

December 2018

As we, in our community, participate in and enjoy the many Christmas festivities that occur may we choose to use this time to reflect on the true spiritual meaning of Christmas. It is also a time to look back at the past year reflecting on the joys and blessings of 2018.

Despite our hurried transition from fall to winter, we continue to participate, to enjoy events in our community. The Weekend Dinner theatre presentation hosted by Melville Community Works, the following week-end Moonlight Madness and the colorful Santa Parade delighted all. The huge gathering of people at the corner of 3rd and Main served as a cherished memory of yester-year Saturday Nights in Melville. Chamber - thank you for your most excellent efforts! The week-end of November 23 saw Melville Comprehensive stage the Provincial 4A Volleyball Championships. It was great to see ten teams from all over Saskatchewan participate in this exciting challenge with the Melville Comprehensive Cobras winning the Bronze Medal. A Community Carol Festival was held at First United Church Sunday, December 9 with many different individuals, choirs and groups participating. The event was well attended and our appreciation to all participants and people present. Bethlehem Live, an enactment of the birth of Christ, also occurred on that same date at the Melville Agri-Park grounds.

It my sincere hope that in this upcoming festive season you will enjoy the fellowship of family and friends, and that you will be rejuvenated in both spirit and energy. On behalf of Melville City Council and myself I wish everyone a most joyous Christmas holiday. I also know that Christmas can be a time of personal sadness. If there is any way that I can be of assistance, please contact me a 306-728-4409.

Merry Christmas – Happy New Year to All!

September 2018

It seems that with the toll of the school bell on September 4th a renewed semblance of order and routine began. Academic, recreational and personal development events took on structured schedules as we explored new opportunities.

Public Works Director Andrew Fahlman and I had the opportunity of attending the Saskatchewan Solid Waste Management Strategy meeting on September 7th in Yorkton. It was a regional consultation opportunity to provide input and feedback on provincial draft goals and objectives as well as present additional recommendations. The meeting was organized with the purpose of developing a new Waste Management Strategy for the future. Basically, the future thrust will see more collaborative regional landfills that will adhere to revised Waste Management regulations. Undoubtedly, many more meetings to deal with landfills will occur in the near future.

Our City hosted a successful City-Wide registration night on Tuesday, September 4 with individuals and families given the opportunity to acquire information regarding various activities and organizations. Fire School #15 is nearing the mid-point portion of their training component.

Our city welcomed former students of St. Henry's High School who celebrated their 50th year reunion on the September 8th weekend. What a wonderful experience for these graduates to experience a return back to their community roots.

The Melville Rail Station Heritage Association is being recognized by Parks Canada for their restoration efforts of the historic Melville Rail Station. The public is invited to attend this special recognition event on Tuesday, September 25-1:00 pm at the rail station site.

Did you know that a group of Melville locals built a Flying Glider - 1967 Centennial Project that was eventually donated to the Air Cadet League of Saskatchewan?

August 2018

Our City is currently in discussion with the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure with respect to safety concerns regarding the three highways that service our City. Highway 47 received a new asphalt base. Signage attending to city entrance speed reduction will occur on Highway 15. Highway 10, with an average daily traffic count of 3450 vehicles, will see consistent signage as opposed to the present variations. The Seventh Avenue crosswalk area is under review and will also be subject to zebra strip cross walk markings with an overhead sign in 2019. We continue ongoing discussions with the department to ensure citizen safety.

At the August 7th City Council Meeting the zoning bylaw with respect to a cannabis retail sales outlet was approved. The sales outlet must be a minimum 150 metres away from a public education facility, child daycare centre, library or municipal recreation centre. The actual sales outlet site has not, as yet been determined.

We offer congratulations to Melville Heritage Museum and the Melville and District German Heritage Club for 35 years of successful operation. The museum with some 12,000 artifacts serves to tell the Melville and District historical story while the Melville German Club adds to our city's cultural diversity.

On the business side of City affairs council has approved initial funding for the Lift Station #1 replacement. This station is located on Halifax and Main and is the collection site for our sewage distribution system.

It is always a pleasure to attend "Grand Openings" Congratulations to Trustmark Insurance Brokers and to G3 Canada Limited Elevator located in the RM of Cana. We wish these businesses well as they serve Melville and District

Did you know that in 1910 Melville had its first ever baseball game with Prime Minister Sir Wilfred Laurier and the Honorable Walter Scott, Premier of Saskatchewan, in attendance?

July 2018

The Melville Minor Ball tournament held this past weekend attracted 49 teams of ball players to our community. Our Regional Park was filled to capacity as campers occupied every available spot. The event was an overwhelming success thanks to the Minor Ball Organizers, the Regional Park Committee and staff and the many community volunteers. Incorporated into this weekend was a welcome home to Terry Puhl- a former team member of the Houston Astros... Various events were held in his honor as well as a dedication ceremony naming a road leading into the Regional Park "Terry Puhl Drive." The Melville Millionaires also welcomed to Melville many of their parents to enjoy two games at Pirie Field.

