

Mayor's Report for August 2015

The summer is very quickly coming to an end and with the fall time of year comes greater accountability of Council. Council will need to begin the budget process for 2016 and re-visit the Strategic Plan that we have developed over our term on Council. Planning and budgeting will be critical for the smooth transition from this Council to the new Council in May, 2016.

The Belledune Days Festival is now completed and I am only aware of a couple of minor problems during this very successful week of "family, friendships and fun". I would like to comment on only 3 activities which I believe were unique to this year's festival. I will extend my personal congratulations to Deputy Mayor, Tracy Culligan on the organization of 2 new events for our festival. The "Family Fun Night" was very well organized and those in attendance enjoyed some very positive family time together. Also the "Multi-Cultural Association" activity that was organized by Deputy Mayor Culligan was extremely well received and organized. The activities exhibited and food that was presented will be remembered for its cultural colour, flair and presentation. The final comment will be directed towards our fireworks display presented. I have had many public comments on how spectacular they were and it was well viewed by a very large crowd that was in attendance. I would also like to advise that Patsy Talbot will return as co-chair of Belledune Days for 2016 along with Karen Roy. I am very confident that our Festival is in very good hands for the future and I extend my personal appreciation to Patsy and Karen for stepping forward.

The Village of Belledune has begun the process of looking to hire a replacement for our previous fire chief, Paul Boudreau. Council would like to thank Paul for his dedication to restructuring our fire department over the last 13 months and we wish him the best in his new position with the fire marshal's office in Grand Falls.

July 17, 2015

I was present for a meeting with representatives from the Department of Transport and Infrastructure. Items that were discussed included our summer maintenance program, our winter maintenance and speeds within our municipality.

July 20, 2015

The monthly public meeting was completed and all the agenda items were addressed. Motions were made to deal with many issues and can be reviewed in the minutes that are published on our website.

July 26-Aug.2, 2015

This is in reference to Belledune Days Festival week. I was present at many of the activities during this week and many were very well attended and supported. All 3 breakfasts that were done during the week were very well attended and organized. The senior's supper was again a great success. Mike and Belinda Babin were presented with roses and a plaque representing the key to the Village of Belledune for their continued support of this activity. Belinda introduced Jordan Frenette as the new owner of the Guardian Restigouche Pharmacy. The mackerel derby was a success and the Legion Hoedown was very well attended. The horse haul was a huge success and the mixed horseshoe and ball tournaments were enjoyed by those who participated. A huge crowd was on hand to see our spectacular fireworks display. The comments from the public were very positive.

Aug. 6, 2015

I was present for the monthly meeting of the Restigouche Crime Stoppers. I presented the group with a check of \$4,142.76 which was their share of the profits for the R.C.M.P. Musical Ride. The Royal Canadian Legion Durham #77 was given a check for the same amount. Both organizations were very happy with the results and how the shows were conducted. The Legion and Crime Stoppers wish to acknowledge to contributions made by those who recognized the importance of showcasing our community with this International show. Our appreciation is extended to the Council of the Village of Belledune for allowing this event to happen on Municipal property with the use of their facilities. Chaleur Sawmill Association for their contribution of shavings, wood to build the stables and delivering these products at no charge to our organization. We would also like to recognize Bill Duivenvoorden for delivering and donating all the hay required to feed the horses. In closing I would extend my personal appreciation to both organizations and all those who volunteered their time to make this a true success.

Aug.10, 2015

The monthly Committee of the Whole meeting was conducted and all agenda items were addressed. There was one item that will be placed on this month's agenda for final discussion.

Aug. 12, 2015

I attended a luncheon at Danny's Motel where the Premier, Brian Gallant was the guest speaker for the Greater Bathurst Chamber of Commerce. I had the opportunity to discuss our needs in Belledune for the future which included a "Special Care Facility" and infrastructure development for the Port of Belledune.

Aug. 20, 2015

I was interviewed by CHAU-TV from Quebec concerning Chaleur Terminals Inc. coming to Belledune. Many of the questions were directed towards rail safety, increased traffic in the Bay of Chaleur and how do the residents of Belledune view this project. I referred the rail questions to the C.N.R. and the Port issues to the Port of Belledune personnel. I did advise that in all my discussions with residents of Belledune and the Chaleur region, I have never spoken to anyone who was opposed to this project. I confirmed that the economy of the region and the environmental issues should be addressed separately. The concerns of all parties are what will allow the companies to recognize what many of the negative issues are concerning this project. The information can then be evaluated and policies and procedures can be developed and implemented to prepare and protect incidents before they occur.

In closing, the new Memorial Park is progressing very well and the official opening will take place on Saturday, September 19, 2015 at 5:00pm. Council is extending to the general public an open invitation to attend this ceremony.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald Bourque". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ron Bourque
Mayor