

## **Mayor's Report**

**Oct. 16- Nov. 17, 2012**

**I am going to begin by saying that Council is preparing for the 2013 budget. This will present many new challenges for our municipality because of the new alignment of the Districts within the Province. These are very exciting times however they are also very nervous times because of all the uncertainty that has been created by this new direction. I am well aware that our municipality will be greatly affected by this new restructuring. Belledune will gain in some areas and lose in others. All the new changes are based on tax assessment (\$375,264,356- Year 2012) and population (1548 people – 2011 Census) so it is clear why this will be a very interesting formula. Our community is second only to Bathurst in tax base and will be required to carry our share of the services. I am very involved in this process and will be very visible in protecting our interest in this new transition.**

**The month has been very active and interesting at the same time. I have been present at the office on a daily basis and have been available to address many local issues.**

**October 16, 2012**

**I attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of RSC District #3 in Petit-Rocher. The responsibilities of each municipality were discussed and follow up meetings were advised. I was elected Vice-Chair of RSC District#3 and I will work closely with the Mayor of Pointe-Verte, Daniel Guitard to make sure our District is well represented.**

**October 18, 2012**

**Council met with the residents of Chaleur Drive to bring the truth concerning the problems of water and sewage that was installed during the previous council's administration. The results of this meeting were met and the residents left with the accurate information on what many of the possibilities could be.**

**October 20, 2012**

**I was present on this Saturday for the orientation that the Province does for new members of Council. This was done in Beresford as a group for Northern New Brunswick. The new members of Council attended and I am confident in saying they would have received a lot of information in a short period of time.**

**October 22, 2012**

**I was present during the VIA Rail meeting that was organized by MP, Yvon Godin. The General Manager of VIA gave reasons for the cuts however they were all financial. The Mayors from the area were very vocal in expressing their views on services. The meeting ended with a commitment to meet with the C.N.R. who owns the line privileges.**

**October 23, 2012**

**I met with James Maker who will be conducting an independent assessment of the personnel of our fire department. He will submit a report to Council along with recommendations of what needs to be addressed and what should be done to correct the problems.**

**October 24, 2012 (1-4 pm)**

**I did a presentation to the commission concerning our Provincial boundaries. I did express our interest to remain in the present riding of Nigadoo-Chaleur. This was very interesting because the commission is programmed to make cuts to the present representation we have in the North.**

**October 24, 2012 (7-9 pm)**

**I attended the final meeting of the Nepisiguit Chaleur Solid Waste Commission. The changes will be made to be part of the RSC District #3 organization.**

**October 25, 2012**

**I was present during the Dept. of Environment annual evaluation of the water & sewage treatment plant we have in place for the residents on Chaleur Drive. The people from the Department of Environment advised that our Municipality is exceeding all the standards a plant should meet. We want to recognize that Mr. Peter Duivenvoorden has done a very good job on providing the expertise required to do this very important job for our municipality. He has done an excellent job and our C.A.O., David Hughes has been instrumental in directing the compliance required by our municipality to achieve. On behalf of all of Belledune I wish to thank you both for your professionalism on maintaining this very high standard.**

**October 24, 2012 (Evening)**

**I offered an information program on Drug Awareness. The members of the R.C.M.P were present and Crime Stoppers were also there. The information supplied to those present was very helpful and informative.**

**October 30, 2012**

**There was another meeting of the Mayors from RSC District #3. The budgets and concerns of all municipalities were discussed and there is more to come. Many of the issues are because of the uncertainty created by the lack of planning by the Provincial government. I am not against this restructuring of the province. I am only concerned about the timing in which we are being forced to deal with the issues.**

**November 5, 2012**

**I attended a meeting with the Belledune Port Authority concerning issues that may develop in our community in the future.**

**November 6, 2012**

**The Administration of the office attended a pre-budget meeting. This is to prepare for 2013 and it went very well. The goal was to prepare the document**

**for Council so that most of the figures that remain the same from year to year were prepared. Council will be scheduling dates for budget meetings this month.**

**November 7, 2012**

**I was present for the A.G.M. meeting for the Belledune District Planning Commission. This is the last meeting for this organization. They will be replaced with a Planning board that will report to the Directors of RSC District#3. The personnel will remain, however more direction will become clear as the District develops its plan. I have been given a pre-meeting budget and based on our tax assessment; the share that Belledune will be required to cover has increased. I will follow up for your information when all is finalized in early 2013.**

**November 8, 2012**

**I was present at the A.G.M. for the Belledune Regional Environment Association meeting. There were several issues on the agenda however the Association motioned to request in writing that the Salmon Barrier employees become part of the Village of Belledune. I advised that this would be a significant change in their structure as it is today. All would be required to respect all policies, procedures and By-laws of the Village of Belledune. The letter has been received and is being evaluated by Council to decide what is best for all parties involved.**

**November 13, 2012**

**The monthly Committee of the Whole meeting was very positive. Mr. Mackenzie Roherty read his essay on Vimy Ridge. He spent a week in Ottawa with the Army Cadets for the Remembrance Days ceremonies and was recognized by Council for his efforts.**

**In closing I wish to inform all citizens of our community that Council will be preparing the 2013 budget. Council will evaluate what will become priorities and what will be moved into our future planning. I am looking forward to how Council will decide where our community is going and how we will get there.**

**Sincerely**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald Bourque", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Ron Bourque-Mayor**