

## **Background Notes from the Mayor's Desk - December 2017**

On behalf of Council and staff, I wish each and every one of you the Merriest of Christmases and the best New Year you have ever experienced. Already we have seen the Santa's Charity Check Stop, and we are reminded that giving to others is so much a part of the real spirit of Christmas. Sundown in Sundre, Kids Magic of Christmas Sale and Bake Sale, the Community 4-H Food Drive, Hamper Donations, and the request for Secret Santa Shoppers are all wonderful reminders of some of the ways we can all get into the spirit of giving during the holiday season. There are so many opportunities to be part of the amazing community we call home at this time of the year.

Thank you to the Chamber of Commerce, Pioneer Museum, our Fire Department, the Elks, Greenwood Neighbourhood Place and all the volunteers who give up their time to bring us the spirit of giving.

Thank you to all the church groups and volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes gathering food and gifts to give a hand up to those in need.

Thank you to the Sundre and District Ministerial Association and our choir for their commitment of 65 years of giving the gift of song to all of us at the Sundre Community Carol Service.

Thank you to the Sundre Palliative Care Association for the Tree of Hope.

Thank you to all who recognize this time of year often brings the "first" Christmas without loved ones that have passed away and possibly the "last" Christmas for those family members or friends that are frail, elderly or ill.

Thank you to our incredible medical community for their selfless caring for all of us, particularly at this time of year, when we may not be at our best.

Thank you to all those remarkable care givers who attend to our seniors, again, particularly at this time of the year, when you may be the only family for some.

Thank you to all the teachers and staff at our schools who manage the excitement, as well as the fears of disappointment and rejection of children and families, through the Christmas season.

And, I know I have forgotten to mention many other individuals, groups and organizations who give to others, without expectation of recognition or thanks, because that is just what you do at this time of the year. Thank you to each and every one of you for your giving hearts and spirit.

For all the giving listed above, I am grateful to call Sundre my home. I am so proud of my community, the people who unselfishly give of their time, and the spirit that sets us apart from everywhere else.

Thank you, again, to each and every one of you who will give the gift of time this holiday. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year :) For a New Year's resolution, let us carry that giving spirit through 12 months of 2018.

Terry Leslie, Mayor  
Town of Sundre