

Background Notes from the Mayor's Desk - July 29, 2016

The end of July marks the halfway point in what we traditionally think of as Summer, and I really hope you are enjoying all that there is to enjoy in our area. Summer sees a tremendous number of visitors coming to our area to enjoy what we live here for, and we welcome them all with great hospitality and friendliness.

Much continues to happen in Sundre and District, even during the Summer while many are away. Our hospital is secure and we now have the prospect of better hospital services for our community thanks to the amazing efforts of the Hospital Futures Committee, our dedicated medical professionals and our MLA, Jason Nixon, who worked tirelessly to bring attention - and solutions, to the threatened closure of 15 long-term care beds.

Thank you to Health Minister Sarah Hoffman, Deputy Minister Dr. Carl Amrhein, and President and CEO of Alberta Health Services, Dr. Verna Yiu, for meeting with our community and ensuring community solutions to the future of our hospital services were put in place. In our community, we solve problems and this was a situation where we can all be very proud of the work of so many to bring forward such logical solutions to very real issues faced by Alberta Health Services.

In other Summer news, residents are settling in to the new Mountain View Senior's Housing facility. Plans are now underway to work with Alberta Housing to determine the future of Foothills Lodge, as it is now vacant. There will be a community consultation process to ask the residents of Sundre and District what the best use of Foothills Lodge might be in the future. The building is owned by Albertans and the provincial government would like to know what we need in our community, and if that building might be useful to meet those needs. There will be a committee struck in August/September working through the Fall to have a recommendation to Alberta Housing prior to Christmas. Watch for more information coming about the process in August.

Recycling is up and running. Thank you to everyone for your help in this project to reduce waste and landfill volume, and to make the future better for our children and grand children. As with any new project, there are a few issues to attend to. Please review the list of all materials that can be placed in the recycling bins to be sure there are no contaminants. For those who use the recycling drop-off bins off the Bergen Road, please also be sure to place recyclable items in the appropriate bins.

We have had some new businesses open through the year so far - despite all the talk about an economic downturn. Please be sure to drop in and support those new businesses. Shopping local is exceptionally important. As we all know, the first 3-5 years in any new business are the hardest. Those new business owners take a huge risk to open and run only a 50/50 chance of success. Let's all do our part to support them.

Thank you to all the staff for keeping the parks, trails and playgrounds looking so good for all of us to enjoy. Thanks also to all the staff doing the behind the scenes work to clean streets, fix potholes, fix leaks in the pipes underground, and for addressing the concerns brought to us by residents. You don't get thanks often enough :)

The budget is coming - for 2017 and 2018, and the staff and Council will be spending considerable time on it for the next few months. Please talk with your Councillors and me about what your expectations are for the next two years. I also want to remind everyone there is an election coming in October of 2017. Please consider running for a Councillor, or Mayor position on the next council.

Happy Summer All. As always, please call me at home (403-638-3535) if you would like to talk about any of the issues mentioned above - or any other issues.

Terry Leslie, Mayor
Town of Sundre