The Melville and District Chamber held its Annual Meeting on June 20th bringing forward a new Chamber executive headed by President Tom Shears. We wish the Chamber success in the upcoming year.

It was a real pleasure to welcome 23 prospective candidates to Fire School # 14 in our City on June 23. These trainees come to Melville from many different communities in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Despite the rains during the Canada Day Celebration, the events presented by the Melville Chamber and City were well attended and the efforts of the organizers appreciated.

Congratulations to Roger Duncalfe on receiving Canada's "Paramedic of the Year Award." Our community is most fortunate to have such an energetic and qualified individual in our community.

Just a further reminder that CN continues in its search for employees to fill the many vacancies that are part of their expansion program in Melville.

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Dr. Soorya Basnyat that occurred on Thursday, July 12, 2018. Dr. Basnyat was a long time surgeon in our community and was the founding member of numerous projects and organizations. We extend our sincerest condolences to Jill Basnyat and family.

On behalf of the City of Melville we congratulate the Graduating Class of 2018 and wish them all the best in their future life journey.

Please note that Opera House –upstairs level is now accessible to all- thanks to the installation of the stair lift.

May 2018

On behalf of the City of Melville I would like to thank everyone that participated in our May 4th "Earth Day Clean-Up". It is truly most gratifying to see citizens of all ages take such ownership of our community. Our Earth Day initiative implies that are many other things that we can do to make our community environmentally friendly.

Melville had some great musical entertainment over the last month – The Darina Harvey Band, Brenda Lee Cottrell and the Legends, and Country Blend. They drew large, appreciative crowds.

On April 13th CN invited Carol and I to a Stars Gala at Conexus Centre in Regina. This was a wonderful opportunity to meet with Stars representatives, CN personnel, provincial government representatives and Stars Ambassador from Melville Brynleigh Yewsuk.

Parkland College held a "Grain Safe " demonstration on April 20. Fire personnel and farmers from Melville and area were exposed to the hazards of grain storage situations.

Our City participated in a Pride Flag-Raising ceremony on Tuesday, May 15th part of the Pride Week activities celebrating diversity awareness. Last week we celebrated Mental Health Awareness Week with the Reel Anti- Suppressants Theatre Group.

The City of Melville recognized three different groups and individuals at the Mayor's Honorary Citizen Awards held on May 15. The recipients were: the Melville Lions Club for hosting "Chase the Ace" with contributions to the City pool fund; Cary and the late Jack Piller and supporters for the installation of a new chair lift at City Hall and all the volunteers that helped erect the new Kinsmen Park playground.

We congratulate the Melville Advance of the Grasslands News Group for receiving ten – top three awards from the Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association. Our city is very appreciative of media reports as presented by the Melville Advance as well as GX-94, FM Fox, the Rock and CTV.

Did you know that on May 4, 2018 Melville Rail City Industries – Sarcan Depot took in 27,000 recyclable bottles and cans?

April 2018

The City of Melville mourns the loss of life, the anguish and the destruction as a result of the horrendous Humboldt Bronco Hockey Team accident on April 6, 2018. We extend our sincerest condolences to the Citizens of Humboldt, the Parents, the Bronco hockey players and Executive on this disastrous event.

After much diligence and deliberation, Melville City Council approved in principle, its 2018 Budget. While there were innumerable areas for investigation and attention, Council made every attempt to hold the line on spending. Given the fact that we, along with SaskWater, are in the process of building a 38.1 million dollar new water plant the budget revenue rate increase has been set at 3.5%. The 2018-19 Provincial Budget of April 10th attempted to address some of the major issues and limitations of the previous year. We are currently in the process of fully assessing the budget impact on our city.

A very informative Local Detachment RCMP Town Hall presentation with respect to rural crime issues was provided to our community on March 15 by Staff Sergeant Jeff Comeau. Citizen involvement, procedural protocols and preventative measures were addressed.

As your Mayor, I had the good fortune of presenting a scholarship at the Parkland College Scholarship event on March 22, 2018. A total of 73 students received scholarships in support of their studies. We congratulate all scholarship recipients.

Hats off to the Melville and District Chamber of Commerce and its executive for sponsoring a very successful Trade Show and Gun Show. Hats off, as well, to the organizers of the Provincial 4H Speaking Competitions held in Melville recently highlighting fine young talent. Our City quickly mobilized to host the National Archery School Competitions on April 13-14th at the Merv Moore Sportsplex and the Melville Comprehensive High School. Between 800 and 1,000 students from all over Saskatchewan participated. Our City is very grateful to all those who so readily assisted in making this event a huge success. Special thanks to the Oasis Youth Centre, the Air Cadets and the Melville Lions for providing food services for this event.

