



I hope everyone had a great Canada Day weekend. With the celebration in Burdett, the St. Michael's graduation and 4 weddings going on there was lots to see and do. Our campground was busy and I hear the park at Forty Mile dam was packed. The Burdett community put on another fun weekend including one of their terrific parades which I enjoyed taking part in thanks to Bow Island Emergency Services. Congratulations to the 7 St. Michael's grads and their families on their milestone weekend and best wishes in their future endeavors. Of course, all of our students are out of school now, but please remember that in Bow Island the school zones are also playground zones, so the 30 km speed limit is still in effect throughout the summer.

Now that July is here, Market in the Park on Wednesday evenings and the Friday Market at the Golden Age Centre are starting up again. These are great opportunities to visit with your friends and neighbours, enjoy some entertainment and support local entrepreneurs. More hot weather is on the way so it's a great time to look into passes for the swimming pool. Look under "*Recreation Facilities*" on bowisland.com for details.

The Town, with the assistance of the Economic Development Alliance, Entre-Corp and the Medicine Hat College, is conducting an environmental scan (we used to call these surveys) of the community. We are attempting to get a picture of what your needs and opinions are in terms of recreation, tourism and shopping. There is a separate survey for local businesses too. A summer student has been getting the survey out at various events and has been interviewing a cross section of the community. We hope to have the results to Council by the end of August. It is hoped there will be a meaningful response to the survey that will help Council formulate some policies and future plans around recreation, tourism and economic development. If you haven't already done the survey you may access it on the Town website by clicking on "*see all news*" under *Current News & Events* on the first page.

Dr. Cecilia Gordillo joined Drs. Woodruff, Tawfeeq and Dhanani at the clinic and hospital this past month. We are very fortunate to have 4 experienced and well qualified doctors serving Bow Island, Foremost and the County of Forty Mile. The 3 new physicians have endured a long bureaucratic process to get here but other than that the recruitment has been quite easy in that we have a great hospital and a very welcoming community. Please make Dr. Gordillo and her family welcome and continue to support our medical practitioners as they settle into their new lives here.

On a related note, there have been some operational changes made at the hospital and I won't be surprised if there are more. With any changes there are bound to be some hiccups and hopefully some of these procedures have been straightened out. Please remember though that in almost all cases these issues are not the fault of the staff who are only trying to do their jobs under the policies and rules given to them. There are a couple of ways you can provide AHS with feedback on concerns you may have. The Patient Relations Department and be reached at [1-855-550-2555](tel:1-855-550-2555) or you can submit your feedback online at: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/about/Page12832.aspx>.

I want to thank everyone who has stepped up to show support for our Town staff over the last few weeks. Your calls and letters have helped improve the morale among our outside and inside staff. Those in the community that think it is okay to approach our people while they are working (or outside of work) with general and *personal* criticisms should know that is not acceptable or at all helpful. I have seen staff members quit over this sort of behavior and as a result we have lost some good people over the years. It is the role of management and Council to deal with public concerns and that's where your comments should be directed. I can assure you though that name-calling, swearing and personal attacks won't be very effective in dealing with your concerns either. We aren't all perfect by a long shot, but I am not aware of anyone working for the Town of Bow Island who doesn't care about doing a good job for the community.

Mayor Gordon Reynolds