

## Background Notes from the Mayor's Desk - May 30, 2016

**Why do I love where I live?** There are so many reasons. One reason is because of my neighbours and the caring community attitude and spirit I see so often that makes me very proud to call Sundre home.

The last month has seen incredible devastation in and around Fort McMurray, and I want to thank each and every one of you that have stepped up to help. There are so many community examples of "giving" to assist those affected by this wild fire tragedy. Individual donations are pouring into the Red Cross. Businesses, church and community groups are providing so many creative opportunities to help with donations to assist. Our school students, as always, because their parents and grandparents have been their role models, are stepping up to lead by example, and help. Almost 25% of our volunteer firefighters have already gone to help relieve those front line firefighters, volunteering to put themselves in harm's way for others once again. Our local RCMP members and other first responders are prepared, able and willing to go at a moment's notice to help "our Alberta neighbours." I want to thank each and every one of you who made a donation, organized a fundraiser or volunteered to assist in some way. A true measure of who we are as individuals, and as a community, is how we give to others without expecting thanks, or recognition, in return. I love where I live because I am so proud of the so many examples of people, businesses, groups and organizations that give to others unconditionally. You are all modelling such great "depth of character" to the next generation. Thank you :)

**Congratulations** - and thank you - to all those Sundre High School students, and to everyone in the community that supported May Queen this year. Over 4 days, over \$35,000 was raised to support initiatives like student programs throughout the school year; the yearbook; foster children; sports teams; graduation; and donations back to the community, like the recent donation to the Aquaplex. Well done everyone :)

**CURBSIDE BLUE BOX RECYCLING IS COMING!** Saturday, June 4th is the day when all the blue recycling carts get delivered to residences. There is still time to volunteer to help with delivery if you drop in at the Town Office to sign up - or call the office at 403-638-3551. The set up for cart delivery will be at the arena Saturday morning at 9:00, with deliveries till noon, followed by a Bar-B-Q for all who help out. **THERE IS NO EXTRA CHARGE FOR BLUE BOX RECYCLING** (did I mention that?). Since up to 70% of garbage waste is actually recyclable, recycling will also help extend the life of our landfill. The first pick up for recycling will be June 16th and there will be a 3-week schedule for garbage, compost and recycling. We will be monitoring how this three-week cycle is working for everyone and we can make changes if there is a need. We rely on you to tell us how the schedule is working for you so please call with comments, questions or concerns in the coming months.

Council had an informational workshop May 30th in preparation for the upcoming 2-year budget cycle for 2017/2018. Please, please, please come to the **Town Office Open House Tuesday June 14th** any time from 4:30 - 7:30pm to tell us what you want more of - and less of - in the next two years. There will be staff and Council members there to talk with you, answer questions you might have, but most importantly, to listen to what you have to say about what is needed in our community. We need you to come and "have your say" or we will continue to think we are in our right minds as your Council and make decisions we think are best.

Please, please, please come out to vote in the **By-Election Tuesday, June 21st** at the Town Office from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM. You can vote in the Advance Poll Tuesday, June 14th at the Town Office from 12:00 Noon to 4:00 PM.

As always, please feel free to call me at home at 403-638-3535 if you want to talk about any of the above.

Terry Leslie, Mayor  
Town of Sundre