supply and Plant Initiative?

September 2017

There is a beautiful poem written by Rachel Field that speaks to the passing of seasons and I quote, "Something told the wild geese it was time to go, though the fields lay golden... Something whispered snow." And so, the summer break comes to an end and a host of scheduled activities including back to school, take hold.

The City Hall Flag was lowered to half-mast on Sunday, September 10th in recognition of Firefighters National Memorial Day. Our community is proud to recognize the efforts and contributions made by our local and national firefighters and the individual sacrifice that befall some in the line of duty.

Many different community representatives, as well as council members, participated in an Emergency Planning Organizational meeting under the leadership of Shelley Cherney on August 31st. It is vital that our city attends to developing an acceptable "readiness plan" in advance of an impending community emergency.

As part of our participation in the Highway Transportation Master Plan study, which is 75% subsidized by our provincial government, the contractor utilized laser technology to determine road base repair requirements and to establish priority repair initiatives.

Our city is very appreciative of our cultural community and invite our residents to attend some of the cultural events planned for September 29th, 30th and October 1st. Please check on event schedules at www.melville.ca or phone 728-3722.

Did you know that Mr. Sylvester Albers, a resident of Caleb Village, created a WestJet Boeing 737 wooden replica that is now on display at the Calgary Airport? Another Mr. Albers' creation - a Dash 8Q Turboprop will hopefully be placed in a Western Air Canada terminal in the weeks to come.

August 2017

On July 19th the City of Melville along with Cary Piller, members of her family and a host of friends recognized the late Jack Piller at a ceremony to name the entry lane to Melville Agripark "Piller Road." The Pillers were very involved in the initial development and long-term support of this initiative. Over the years both Jack and Cary have been involved volunteering in a host of community projects.

The City of Melville, in conjunction with Parkland College, is presently offering the 14th Fire School Training session. There are 21 individuals in the 14 week program. To date over 280 firefighters have successfully taken their training at the Melville Fire School. After much deliberation, planning and surveying the construction of the 31 kilometer water pipeline beginning at the Killaly water well site and stretching to Melville is now in progress.

I am very pleased to report that as the result of the efforts of Jeff Kohnen, Dwayne Armbruster and Todd Brooks the last kilometer of the five plus Multi-Use Trail has now been completed. This trail is located in our Melville Regional Park where walkers, runners and bikers can now enjoy getting some exercise in the outdoors.

The City of Melville and neighboring municipalities have been very supportive of the Melville and District Recruitment and Retention Committee. I am very pleased to note that for the first time in many years we now have five practising physicians to provide professional medical care for our citizens.

Our city recognizes, with appreciation, the efforts, the leadership Premier Brad Wall has provided to the citizens of Melville and Area. Premier Wall has chosen to retire from politics in the near future. His steadfast support and presence during the 2014 flood served as an inspiration to many people who were experiencing a devastating event.

It is with great respect, appreciation and sorrow that we acknowledge the passing of long-term city employee Mr. Dave Pelzer. Mr. Pelzer had been employed in the Public Works Department for the past 33 years and has left an indelible mark on many projects in our community. Did you know that land agents were selling farm land at \$18 dollars an acre in 1922 with an eight year repayment plan set at a 6% interest?

July 2017

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CANADA! July 1, 2017, saw Canada celebrate its 150th birthday. Melville commemorated this special Sesquicentennial event with a multitude of activities. A pancake breakfast followed by the parade, the Centennial Park fun day, the big screen movie, the fireworks and the many other related events that occurred that day provided an opportunity for socializing and friendship. Other activities that added to the diversity of our community included the People, Pattern, Place event initiated by Shelly Miller and the Rodz N' Relics Car show which attracted more than 140 vehicles.

As we reflect on our country's 150 celebrations, we come to realize how fortunate we are as Canadians. The peace we have enjoyed, the resources our country boasts, the freedoms we experience and opportunities available to us truly make Canada a "quality of life" leader in the world.

Congratulations to Jack Lubachowski, President of the Melville Minor Ball Association and the many volunteers on their 25th anniversary of hosting one of Western Canada's largest minor baseball tournaments. Forty-eight teams participated on diamonds throughout the city and the Regional Park where countless campers commented on the beauty of our park.