Did you know that many of the Regina Firefighters received their training at the Melville Fire School?

March 2018

The City of Melville and our many residents will long remember the Colorado Low that hit our City and Area on March 4th and continued for several snow-bound days. Our City Works department worked long and hard to clean our roadways, sidewalks and alleys and for this we commend our staff. Citizens it was a difficult time for you as well and we appreciate your patience and support.

During our Emergency Measures Organization planning meeting of February 22 we dealt with different emergency readiness situations. Little did we know that days later we would be subjected to a massive snowstorm.

We commend St. Peter's Hospital of Melville for being chosen by the Saskatchewan Medical Association as a visitation site for 35 second and third year medical students. These students were exposed to a variety of different medical procedures, an art session and an evening banquet at the Horizon Credit Union Centre.

At a recent City Council meeting it was decided that Melville would allow for a store front cannabis retail sales outlet. Many different issues will need to be attended to such as policing, location, bylaw reviews and adherence to provincial regulations.

During my recent visit to Victoria I had the pleasure of visiting Dr Soorya and Jill Basnyat. As always, Dr. Basnyat expressed his fondness and his passion for our community and its welfare. A great visit with a most honorable former citizen of Melville.

Melville Prairie Fire Hockey Team had a most successful Breast Cancer Awareness Fund-raising event on February 17th. Hanna Bailey and Kate Wagner allowed their locks to be shaved off in support of Breast Cancer research. Well done Prairie Fire!

Did you know that this year Melville will be featured in CN's booklet "CN in Your Community"? Each year a Premier, Cabinet Minister or a Mayor is chosen to represent our province. It is an honor and privilege to be selected as this year's provincial representative.

February 2018

During the month of January and now part of February, we have certainly felt winter's sting. Cold temperatures, windy days compounded by icy streets –but, on the bright side, the days are getting longer and equinox is getting nearer.

First, on behalf of the citizens of Melville and District, allow me to congratulate Mr. Scott Moe on being elected by the Sask Party membership as the new Premier of our province. We have had the opportunity of working with Premier Moe on different occasions in the past and look forward to a positive working relationship with him in the future. Congratulations are also extended to Melville-Saltcoats MLA Warren Kaeding on being named the Minister responsible for Government Relations and First Nations, Metis and Northern Affairs. We are especially pleased and privileged to have the Honorable Mr. Kaeding be the recipient of such an important cabinet position.

Ms. Ulmer, City Manager, Councilors Wilson and Thiessen and I, as Mayor, attended the SUMA conference February 4-7, 2018. Much discussion centered on issues such as cannabis, landfills, crime prevention, new energy sources, grants in lieu, and the upcoming spring budget. Challenges indeed, but hopefully resilient solutions will be forth coming.

As mayor, I took the opportunity to visit and celebrate "Cameco Hockey Day" in the town of Balcarres. Our city congratulates the citizens of Balcarres on their success and on the fine reception events provided. Well done to President Tracey Hanley and the members of the Melville Lions' Club for initiating and managing the exciting, "Chase the Ace" event with funds directed to the proposed new swim pool. Their tireless efforts were truly appreciated by our community.

A special, "thank you" to Mr. Darcy Gross a long-time Sports editor of the Melville Advance for his committed efforts to report on sporting and recreational events in and around Melville over the last nine years. Well done Darcy

Did you know that that Steam Engine #5114 - located at Melville Regional Park once carried 15 tons of coal and 6700 gallons of water at the start of each run? – Quite a load!

January 2018

Happy New Year Everyone! It is my sincere hope that our community and residents will be blessed with prosperity, good health and a year full of most enriching experiences. The recent January rain/ice event was one experience we could have done without. I encourage everyone to take all the necessary precautions when moving about outdoors.

In order to advance both our city operational and management systems council has initiated a procedural bylaw review and has adopted a new staff management process. With respect to the procedural review, we attempt to have our bylaw more fully aligned with the Cities' Act and also to include procedural "Best Practices." The workshop meeting agenda is available to the public and media, but supporting documents and attachments are considered to be embargoed – meaning that council discussion will occur and that recommendations may be made, but a recommendation is merely that. Hence, detailed publication on that recommendation is embargoed. It is the subsequent motion on that recommendation that officially reflects a council decision. Workshop and Council meetings are open to all as we continue to work in the best interests of our citizens and community.

On January 27, 2018 the HCUC will be the site of the Skate Melville's Regional Competitions with skaters from surrounding areas coming to compete in our city.

SUMA (Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association) is being held in Regina this year from February 4th-February 7th. Several council members will be in attendance at this conference.

Did you know that because of early 1900 land speculation the railroad chose not to build the Melville town site at mile 286 (present-day Birmingham) but pulled back to mile 279, our present location.