

Mayor Deb Higgins - October 4, 2013

While summer is supposed to be a quieter time of year, it just wasn't the case this year at City Hall. With some prominent vacancies and a retirement within the City's Senior Administration, it turned out to be a summer of job postings, interviews and new faces for City Hall and within city services.

The major position was filled this week as City Manager, Mr. Matt Noble, officially began work at City Hall. He served as the City Manager of Merritt, BC for the past three years, and in the City of Swift Current for nine years previous to that.

With Council and City Administration's intention of being timelier with budget planning and approvals, and our budget process well underway, Mr. Noble has shown a real commitment to the City by attending three of four pre-budget planning meetings prior to his official start date. It was a good opportunity for Mr. Noble to get a better understanding of the community as well as a good chance for Council and Administration to get acquainted with our new City Manager.

Mr. Noble brings a wealth of experience, not only from previous municipal experience, but from the corporate world as well. Experience that I believe Moose Jaw will benefit from and appreciate as the City moves forward.

This Friday will see the swearing-in of our new Chief of Police, Mr. Rick Bourassa. Mr. Bourassa spent 30 years with Regina Police having served in a number of areas including street work as an officer, administrative work and budget planning, as well as teaching at the police college. More recently, Mr. Bourassa was with the Ministry of Justice.

Mr. Bourassa brings years of experience along with a real excitement and dedication to policing, which was very evident when the Board of Police Commissioners went through the job interviews. Community involvement of the police force is very important and that's a big aspect of Mr. Bourassa's history and his experience he brings to the Moose Jaw Police Service.

During this same period of time, our Fire Chief Garth Palmer retired, so there was another top City position vacant. After a posting of the position, Deputy Fire Chief Rod Montgomery, with the experience and training to handle the job, was promoted to Fire Chief.

Add to this the addition of our Director of Engineering, Mr. Ty Stokes coming to the City in July to fill a position that had been vacant for a number of months, and it's not hard to see why it has been a busy summer.

It has been busy but I believe this summer will prove to be a turning point for our community. It has been impressive to see the array of experienced and qualified candidates that have applied and been interested in coming to our community. It speaks well of the opportunities in Moose Jaw now and in the future. I, for one, am certainly happy that the vacancies are filled and now the work begins.

Deb Higgins
Mayor