

## January 2015 Mayor's Monthly Report

The Council would like to extend to all residents of the Village of Belledune a very Happy New Year. I am very confident that 2015 will be a very prosperous year for our municipality. Council will do a presentation to the public later this month to inform everyone on what is included in our budget for 2015. I do wish to extend our personal appreciation to Clerk/Treasurer, Brenda Cormier and Fire Chief, Paul Boudreau for their attention to details on getting the budget finalized. On behalf of Council to Clerk/Treasurer Cormier, our sincere appreciation for the time you have dedicated to all the ideas, wishes and organizing of this year's budget. The budget has some very important highlights that have contributed to our financial growth for 2015. These highlights include: R.C.M.P cost have remained the same, our equalization funding is now at \$343,441.00, funding to pave streets has increased however if our request for funding from the Federal Government is approved this will save the tax payers dollars in the future. As well the development of a Memorial Park on municipal property off Jacquet River Drive will express to those who have served in different capacities our sincere gratitude for your contribution. The Village will also enjoy growth with the development of Chaleur Terminals Inc. and Maritime Minerals Inc. Both of these companies will contribute to our growing tax base and create jobs for our citizens. There will also be some very important event highlights in 2015 that will show case our community. The Mark Arsenault Gentleman Hockey Tournament in March will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The R.C.M.P. Musical Ride will be in our community on June 12<sup>th</sup>, Belledune Days celebrations will be in July, the dedication of the Memorial Park will be in late September and the Royal Canadian Legion will celebrate its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Dec. 17, 2014 (9:00am-10:30am)

I met with the Staff Sgt. of the R.C.M.P. to evaluate opening a satellite office in the Jacquet River School. All parties are in agreement that the need is a good one and the decision is now in the hands of the school District#15 superintendent. I will have more information in the very near future.

Dec. 17, 2014 (7:00-9:00pm)

The Council met to discuss the budget for 2015. Many of the issues Council wanted to include in the budget were finalized. Council will need to wait for the Province to send their figures to finalize and approve the 2015 budget.

Dec.30, 2015

Council held a Special Meeting to finalize the outstanding issues for 2014. The Council approved a motion to transfer to our Capital Reserve Fund, \$340,000.00. Also on the agenda was a motion to accept the 2015 General Budget and the 2015 Utility Budget. The Utility Budget is exclusively for the 30 homes on Chaleur Drive. I wish to extend to the Chaleur Drive Committee my sincere appreciation for your professionalism in dealing with finding ways to save money on a line by line process. Also my appreciation to Clerk/Treasurer Cormier and C.A.O. David Hughes on addressing this very sensitive issue and finding ways to maintain the annual fee at \$600.00 and establish a Utility Operating Reserve Fund.

Jan. 5, 2015

I was in court to hear the proceedings against 2 village employees, who work at the Salmon barrier, who were charged under the "Clean Water Act" because the barrier was destroyed by hurricane Arthur. The case was deferred to Feb.2, 2015.

Jan. 6, 2015 (3:00pm-4:30pm)

I was present at the Belledune Port Authority launce of their new web site.

Jan. 6, 2015 (7:00-8:30pm)

I attended the monthly meeting of Crime Stoppers. January is Crime Stoppers month and I will proclaim this at our regular monthly meeting of Council. All members were in attendance and all agenda items were addressed.

Jan.7, 2015

Some members of Council met with Tara Hickey to discuss the Purchase and Sale Agreement for the former Belledune School which will expire on January 31, 2015

which she wishes to acquire and renovate for the development of a Special Care Facility. A plan of action was expressed and will be finalized at the public meeting of Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> on a motion of Council.

Jan 8, 2015

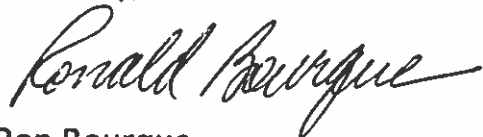
I met with M.L.A. Daniel Guitard to discuss Councils priorities for 2015. He was informed that the Special Care Facility for the Belledune is the only priority project on our agenda. All efforts of Council will be directed to this project. He was also given a letter of issues that we would like to have addressed by various Ministers in our area. The letter also asked for each Minister to express their support for this project to Minister Rogers.

Jan. 12, 2015

The monthly Committee of the Whole meeting was done and all agenda items were addressed. All is ready for the motions that will be required for the Public meeting to deal with all issues.

In closing, I wish to thank Council for their decision making in 2014. Once again, difficult decisions may not always be politically popular but they are ethically correct to do for the future development of our community. I will remain dedicated to bring all the facts to the table and I will always respect and defend the decision of the majority of Council. I look forward to all the great things that 2015 has in store for our community and to working with a staff who have demonstrated time after time that they are willing and more than able to address our request to move the municipality forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald Bourque". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ron Bourque  
Mayor