



# 2020 Presidents Message

Greetings to the Grange Residents;

I want to start out by thanking the board members for their hard work and commitment this year. We have dealt with some unprecedented challenges and I am proud of how we handled them as a board and a community. These included an entry sign being stolen, grass not being cut by the City of Edmonton, holding regular meetings during COVID 19 isolation and being informed the GHOA needs to collect and remit GST.

This year we really tried to educate homeowners on the role of the GHOA.

The first educational piece was to inform homeowners that fence repair is their responsibility. We had a contractor examine exterior fences originally built by the developer for the repairs required prior to commencement of the painting project beginning next year. Those residents whose fences required some repairs received a letter in the mail and some have already started to repair their fences for painting.

The second educational piece was a door hanger campaign to inform residents of the restrictive covenant on shingles and fence style/color. The main message is to keep the colors and style consistent for both fences and shingles so our community aesthetic is maintained as consistently as possible.

Our mandate is to improve the aesthetics of the community and we have completed many projects this year. Here are the highlights:

- Decorative garbage can covers supplied by the City were installed by board members to discourage littering and beautify the neighbourhood.
- Development of a new logo that is available in all formats for advertising and mail outs.
- Entry sign refurbishing, masonry repair and cleaning was completed. The colors changed from Grange Green/Bronze to Black/Bronze to provide an updated look to the community.
- A detailed landscaping maintenance tender was completed and we have a 4 year contract with Solaris Services. Tender highlights include:
  - 16 planters delivered throughout the community each June and removed and stored each September
  - Regular garbage pickup throughout community spaces
  - Spring clean-up starting in April and fall clean up ending in October
  - Removal of deteriorated plastic edging around 7 shrub beds around the pond
  - Mulch top up completed in 5 shrub beds
  - 25 shrub beds maintained weekly and another 20 are maintained bi-weekly
  - Ornamental shrub pruning is done in spring with touch ups being completed in June

We also continue to make changes administratively to align with the skillset of the board, and reduce the workload of these volunteers. Highlights include:

- Using ATS Accounting to generate invoices, and input data into QuickBooks
- Transitioning to online QuickBooks so more than one person can have access
- Rental of a cheque scanner from Servus Credit Union to reduce bank visits
- Implementation of the CommuniBee app so that GHOA fees can be paid using MasterCard or Visa and members can stay connected via their cell phones with an auto renew function so snowbirds don't forget to pay their fees
- Investing in GIC's and opening a high yield savings account to help offset inflation
- Filing for a GST number so the GHOA can collect and remit GST, since our organization makes revenues over \$50,000

As always, we look forward to hearing your feedback and concerns. You can find more updated information on our website. We are always looking for excited community members to contribute to the GHOA so if you are interested please mark October 26<sup>th</sup> on your calendar so you can attend our Annual General Meeting!

Kind Regards,

Denise Forwick-Whalley