

Mayor's Report for December 2015

I wish to begin by extending to everyone on behalf of the Mayor, Councillors and staff at the Village of Belledune our personal best wishes for a Merry Christmas and may 2016 bring you love, peace and prosperity in the New Year. At this time of year I would like to thank C.A.O. Hughes, Clerk/Treasurer Cormier and Administrative Assistant, Nicole Carrier for their outstanding contribution to how our municipality functions on day to day bases. Our Municipal Works Supervisor, Cameron MacLellan along with his group of dedicated workers of Joe Lanteigne, Earl Culligan, Bernard McDonnell, Mark Guitard and Bill Chatter have performed their duties with professionalism and have represented our community to a very high standard. Our Fire Fighters have continued to protect our community even under some very difficult times as the search for a new Fire Chief continues. The Village of Belledune is very fortunate to have a group of casual workers that continue to represent our community in different locations. The campground workers, our salmon barrier group, custodians, librarian and the arena attendants are very important employees to the operation of our community. All of the above mentioned groups I extended to you my personal appreciation for your cooperation in making 2015 an outstanding year for Belledune.

I am going to highlight some achievements for this year. The year began with the Gentleman's Hockey Tournament in March celebrating its 25th year. The tournament was a huge success and we look forward to the continued opportunity to highlight our community. In June, Belledune hosted the R.C.M.P. Musical Ride and this event showcased our community on the International stage with this world famous show. The event was co-sponsored by the Royal Canadian Legion Durham Branch #77 and the Restigouche Crime Stoppers unit and each group was presented with a check for \$4,142.76 for their organizations as this was their share of the profits achieved from this event. In July, Belledune Days began and this event has become the corner stone to showcasing what a great community Belledune truly is. The highlights were the Multi-Cultural event that was organized by Deputy Mayor, Tracy Culligan and the fireworks display with many positive comments on what a great show it was. In September the Village of Belledune celebrated the official opening of our new park in honour of our Veterans, first responders and Hong Kong Veterans. The new cenotaph is unique in design and will be a showcase monument of respect to all who have represented our country, province and community. I do wish to thank the sponsors who contributed to the dinner for our Veterans. They include: Allan, Paquet & Arseneau, Chaleur Sawmill Association, Eastern Stevedoring, Glencore-Brunswick Smelter, Port of Belledune, Roy Consultants, Shaw and Squaw Cap Trucking. The monuments were the design of Goguen Monuments. Also in September the Village of Belledune played host to the Ambassador from Switzerland. Glencore's corporate head office is located there and the Ambassador was visiting our salmon barrier because Glencore is going to invest in a very unique floating barrier for our location. This addition is a

major investment from Glencore and we are looking forward to this state of the art contribution from Glencore in our barrier. In December, our municipality celebrated "Christmas in the Village" and once again Deputy Mayor, Culligan did a great job with this event. We also had the regimental flag of the North Shore (N.B.) Regiment presented to the Village of Belledune. The commanding officers of the regiment wanted to be identified with our arena because of the name. A flag pole will be installed to fly this flag outside of our Veterans Memorial Center Arena. The affiliation of this regiment with our community is an honour because so many of our veterans are part of this historical regiment.

Nov. 13th & 14th, 2015

I traveled to the Miramichi to participate in the forum on recommendations to address the financial situation of the Province. Many Mayors and business people were in attendance to voice their recommendations to the Government.

Nov. 16, 2015

The monthly Public meeting was done and all agenda items were discussed. The minutes of this meeting are posted on our website at www.belledune.com.

Nov. 19, 2015

I met with the environment group of N.B. Power. The meeting was very informative with updates on energy and the pending decision on the Mactaquac dam project.

Nov. 20, 2015

I was invited to attend the Premiers forum on economic development held in Belledune. Many of the major business from New Brunswick were asked to attend and share their ideas and vision on moving New Brunswick forward. Many positive recommendations were presented and even information on some of the Government regulations that slow down growth was identified.

Nov. 23, 2015

I was present for the Belledune Port Authority security meeting and all agenda items were addressed. All the interested parties shared ideas and recommendations.

Nov. 29, 2015

I was a host at the annual Restigouche Regional Volunteer Association Christmas telethon. I am very proud to say that our community has a branch in it that we support on a monthly bases and I presented a check for \$500 on behalf our community to this great fund raiser.

Dec. 3, 2015

The annual dinner for the Restigouche Crime Stoppers unit was done and after our group had its monthly meeting. All agenda items were finalized and it was noted that January is Crime Stoppers month. I will make a proclamation at our public meeting in January.

Dec. 5, 2015

I attended the Christmas in the Village activity and it was very well organized and fun. Santa made a stop in the community and all the children present had a great time.

Dec. 7, 2015

Council had a budget meeting to finalize our numbers for 2016. A conference call with Jacques Ouellette on trail development was done prior to this meeting to have information available on, if and how much money would be placed in the budget for 2016 for trail development.

Dec. 9, 2015

I was present with the Glencore group for a presentation on the future of the Smelter. General Manager, Marc Duchesne explained the study results that have now been completed. The stock market on products sold or purchased has impacted the expected renovation to be placed on hold. The good news was that they have been given funding to operate for 2016 and are going to make a profit this year.

Dec. 12, 2015

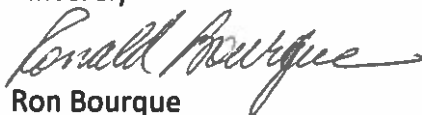
The North Shore Regiment presented me with their regimental flag at our arena. The Veterans from our branch of the Legion were on hand in uniform and a small luncheon was offered by the Village of Belledune to the regiment and guest. Everyone was very positive and appreciative of the moment.

Dec. 14, 2015

The Committee of the Whole monthly meeting was conducted and all agenda items were addressed. The minutes of this meeting will be posted on our website after they have been approved by motion.

In closing, I am looking forward to a very productive time prior to the election on May 9, 2016.

Sincerely



Ron Bourque
Mayor