

Mayor's Report from December 17, 2012 January 17, 2013

I wish to extend to everyone in our community a Happy New Year for 2013. Council has had a very busy 7 months since the election. A steep learning curve for new members of Council has been overcome. The issues that have come before this Council have been ones that were pending or new since we were elected. I have always explained to Council that a lack of decision making will create more problems if an issue is left unattended. I have seen Council listen to all the information supplied from all resources, evaluate the issue on its merit and make the decision in a professional and timely manner. I have seen the results of this approach be very effective in the direction we are trying to steer the municipality. I have now been in the Municipal office on a daily basis since my election and I have seen many changes that have benefited our community. The morale within the office has climbed and the understanding that policy and procedure will be the way we function has made everyone understand the priorities. I do want to express to everyone working within the Municipality my appreciation on making my presence a positive one. I am committed to continuing along the same path we are following now and I am looking forward, with everyone's co-operation, on witnessing and experiencing even more positive results.

Since my last report, much of my time is spent organizing agendas, following up on Council goals and discussing issues with people who just want to drop by and speak to the Mayor.

December 17, 2012

The last regular public meeting of 2012 was held. I enjoyed this meeting a little more than most because I had the opportunity to publically state the pride and esteem I hold for the municipality and its employees. I can only express that I, as Mayor, am very privileged to work with a group as professional as those here today.

December 19, 2012

Council held the first public meeting regarding the our annual operating budget. The presentation on our 2013 budget went very well for those who were present. I am going to interpret the low attendance by the public to a confidence in this Council. Our vision for 2013 was presented by each member of Council and questions were answered. I do extend an invitation to anyone who wants to see our 2013 budget, to check out our website in the near future, once the Province has approved it.

December 20, 2012

I attended the Regional Service Commission #3 district meeting in Petit-Rocher. The development of this district is going very well. An Executive Director has been hired and we will begin our regular monthly meeting on Jan.24, 2013.

December 31, 2012

Council met to finalize any outstanding issues for 2012. The motion to place \$105,000.00 into our Capital Reserve Fund was done. This figure was achieved because Council made decisions that were less than what was in the budget.

January 3, 2013

I attended my monthly meeting of Crime Stoppers in Campbellton. January is Crime Stoppers month and we are displaying the flag at our council chambers.

January 10, 2013

I had a meeting with Roy Consultants to discuss the projects that are forecasted by Council in 2013. Council will have a presentation of these issues in February to supply direction.

January 14, 2013

The monthly Committee of the Whole meeting was a very interesting session. Many issues were brought to the table and dates for our Strategic Plan update were set.

January 15, 2013

I travelled to Moncton to attend a “Cost of Risk” seminar. This was designed to identify points of risk within a municipality and how to recognize them. I was very impressed with the information and looking forward to developing new ideas to help improve Belledune’s planning tool box.

In closing, I am hoping that these reports serve some purpose to those who take the time to read them. I am only trying to bring information to you and keep you informed on what is going on in your community. I would appreciate any feedback, positive or negative, and any suggestions, recommendations or comments that you may have on making Belledune a better place for all. Please be advised that should you feel that there is some negative issues that should be addressed, I am also looking for your ideas on how to improve this situation.

Sincerely

**Ronald Bourque
Mayor**