

February 2007

TREASURER'S UPDATE

BY: HEIDI BRAUER, CMA

GST WORKSHOPS

1. Not-For-Profit Groups

(those *without* charity status)

➤ February 22, 2007

2. Charity Status Groups

(those *with* a Federal Charity Number)

➤ March 01, 2007

NEW....GRANT WORKSHOP

Presenters are:

- Wild Rose Foundation
- The Calgary Foundation
- Alberta Sports & Wildlife

MARCH 22, 2007
7:00 PM

*See Registration Flyers for
these workshops elsewhere
in this mailing, or
on our website at:
www.calgarycommunities.com*

NEW WORKSHOP

At our CFEP/CIP workshop in December some of the participants had asked for another grant workshop with representatives from The Wildrose Foundation, Alberta Sports and Wildlife and The Calgary Foundation. Well, I was able to arrange a workshop for you for March 22, 2007 from 7 to 9 p.m. As we can only accommodate 18 people, please register early to secure a spot for yourself.

Our next workshops are the GST workshops. We scheduled a workshop for not for profit groups *without* charity status for February 22nd and one for not for profit groups *with* charity status for March 1, 2007.

Please check registration forms elsewhere in this mail-out.

If you build it, they will come!

...not necessarily. As you all know, you can have a community association without a community hall. Certainly, a community hall will be an asset to provide a meeting place and run various programs and services.

Many community association's mission statements read, that they are providing a meeting place for the social and recreational needs of their members. This is a broad statement, as often the administration does not know, what the needs of the members are. The problem is to get members in the first place.

In today's society the need for social activities is met by groups of friends getting together in each others homes. Many households have both, mother and father working or consist of single mothers or fathers raising a family besides spending a full day at work.

continued over....



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The question is, what do these people need to make their lives easier? Daycare, Before and After School Care would provide services to give mothers and fathers the piece of mind, that their children are taken care of, while they are at work. What about school holidays? Here again the programs the community association runs for the children during this time will be important for many families.

Look at the demographics of your community association. Are there a lot of seniors? They may be looking for a meeting place a community association can provide.

We are fortunate to live in a multicultural society here in Calgary. Many newcomers would appreciate a visit from a neighbor or a community association representative telling them about services available for them and inviting them to functions in the hall.

We are all concerned about our teenagers developing social skills in a safe environment. Giving them a place to meet in a supervised setting will take the kids off the street or away from hanging out at the malls.

You may ask, why I am mentioning these things, as I should be concerned about book-keeping and accounting issues, but having members and running programs comes first. To have a successful community association, where money is generated from services, you need members, and before we can start adding up the dollars and the cents, we have to have a community association, which can provide the services the members need. Many of you will have conducted a survey. If you are one of the communities, which has not done one for a number of years and you see your membership dwindling, it may be, that you are not providing the services the population in your communities want. They may not even know, that a community association exists, where they could go to. The services, which were appropriate 10 years ago, may no longer be needed. The world changes and if you don't look forward to current needs and wants of the population, your community may not survive.

You need members to have a flourishing community. Running a community hall is expensive. The only way to bring in the cash is, to have programs and services the population in your community considers valuable for their purposes. As a community association you can not rely on your "status quo", you have to expand and move ahead. Yes, this takes time, and many volunteers do not have this time to devote to the community association. 20 years ago only a few community associations had paid staff, now the majority of the associations have paid staff. This means, that to move forward and not being able to rely exclusively on volunteers, you have to expand to the point that enough funds are generated to employ a person to run the association for the board of directors. I hear again and again, that the treasurers do not want to continue holding their positions, as their volunteer positions have turned into an unpaid "full time job". The few board members are suffering from burn out, as besides their regular job, they also are overburdened with their volunteer jobs.

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