

President's Message

SACA and COVID19

SACA has been regularly monitoring updates from Alberta Health (AHS), the Province and the City, and proactively making decisions to protect our residents who use our facilities and who participate in our programs and events. In addition, we have been reaching out to vulnerable individuals within our community and matching them with those willing and able to provide appropriate assistance where needed. If you need help, or can offer help please contact the office at 403-547-9589 or scenicacresca@shaw.ca; we will monitor messages and respond from a remote location.

SACA must consider how our organization will survive during these uncertain times, for as long as they may last, with the view to return to normal operations at a future date. SACA depends on revenues from rentals and community centre programming, all of which have now been cancelled. Every 18 months, SACA also participates in a casino fundraiser and those revenues fund approximately 15% of our operating costs. Our most recent Casino Fundraising event had been scheduled for March 29/30 but has now been cancelled. Although we still expect to receive some partial funding, our dependency on this funding source over the next few years remains uncertain. On the positive side, SACA has no loans or long-term debts.

To be blunt, SACA as a result of the crisis, has no incoming revenues to support our organization and as with most community associations, only has a limited reserve funds to weather the storm. Consequently, we have been forced to make some tough decisions to eliminate or reduce expenses. This has included temporarily laying off two of our long serving part-time members of staff; Ruth and Julie. Amber will be retained to work very part time hours in order to perform mandatory financial activities. SACA will take advantage of any pandemic-related relief funding and measures available to our organization. There are other obligatory tasks that must be completed even with a closed facility, which we will endeavour to fulfill with volunteers. If you haven't done so, this would be a great time to renew your SACA membership, which can be done via our website at www.scenicacresca.ca.

SACA will continue to provide updates. During these stressful times, please ensure you take care of your well-being by taking advantage of the resources and services from Alberta Health as needed: albertahealthservices.ca and alberta.ca; ensuring you have balance with respect to filtering intake of media, getting rest, eating properly and practicing good hygiene. Providing you keep 1 to 2m from those you meet, there is nothing to stop you from getting out for a walk around our great community! If you know someone who is isolated, please reach out to them to make sure they are ok. If you have great stories to share during this time of social distancing, please let us know so we can share with our community.

If you have any further questions or comments, please reach out to me at the information below. I want to thank Scenic Acres members and residents for your vigilance, understanding and patience during these unsettling times. Please take care of yourselves.

Jim Palmer
President, Scenic Acres Community Association
scenicboard@shaw.ca