

## AGM president's message 2021

Since the 2020 AGM, held electronically, there have been many changes at the Edgemont Community Association and the Edgemont community center. This 12 May 2021 we are, once again, having the AGM electronically. Fortuitously, the provincial government, with Bill 53, has recognized the need for associations and corporations to meet electronically and has now proclaimed into law changes to several Provincial Acts (Notably, in the case of the ECA, the Societies Act) which fully sanction a meeting of this nature today, and retroactively to August 2020, in fact.

Because the business of an AGM is very specific, and because you will read the reports and hear the Executive summaries regarding the remarkable work done by various dedicated committees of the ECA - my comments here will be; mercifully, an overview of 2020 / 2021 and a summary of the AGM agenda procedures.

In 2019 the Membership expanded the ECA Board from 8 to 15 members. The focus was on a more "Hands On" Board, working more directly with staff, and is a reflection of section 5 of the ECA Bylaws. Well, those Committees and Staff have been busy! They have been extraordinarily active in maintaining the ECA and, in particular, the ECC. It has been my pleasure to work with such a dedicated and resourceful group of volunteers. Under extraordinarily difficult circumstances they have kept the organization running and ready for the day that we can fully reopen and fully serve the community of Edgemont. The staff that the newly formed Human Resources Committee have reorganized and trained are fundamental to the success of the last two years. The new realities of the pandemic have framed new operational necessities; which your Board and Staff have been exceptionally adept at meeting. It seems that each challenge the pandemic has thrown at them has simply solidified their resolve and their performance. This is a glowing report because the Staff have earned it.

The agenda of this AGM conforms to the bylaws of the ECA. Briefly, there are reports of committees, the approval of last year's AGM minutes, the approval of the audited budget, and the meeting culminates in the election of Directors. As we did last year, we have acquired the services of a technical services expert to ensure that the business of the AGM including the voting for directors is handled as democratically and as efficiently as possible.

Moving to the structure of this AGM; I would first direct your attention to the "chat" icon at the bottom of the screen. By using this chat option, you can type in questions, comments and perhaps most importantly, as a 'housekeeping protocol', you can leave a short message, a "placeholder", to let our chat moderator know that more information is coming as soon as you can get it on the screen. AGM's are quite structured, with a pattern set by the Bylaws, yet you can be assured that comments and questions will be logged for answering on the day or as soon as possible afterwards.

Please have a look at the agenda, the proposed motions, as well as the reports of Committees that are contained on the Webpage. Without losing the attention and oversight of the ECA Membership, the AGM has specific things that need to be discussed and resolved. Everyone will appreciate your preparation for the business portion of the meeting.

Since the last AGM the ECA Board and staff have consistently made extraordinary effort to maintain the usefulness of the ECC to the community. The ECA Board and staff have maintained communication with our long-term renters and have attempted to soften the blow of the sometimes extreme requirements of the Alberta Health Services. In addition to attempting to maintain programs, the ECC has supported such services as the good food box and maintained our liaison with both the business and the residential community.

Fall 2020 and Winter 20/21 saw significant contributions from our volunteers. ECA kept the Christmas Hamper project and the Skating Rinks (X 2) gave an outlet for cabin fever in the dead of Winter. The ECA supported the Elementary School by maintaining a cleaned and sterilized environment, the Pre school has enabled parents to continue working and the list goes on. I guess one could say, in military terms, the ECA retrenched to a fortified position, but we did not retreat!

I thank our members, in advance, for stepping up and helping the ECA Board accomplish the objectives of the Association.

Sincerely

Bill Kirk

ECA President