

## **Mayor's Report after 2<sup>nd</sup> Year**

**I wish to deliver this message not only to Council but to the public of our community. This Council has now completed 24 month of their mandate and have 24 months remaining before the next election. I have reviewed the report for our first year and many of the issues that were presented have been dealt with as professionally as expected. I will cover the events of the last 12 months and how they have been presented to the public.**

- 1) The biggest issue over the last 12 months has been the Fire Department. I will congratulate Council on making some very difficult decisions in a very professional manner. The legal and accountable process on how our fire fighters will be paid is now settled. The resignations of our Chief and two Deputy Chiefs have been accepted and Council has stated publically their appreciation for these individuals contribution to their community. If Council were to evaluate where we were 12 months ago, where we are today and where we will be in 12 months time, there will be major changes in the structure of our fire department. At this time, Council extend their appreciation to Lorenzo Grant for his contribution as the interim fire chief. Council is advertising for a full time Chief on a 12-24 month contract to restructure the department. I will express that I am very confident that our fire department will be well structured for my next report in twelve months time. I will also confirm that our action plan to restructure has been delivered to all the appropriate parties in the province of New Brunswick.**
  
- 2) Council is presently evaluating the need to renovate our present structure, build a new facility or remain the status quo. The decision of Council will require more information, more preparation and make a final decision before the final presentation of our 2015 budget. I will state that all the information and recommendations will be evaluated with each member of Council having the opportunity to express their recommendation.**
  
- 3) Council will also be required to make some very serious decisions concerning the cost of water and sewage for the 30 residences on Chaleur Drive. Our administrative personnel are evaluating, on a line by line premise, the utility budget for this operation. Council will be presented with some recommendations soon and this will determine the cost involved for the homes on this street.**

**The issues above are the most sensitive issues to be finalized in the next 12 months. These files have been open for far too long and discussion of Council is required to put closure to these problems.**

**As Council prepares for the 2015 budget, it will become more important for each Council member to plan for the future development of Belledune. I do wish to extend to each Council member my personal thanks for dealing and finalizing many of the issues over the last 24 months. I recognize that all decisions are not always popular but looking at the results of your decisions over that period of time deserves the respect of the Mayor and**

staff. As we approach preparation for 2015, I would like to ask Council to consider including some of the issues I believe will need to be addressed.

- 1) Our 2014 budget has funding for a study on a walking trail within our municipality. I believe we will need to expand on this issue so that our community can offer a nature trail.
- 2) The "Special Care Facility" located at the Belledune school will require the attention of every Council member.
- 3) The Strategic Plan will need to be updated to reflect the future needs of Belledune and develop a plan to bring those needs to reality.
- 4) I will continue to communicate and develop a strong business position with the Port of Belledune Executive to support all future development.
- 5) Council will be presented with a plan for a regional industrial fire brigade in the near future to address our risk to these types of fires. As the representative on the Chaleur Regional Service Commission I will be discussing with all the members a plan to cost share this very important service for the future.
- 6) The process for the evaluation of our arena will be presented to Council very soon. C.A.O. Hughes will have an analysis to reduce cost and I extended our appreciation to C.A.O. Hughes for a job well done.
- 7) Roads and ditches will continue to be an issue in our community. A very well developed plan for gravel; paving and ditches will help to address many of the problems in the past.

In closing, I will express that the development of Council members has been very positive to experience. Each member has shown their dedication to the community, to their responsibilities and to themselves. Decisions have not always been easy, but each time Council members have expressed their views and a decision has been reached. I will advise that your professionalism, opinions and decisions have always been and will continue to be respected by the majority. Council does not always need to agree on every issue however once the majority has made the final decision it is very important that all members respect and defend the results. I will express for Council consideration that I have seen great changes in how day to day activities are conducted in our community. Council can be very proud of the individuals who perform your request. I am present daily to witness all of our employees doing a professional and business approach to their every day responsibilities. I will ask that each member of Council express to this group of dedicated employees their appreciation for a job well done. My final comment will be my personal thank you to Council and every professional who works here.

Sincerely



Ron Bourque  
Mayor