

## **Mayor's Report from November 19 – December 14, 2012**

**I will begin this report by advising that I will present an annual summary of activities at this time of year. I will express that I am very proud to advise you of some major changes that have affected both our community and our personnel. Over the last few months, I have conducted a survey on other municipalities who are very close to the tax base of the Village of Belledune. The municipalities contacted were Dalhousie, Beresford, Caraquet, Grand-Bay Westfield, Shippagan and New Maryland. I wanted to verify how many employees each municipality had on the payroll on a full-time basis. All of the listed municipalities employed more administrative and municipal people than our community. The purpose of this exercise was to confirm the dedication and ability of the people who work for the Village of Belledune. I wish to state publicly that these loyal people are the heart and soul of how our community functions. I recognize these employees because they deserve the praise. I have seen the work of our C.A.O. David Hughes develop over the time I have been here. Mr. Hughes was hired at a very difficult time in our community. I am very happy to say that since I have implemented that policy and procedure will be paramount in the day to day operations of our community, his dedication and professionalism has been front and center. Mr. Hughes has confirmed to me and those around him that he is willing and able to lead our community on the day-to-day issues. Mr. Hughes is leading by example, and I look forward to working with him on making Belledune a better place to live.**

**Our Clerk/ Treasurer, Mrs. Brenda Cormier is probably the person who is taken most for granted. I can only confirm that her professionalism, dedication, knowledge and understanding of her job and community have made her highly respected by her peers and co-workers. I have seen how many of her co-workers have come to depend on her ability to access information and present this in a format that is understood by all. I can say that very few employees have the code of ethics that Mrs. Cormier demonstrates on day-to-day basis. As Mayor of Belledune, I can only be grateful that someone of Mrs. Cormier's ability is responsible for the financial wellbeing of our municipality.**

**The Administrative Assistant position is held by Mrs. Nicole Carrier. I have known Mrs. Carrier for many years, and she has always demonstrated her abilities to do her job professionally and with dignity. Mrs. Carrier is the first person anyone coming to our municipality has contact with, and it is where she demonstrates her greatest assets to our community. Her pleasant personality, professionalism and understanding of her position are how our community is perceived by those who visit our office. I can only ask that her dedication to her job and co-workers continue long into the future.**

**The day-to-day functions of our community are handled by a group of workers who deserve a lot more praise that we give them. Our Superintendent Mr. Cameron MacLellan is responsible for many tasks that are handled by Joe Lanteigne, Bernard McDonnell, Mark Guitard and Earl Culligan. These individuals are the people who make everyone else look good. The duties they perform are what everyone in the municipality sees every day. They are responsible and accountable to many, yet they do their jobs professionally, respectfully and with a flair that many take for granted.**

**I can only express on behalf of Council how proud and privileged we are to be affiliated with this group of people. I can confirm that this is a team of individuals who respect and depend on each other at all times. I will refer to them as a family who laugh, cry and lean on each other through thick and thin. It needs to be said that no matter who is on Council, these are the people who achieve the desired results.**

**I want to extend to each and every individual, on behalf of Council, a safe and joyous Merry Christmas and that 2013 will bring peace and happiness to you all.**

**November 21, 2012 (9:00 – 5:00 pm)**

**I attended a training seminar on Rights to Information. This was well done and presented by the Province of New Brunswick.**

**November 21, 2012 (evening)**

**The 2013 budget meeting was held by Council and was very productive.**

**November 24, 2012**

**I attended the District 9 fundraiser for the R.C.M.P. held in Campbellton. This event was well attended by Premier Alward, Commissioner Wayne Lang, Mayor Bruce MacIntosh and many other local dignitaries. The profits from this function were donated to a local charity.**

**December 6, 2012**

**I was invited by Commissioner Wayne Lang to attend the annual "J" Division Gala held in Fredericton. The event was very well attended by many of the Government officials who are affiliated with the R.C.M.P. The event was well done and very eventful for the Village of Belledune.**

**December 7, 2012**

**I was present at the Belledune Firefighters dinner. This was funded by the Village of Belledune in appreciation of the work these firefighters do for our community. Pins and certificates were given to those celebrating certain milestone anniversaries.**

**December 8, 2012**

**I attended the Christmas in the Park activity. I wish to congratulate the organizers and volunteers who did a great job. Everyone had a good time and it was very well attended.**

**December 10, 2012**

**Council held a Committee of the Whole meeting. The weather was not great however all of Council was present and many important issues were addressed.**

**December 13, 2012**

**Council has completed their 2013 budget and all went very well during the process. Special thanks to C.A.O. David Hughes and Clerk/Treasurer Brenda Cormier for their organizational skills in preparing the budget for the smooth transitions. Council recognizes the time and professionalism that this budget process requires and extends its thanks for your skills.**

**I will take this time to discuss some issues that are affecting our community. The most pressing situation appears to be with information concerning our fire department and the firefighters. I have spoken with people in our community and there is much to be said about the factual information that people are aware of. I do want to stress that if the information you are listening to does not come from this office then chances are there are questions that need to be confirmed. I will ask that the PROPAGANDA that is being discussed is only selective information being used by some people. This information is creating an emotional effect on residents of Belledune rather than a factual effect. Also the information being discussed is causing DEFAMATION to an individual who works for the Village of Belledune. The broadcasting of information to the public is being expressed or implied to be factual however, this is not the case. This Council is committed to the resolution that has haunted our community for over 2 years. Many of the DEROGATORY remarks have been directed towards only one individual, and this will not be tolerated any longer. The decision of this Council will be coming very early in 2013. The independent assessment of our Fire Department and its firefighters is due from James Maker very soon.**

**In closing, on behalf of everyone affiliated with the Village of Belledune and Council we wish to extend to everyone a very Merry Christmas and may 2013 be prosperous, healthy and loving for your families.**

**Sincerely**



**Ron Bourque  
Mayor**