

## President's Update

**Community-based Initiatives:** Residents periodically contact me with an idea and/or a willingness to participate in a community-based development initiative that involves financial investment and construction. I appreciate this input as it demonstrates a desire to improve our community for everyone's benefit.

**Things to Consider:** Often, suggested ideas are already included in the SACA Strategic Plan which is the vision for the community's future. It is a broad-based plan that looks 5-10 years out (or more) and identifies projects that we would like to pursue in the context of our mandate, other priorities, finite funding capacity, resource expertise and availability. The intent of the annual Business Plan is to consider the objectives and goals of the Strategic Plan and determine how we can progress them in the current year.

SACA is looking for more than an idea. We are looking for a thoughtful proposal that includes all the facets of a project planning framework which would consist of overall governance, timelines, a budget, forecast revenues and costs, funding sources, ongoing requirements to operate and sustain the development and any regulatory issues we would have to consider. SACA, as with all community associations, is volunteer-led with limited discretionary funds. Most of our funds are restricted for specific purposes and new initiatives would require new funding sources such as grants or sponsorships.

We are also looking for leadership/team commitment. Projects of a complex nature generally require several years of dedicated effort to see them to completion.

**SACA Development Policy:** SACA does have both a project and an advocacy policy that considers development within the community and in the realm of our influence.

**Exerts from our Community Development Policy:** *Degree of SACA involvement increases in the Community when developments include relaxation of standards, residents concern, development on undeveloped properties, size of project and greater impact to Scenic Acres. Major Community projects may require direct involvement from a SACA-endorsed subcommittee. Past examples include Crowfoot LRT, Stoney Trail and regional school as major projects. SACA should engage in government policy and procedure change/revision. SACA should engage in City projects where outcomes may affect future Scenic Ares development, for example height restrictions or where Scenic Acres residents may use common facilities. SACA should also work together with other CA's if common mobilization would impact for the greater good; for example, Crowchild Road corridor. Where SACA is asked to endorse a development, the Director for Community Development should first assess whether this action is appropriate, research the dynamics, the pros and cons, weight the intentions of the interest groups involved and present an analysis and position for the Board to consider. The time commitment required to research specific community and City developments may require the Director for Community Development to work with a committee of resident volunteers for that purpose.*

**Exert form our Advocacy Policy:** *SACA considers situations from a holistic point of view. Projects are assessed with a broad perspective and undertaken only if they fit the criteria of both being in the best interest of the broader Community as well as betterment for the City. SACA's advocacy mandate includes engaging with ideas and concepts with all affected parties and taking an objective course of action. The SACA, a volunteer-operated, non-profit organization can only proceed with initiatives if tangibly supported by a majority of residents; if managed by a designated group of volunteers willing to commit time and resources for the length of the endeavour; willing to work under the governance of the Association. Overarching values include promoting strong ethics and transparency. Historically, within the context of projects, there are many specific examples where SACA has demonstrated these principles and will continue to do so.*

If you have any specific question on Scenic Acres initiatives, please don't hesitate to contact me at [scenicboard@shaw.ca](mailto:scenicboard@shaw.ca).

**Traffic, Schools and Safety:** The School Resource Officer (SRO) Tanya was in our community over the last few weeks observing driver behaviour in school zones both at Monsignor Doyle and École du Nouveau Monde and I had opportunity to speak with her. She asked me to pass along a few observations. In the south, she was concerned about the number of drivers entering Scenic Acres Drive from Scimitar Point but not making a full stop; a concern especially in a school zone and with lots of pedestrians in the area. I personally have had some close calls walking across this intersection. SACA in cooperation with the school, have implemented a number of measures at this intersection to make it safer including the ladder crosswalks, the Stop sign, no parking signs close to the school driveway, restricted on-street parking areas and no U-turn signs. Please respect these measures and ensure the safety of our kids and all pedestrians. In the north, she noted vehicles parking on the boulevard along Scurfield Drive. I advised her in this area, we have several dynamics occurring at the same time; Revera construction continuing with trades workers commuting to the site by vehicle and filling the on-street parking spaces; the community centre and school open again preventing the workers from using the parking lot as they have been able to do during the spring and summer months. Please again consider our kids and the measures in place here with the ladder crosswalk and no U-turn signage. Park where there is on-street parking available and avoid double parking or boulevard parking. Please always adhere to the 30 km/hr speed limit between 7:30 AM and 9:00 PM and not just when school is in session.

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