



The warmest of congratulations to Dr. Tawfeeq who took the Oath of Canadian Citizenship in a wonderful ceremony at the Medicine Hat courthouse on April 21st. Accompanied by a great contingent of Bow Island and Forty Mile residents, he joined 29 other happy people from 14 different countries in taking the oath. After arriving here on Canada Day this past summer Dr. Tawfeeq has served our community very well and made it his goal to become a Canadian citizen and to remain in Bow Island for as long as possible. Congratulations!!

It feels like spring has finally arrived and hopefully we have seen the last of all that snow. Summer work will begin soon by the Town staff in the parks and on the streets. Council is working on identifying various projects and will be finalizing this year's capital spending plan over the next month or so.

Once all the provincial numbers were in and the audit completed, Council approved the new operating budget last week. The overall residential assessment for this year is down (this is based on fall 2016 values) but we rolled a small surplus into the new budget and have been able to hold the mill rate for 2018 at the 2017 level. Some assessments have risen, and some have dropped but the average is down somewhat. Our staff worked very hard in 2017 to look for efficiencies and keep costs down in spite of another tough winter of snow accumulation and infrastructure challenges. The audited financial statement and the new budget will be up on the Town website quite soon.

There have been reports of people using drones in Town and such operators should be aware that Transport Canada regulations prohibit flying drones within 5.5 kilometers of the airport. This effectively means drones cannot be flown above the Town of Bow Island. Such incidents will be investigated by the RCMP and are subject to a \$3000 fine. Drones can be a lot of fun but could easily bring down an airplane which would be devastating, especially over the town. Our airport is entering its busy season plus a flight school from Medicine Hat will be operating here for about 6 weeks while the airport there is under repair. Please report drone sightings in town to the RCMP or the Town's Peace Officer.

A rash of vandalism a week ago Monday resulted in several Town assets and some private property being damaged. The culprit was apprehended quite quickly by the RCMP thanks to some security video so thank you to the detachment for being on this right away. I often hear that incidents of theft and vandalism go unreported. Please, don't be afraid to speak up and let the police know what's going on.

At the last Council meeting final reading was given to amendments to the Land-use Bylaw that allows the production and processing of Hemp and Marijuana as Class II discretionary uses in our industrial areas. As Class II discretionary use, any applications must be approved by the Municipal Planning Commission and will not be automatically approved. This amendment in no way allows retail sales of marijuana within the Town of Bow Island. Like every municipality in Alberta (and probably Canada) the Town will be addressing that issue separately. Municipalities have the power to regulate location of such operations, the hours of operation and in fact whether such businesses will even be allowed. Before such decisions are made we will be seeking public input and a will soon be working up a plan to gather that input.



2018 is a milestone year for an iconic Bow Island organization. Blues at the BOW is celebrating its 25th season operating out of the Bow Theatre on Main Street. Over that time countless visitors have come to our town to enjoy some really fantastic Canadian, American and European artists. The BOW and our town have left a mark on many of those musicians and the visitors who have come to know that Blues at the BOW is a quality venue and always a good time. I am proud to have been a volunteer myself and have tremendous respect for all those who have given their blood sweat and tears to keeping the Blues Alive at the BOW! There will some great shows this year so watch for the ads and go see why so many of those visitors keep coming back to Bow Island and the BOW.

Mayor Gordon Reynolds