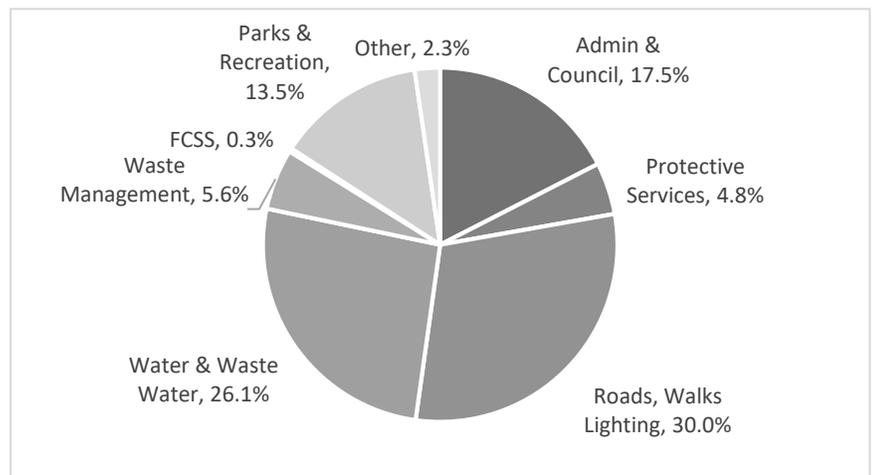




Congratulations to the Bow Island/Burdett Chamber of Commerce on organizing another successful Spring Tradeshaw. The number of vendors and attendees were down somewhat but there were some very interesting booths with great products and information. I know a lot of effort went into the organization and operation of the show by Chamber President Bernice DeLeenheer along with Alain Thiebaud, Kathy & Harv Nixdorf and Chris Pinchin. The Health Foundation looked after the door and were sponsored by Apple Drugs. Events like this don't happen without a lot of work and coordination and our community is fortunate to have volunteers that step up and organize them for the benefit of all of us. This includes events like the Children's Festival, Skate With Santa, the **Health Foundation Garage Sale (COMING MAY 13<sup>TH</sup>)**, the Farmers' Market, Market in the Park, the various golf tournaments and so on. Volunteerism is alive and well in Bow Island!

**May 7 to 13 is Emergency Preparedness Week** with the theme *Plan, Prepare, Be Aware*. There are lots of resources to help individuals and families to do just that, starting at [getprepared.gc.ca](http://getprepared.gc.ca). Download the Alberta Emergency Alert app to your iPhone or Android device and received up to date information on emergencies throughout the province. Follow @abemeralert on Facebook and Twitter for information during a crisis. Locally, the Town website, Facebook page and Twitter will be used to update residents in the event of an emergency. The siren on the water tower will be used to alert us in severe weather situations, especially tornadoes. The siren will be tested during Emergency Preparedness week, so please don't panic when you hear it.

The Town's auditor attended our last meeting for the annual review of the Town's financial statements. The statements show the financial position to be quite stable. Comparisons to similar size communities by the auditor, show Bow Island to be in the ballpark on many economic indicators. The chart on the right shows the breakdown of the cash expenses for 2016 that totaled \$3 million before amortization (depreciation). The percentages are quite similar to previous years. The statements should be up on the Town website before too long.



The focus of the Town's display at the Tradeshaw was on recycling, with examples of recyclable and non-recyclable materials. The Town is distributing a pamphlet listing these as well. My thanks to the staff and Councillors who manned the display and did their best to present the information to the visitors. They also conducted a quick survey on whether or not people are interested in a service to pick up recycling. Management and staff have had requests for a pickup service and are trying to determine what the costs would be and what interest there is. At present, this is not being considered as a mandatory service. Handling of municipal waste has become quite complicated and costly. As individuals, we *dispose* of our garbage but the municipality must *store* it and is responsible for it, pretty much forever. By **Reducing, Reusing & Recycling** we can all help lower those costs and make our landfill (aka garbage storage site) last much longer.

A company from Lethbridge, Ossa Terra, had the winning bid for developing new lots and storm water retention area in **Westview**. All of the nine bids came in below the engineer's estimate with this one being substantially below. All interested contractors went through a qualifying process that included having their references checked so we are hopeful that quality of work will be satisfactory and weather permitting, won't take too long.

I mentioned the **Health Foundation** Garage Sale above. This annual event raises money for the Foundation to put back into our hospital in the form of equipment and staff programs. If it weren't for the Health Foundations here and throughout the province our healthcare costs would be considerably higher than they already are!

I hear a few different groups are planning celebrations in the community for Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday. If you are organizing something please contact Darla at the Town Office to share your plans so we can coordinate with other groups and possibly assist.

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*Mayor Gordon Reynolds*