On behalf of the Citizens of Melville, I would like to congratulate the 2017 graduating class of Melville Comprehensive School on their completion of high school education in Melville. Thank you for your many scholastic and community contributions. We wish you well as you explore the world of opportunities!

Hats off to Dr. Dale Cochrane and wife Nora for providing 40 years of stellar veterinarian services to Melville and District. Kudos as well, to Ashley Philips, the Melville Chamber and Tia Pelzer for all their hard work on Canada Day!

May 2017

In spite of the many challenges facing our city, there have been many good news stories in our community. The "Chase the Ace" project initiated by the Melville Lions Club in support of a new swimming pool occurs each Wednesday at HCUC at 5:00 pm. St. Peter's Hospital-St Paul Lutheran Home

honored volunteers at a luncheon on April 27th. The 50th anniversary of the Melville Arts Club and the Rail Station Gala occurred on April 29th. The Millionaire Baseball Gala on May 6th featuring former Blue Jays Roberto Alomar and Duane Ward along with President Kevin Kvaume was well attended. Tim Ohler's International Mantis Canada re-branding grand opening occurred on May 6 with Grandmaster Sun Deyao of Atlanta, Georgia in attendance. On that same date the Vape Shop was officially opened for business. Don Narcisse, former Roughrider, with assistance from Robert Mimes and Dillon Grodin hosted a junior football development camp on Sunday, May 7. Our city celebrated "Pride Week" with the raising of the Pride flag at City Hall on May 9th. Very shortly our Commissionaire and the RCMP will initiate a "Positive Ticketing" event to recognize positive individual actions.

City Manager Audrey Ulmer, Director of Public Works Andrew Fahlman and I as Mayor, had a private meeting with Minister of Environment, Scott Moe, Minister of Government Relations, Donna Harpauer, and our MLA Mr. Warren Kaeding on May 1 attempting to resolve our landfill issues and to seek committed financial support for our major water project. We very much appreciated the opportunity to address these concerns and look forward to favorable results on these issues.

Council has approved an 8.36% increase in taxation with a 6.04% increase in revenue over the 2016 revenue requirement. An additional 2.32 % was required to overcome reduced provincial government grants-in-lieu funding. Council will be looking at different tax scenarios before tax notices are issued.

We are pleased to note that Fire Chief Tyrone Mogenson was one of thirty individuals from across Canada that was invited to attend the National Fire Protection Association's Rural Fire Symposium that was recently held in Toronto. This event attended to cross-Canada rural fire issues.

Did you know that some 340 individuals have received therapeutic support at the HCUC Cardiac Care Family Fitness Centre during the last five years?

February 2017

The customary cold stormy January mellowed during the latter part of the month, which resulted in a bit of a winter reprieve.

With the coming of a new year, Council was subjected to detailed budget discussions. To date, we have approved a 6.04 revenue increase, but have not, as yet, established the taxation rate. That will be established once the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency sets out the new assessment rates.

Sincere congratulations to Larry Peterson, Chairperson of the 2017 Viterra-Scotties Tournament of Hearts, along with Larry Kreklewich, Melville Curling Club President, and all those volunteer workers who staged a most impressive and successful curling event during the week of January 24-29, 2017. Thank you, as well, to our HCUC and public works staff for their superb efforts to ensure that the event ran smoothly. We also congratulate the Penny Barker team of Moose Jaw who will represent Saskatchewan at the National competitions. We applaud the other curling competitors for their perseverance and display of skilled curling. There are many ways of advancing a positive ambience in our city. The Melville Prairie Fire Midget AAA Hockey Team raised over \$9000.00 in support of Breast Cancer on January 14, 2017. The team, their coaches and executive are to be commended for their committed efforts. Melville Minor Hockey Night also occurred on that same date - two

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Congratulations to MCS Football Coach John Svenson, who was invited to join the coaching staff of the National World Womens' Football Championship for 2017.

Did you know that there are some 17 kilometers of cooling pipes in our HCUC ice slab?