

# COUNCILLOR DIANE'S CITY HALL UPDATE – January 2017



## Councillor Diane Colley-Urquhart

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## Longstanding Volunteer in Profile

The Woodcreek CA recently announced the stepping down of long time President Cecil (Cec) Jahrig at their last AGM. A huge congratulation goes out to Scott Eden, who has taken over the position of President.

Cec has been President of the Woodcreek Community Association President for 6 years. He has been the heart and soul of the community giving hundreds and hundreds of volunteer hours back since taking over the presidency and serving as Vice President before that.

Cec not only is a Chartered Professional Accountant, but he's also retired from a career in real estate. When the Woodcreek Community Association was in need of a treasurer, Cec was interested in the role. As luck would have it however, six other candidates had also put their names forward for the position. As a result, Cec decided instead to focus on volunteering on the fundraising side for Woodcreek and eventually ran for President.

Cec has seen the CA memberships soar during his time in office with a total of 2401 members since 2010, and 1100 of those members signed up just last year. He has built a great team of volunteers, and without their efforts, the Woodcreek Community Association wouldn't be as successful as it currently stands in serving the residents of Woodbine and Woodlands.

Other accomplishments which Cec has overseen in his tenure include improving community engagement by adding office space, expanding the current facilities to accommodate the community, repaving the Woodbine tennis courts, the building of pickle ball courts, the creation of a skate park, installation of basketball courts in both Woodbine and Woodlands and upgrading the flood lights. Cec has always been dedicated to recruiting volunteers to organize community and sporting events at the community hall. He is most proud of the support from the entire board and volunteers and has seen a substantial increase in community support throughout the years. Building strong long-lasting relationships have been central to Cec's involvement.

Cec, for all you do and have done for our City, I would like to express a heartfelt thank you on behalf of everyone you serve.

In Cec's own words -

***"Time for a change. At the Woodcreek Community Association Annual General Meeting on Tuesday November 15<sup>th</sup> I will be stepping down as President and moving into the Past President position. My recommendation for the new President will be Scott Eden who has served as my First Vice President during my term in office. Scott is very active in the community and will do an excellent job.***

***When I look back at the past 6 ½ years, a lot has happened. Phil Barg was the prime mover in getting the hall addition added and then that is when I took over. Our biggest challenge was to give residents a reason to join the Community Association. Membership had previously been based on sports. If your child wanted to play sports you had to purchase a membership. Sports have left the community and are now club or quadrant based. With the new hall addition, we added furniture, equipment and programs and activities to make it a true community centre. Our community membership in 2010 was 240 and has now risen to 1360 in 2016. Our aim was to give value to becoming a member.***

***We had a number of interesting challenges over the years. Tsui Tina garbage fire, Shoppers Drug Mart, Skate Board Park, Cell Towers, BRT. Our role was to hold meetings to ensure our residents had the proper information and to give them a chance to express their opinions.***

***Over the years we have expanded the office, refurbished the board room, added a storage addition, opened 3 downstairs meeting rooms, doubled the garage and repaved the parking lot and upgraded the rink lighting. At our Woodbine sports location we repaved the tennis courts, added pickle ball courts, added a skate board park, paved the ice rink and added a basketball court. All of these improvements were meant to add to the community facilities and to particularly add youth activities.***

***During my term I have had a very supportive Board of Directors who has done a great job planning, organizing and volunteering. Thanks to them for helping to grow our community and make this a great place to live. We have tremendous support from volunteers in the community and it was a pleasure working with you. Whenever we needed people, they stepped up. The operation of our Community Centre falls to our staff of Linda, Lorraine and Al. They are a dedicated group and it has been a pleasure working with them."***

**Cec Jahrig – Past President**