

Councillor's Report for September 18, 2017
Beverley Tripp

Microcell Transmitter Placement A Small Talk Forum Discussion Topic at the UBCM

Microcell transmitter placement will be a topic presented during the Small Talk Forum workshop at the UBCM next week, and I'll be spearheading this discussion. It is one of eight topics that will be presented to elected officials from communities around the province with populations under 5,000. This issue is gaining a lot of public concern as microcells proliferate in neighbourhoods and public spaces. A few months back, the Canadian Federal Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development recommended some major changes to the EPA (Environmental Protection Act), including more studies on the effects of EMR on biota, and a review of the adequacy of the current guidelines provided in Safety Code 6. This Code is the standard by which telecommunications companies measure RF radiation from their equipment, which includes the microcells. If changes are recommended and Safety Code 6 is lowered (as it is in many other countries around the world), this could have significant implications for the telcom industry. Microcells lay the foundation for new wireless technologies that are bringing a literal "radiation tsunami" upon us. Wisdom dictates that we remove the ambiguity of the language in the FCM's Antenna System Siting Policy that exempts microcells from municipal and public consultation, and ensure a level of safety (within 100 meters of homes, school and hospitals) that is necessary, and fair.

Fall Fair 2017

It was a delight to be able to participate with Councillor Thompson in the kick-off Fall Fair Parade that wound its way through the city from Selkirk College to the fair grounds behind the Arena on Saturday morning. The City entered our Mighty E Truck as a float, complete with a bail of hay and lots of candy to throw at parade onlookers. The parade was several blocks long, with local participants including the Border Bruins and a Demolition Derby car from Unifab. The derby was a highlight of the fair, and it drew a very large crowd. There were several heats and combinations of cars and drivers, all amounting to a load of excitement, smoke and noise for spectators. The event was graced with the first measurable rain Grand Forks has seen in three months, but no-one was complaining! I also had the privilege of leading worship with the team from First Baptist Church on Sunday for the Interdenominational Service.

I want to express a huge thank you to the Fall Fair organizers for doing a fantastic job this year!!

Respectfully submitted,

Beverley Tripp