

COUNCILLOR'S CORNER



Well, here we are in April again. It reminds me of last year, suppressed with restrictions, news filled with fear, and my to-do list for “back to normal” continues to grow. There are differences too - it (amazingly) is not blizzarding outside while I write this, and I will gladly take that small win.

Another difference I have noticed is a general attitude shift in our community. What started as a focus on the greater good - two weeks to flatten the curve, and “we are all in this together” has

turned into ugly divisiveness and fighting, causing teamwork to disintegrate.

Please do not misunderstand - the goal is not for everyone to have the same opinions all the time. Diversity is what makes an effective team, but what do we do when the team falls apart? When it has disintegrated to the point that colleagues are not respected, what do we do? When instead of returning an upbeat greeting when out in public, one offers a snide remark? (Seriously.) It is obvious when a team is not working at its best, and I am sure you can see that this is happening in Blackfalds.

Cooperation, compromise, and (most importantly) communication are necessary aspects of an effective team. One person is not above another; everyone’s thoughts are valid, and must be respected. There are more than two ways to look at any situation, though it seems only two are recognized. Polarity and duality are not the answer. We can disagree, debate, and discuss the merits and pitfalls of an idea, but when the debate focuses on the person belonging to the idea, we have a problem.

The government is not a single person; it is an idea. This idea must be held paramount, and if we can focus on it instead of ourselves, then we will get through these final eight months together.

In closing, I would like to offer a quote from the late Alex Trebek. “We are trying to build a gentler, kinder society, and if we all pitch in just a little bit, we are going to get there.”

Thank you,

Mariya Appel
Councillor

April 2021

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Regular Meetings

April 13 | 7:00 p.m.

April 27 | 7:00 p.m.

Standing Committee

April 19 | 7:00 p.m.

Regular Council (RCC) and Standing Committee meetings (SCC) are closed to the public until further notice.

Never miss a Council meeting! Watch live on the Town’s YouTube channel.

All meetings are being held virtually until further notice.



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