

**Arts Centre for Edson Society**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**President's Report**  
**September 12, 2012**

Here are the major highlights from the 2011-2012 year for the Arts Centre for Edson Society.

**September**

- ACES held their Annual General Meeting where they re- elected their current Executive, which is as follows:
  - President: Peter Taylor
  - Vice-President: Dave Michie
  - Secretary Treasurer: Shari McDowell
  - Director: Helen Payette
  - Director: Robyne Wilock
  - Director: Doug Woodhouse
- ACES displayed the architectural drawings and surveyed the public for feedback.
- ACES attended the grand opening of the Galloway Station and Museum and Centennial Pavilion.

**October**

- ACES approved their business plan. They presented to Edson Town Council. They accepted it as information.
- ACES continued to display the architectural drawings and surveyed the public for feedback.
- Edson Town Council reassigned their Council Representative to ACES. Councillor Gean Chouinard replaced Councillor Kevin Zahara as the new Council representative.

**November**

- ACES presented the business plan to Yellowhead County Council. They accepted it as information.
- Andrea Longman advised ACES that she would be resigning from ACES as the Town Liaison. In summary, her supervisor and she agreed that it is leading her further away from her job description.

**December**

- Peter, Dave and Shari represented ACES at a special meeting between ACES, the Fieldhouse Committee and Edson Town Council.
  - In this meeting, which was behind closed doors, Council explained their priorities for the next year that were decided upon at their annual Retreat in November. These priorities included:
    - The Hillendale subdivision phase 2; and
    - Installation and upgrades to sewer lines in the west part of Edson.

- As these two projects are extremely expensive and would mean that the Town would have to borrow money to complete them, there would be no money for ACES or the FC in the near future without completely bankrupting the town.
- A further discussion ensued that included:
  - Not being able to give a timeline for either project as Council does not know the financial future of the town.
  - Complications with the County-Town funding arrangement.
  - Continue with preparing architectural drawings to make sure the projects are shovel-ready in case a major grant comes in from the provincial or federal government.
  - Perhaps hold off on fundraising as no definite completion date can be given. Perhaps letters of support is a better choice of action.
  - Perhaps have ACES and FC work together to ensure both projects go ahead.
  - And perhaps the only way to succeed with these projects is to dissolve the Town and amalgamate with Yellowhead County.
- At the end of the meeting, Peter proposed the following:
  - That ACES and the FC start working together. The FC Chairperson, Carol Knetman, said she would speak to their group at their next meeting on December 7 and let us know (they have not yet advised ACES of their decision).
  - When Council approves ACES funding request for more drawings, that ACES finish the drawings and surveys in the next 8-9 months so that ACES is “shovel-ready”. These drawings include geological surveys and engineering reports.
  - Examine a different route instead of fundraising, perhaps just letters of support.
  - Offer support to Council if an amalgamation does go ahead.
- After hearing this report, ACES discussed their next course of action, which will be the following:
  - The Fundraising Committee would continue to create their plan, but would hold off starting the official fundraising campaign.
  - Peter, Shari and Gemma would arrange to meet with MLA Robin Campbell sometime in January to update him on our progress.
  - Build an endowment fund to hold donations when fundraising begins.

### **January**

- Edson Town Council approved \$106,400.00 towards ACES in 2012 budget. These funds would be to complete the next phase of architectural drawings.
- ACES met with MLA Robin Campbell who was very supportive of the project, and would look into committing funds when the Town and County work out the new regionalization plan and begin creating the priorities for the region.

### **February**

- Shari explained that Giles Merriot will volunteer to create a static website. Mr. Merriot has agreed to donate the \$1200.00 fee to build the site.

### **March**

- The architect, Gregory McClung, completed the first 3-dimensional drawings of the facility.

### **April**

- The architect, Gregory McClung, completed the second 3-dimensional drawings of the facility.

### **May**

- The architect, Gregory McClung, completed the third 3-dimensional drawings of the facility.
- Councillor Gean Chouinard informed Peter (which was made official by a letter from Mayor Greg Pasychny) that Town Council has decided to remove the him as Council representative from ACES. This stems from a request from the Fieldhouse Committee to have a Council Representative on their committee. In an effort to treat both committees fairly, Council decided to remove the ACES representative. Council's mandate on the matter is to place representation on boards/committees wherein Council provides operational or major capital funding. ACES accepted this decision from Council.
- ACES sent a letter to Edson Town Council requesting a member of the Town administration to sit on ACES.
- Peter and Dave met with Clarence Joly, Town of Edson Manager, in May regarding the ACES process. It was a very positive meeting.

### **June**

- The architect, Gregory McClug, completed the fourth 3-dimensional drawings of the facility.
- ACES volunteered at the Rotary Sundays in the Park.

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### **August**

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### **September**

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### **Future Initiatives**

As President, I recommend the following initiatives that ACES should take in the coming year. All initiatives need the consent of the ACES committee.

- Advocate that the Edson Town Council budget more funding for the next phase of architectural drawings. Begin creating these drawings in 2013.

- Create an endowment fund to assist with the private and corporate fundraising campaign that will occur when Town Council officially approves the project.
- Approve the corporate and individual fundraising packages.
- Officially approve and unveil the website.
- Have bi-monthly press releases that keep the media and community up to date with ACES.
- Begin creating new partnerships with individuals, groups and businesses that are supportive of this project.

Submitted as information, September 12, 2012

Peter Taylor

President

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