



I am pleased to bring you an update on the efforts to **recruit doctors** to our community. Over the past 7 months we have had 5 different physicians come and tour the area as well as visit the hospital and clinic. One of them plainly didn't want to be in a small town and another chose a community closer to family and friends. The other 3 however **have all accepted offers from AHS to relocate to Bow Island** and practice family medicine in our community! They are all International Medical Graduates from various backgrounds with strong skills and experience in rural family medicine. Their varied experiences are quite interesting and they will bring great new perspectives with them. Each is excited to get here and be part of our community.

I remind you all though that as IMGs they are required to complete a three-month skills assessment under another physician elsewhere in the province. There has been quite a backlog in this process; too many new doctors and not enough mentors. We've put on as much pressure as possible (lots of whining and begging) and our first candidate has finally been given his posting which will begin February 27<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully the other two don't have to wait too much longer. It has been great to hear their impressions of the Town and area but really gratifying to witness the way everyone they encountered welcomed and treated them.

Many thanks to all of you who were part of this process. Thank-you to the staff at the clinic and hospital who all made an impression on our recruits. Special thanks to Dr. Woodruff for his invaluable role in bringing these new people to serve the people of Bow Island, Foremost and the County. I know we all appreciate the efforts of Dr. Woodruff and the various locums that have kept up the medical service over the last several months and who will continue to do so until the re-enforcements arrive!!

I know I frequently refer to our recycling program but it has become a growing enterprise of the Town operations and is a key to waste management in the area. The Town purchased the Recycling Centre from the Bow Island Lions Club in 2015 and began operating it as a municipal entity. The Lions have allowed the Town make this purchase over a five year, period. Since taking the facility over, our recycling manager has been working hard to access better markets for the materials received. We have also invested money in upgrading the facility and equipment to deal with the growing volume of materials coming in from the Town and County. It appears that the operation is gradually improving in profitability, and I am confident it will continue to improve as we develop our marketing options and increase efficiency.

With a tight budget this coming year Council has made a request of the **Lions** club to postpone a portion of one annual payment to the end of the original agreement. The Lions have graciously agreed to this, demonstrating once again their commitment to this project and to our Community. On behalf of Council I wish to thank the Bow Island Lions for their continued support. It is important to note that the Lions continue to reinvest this money back into the community, donating to projects, groups and local causes.

Service clubs play an important role in vital communities. Another one of our great volunteer organizations, the **Elks**, have just completed another successful fundraiser to invest in our local quality of life. Congratulations and thank you to all their hard-working members and everyone who supported them.

We don't have groundhogs here but I didn't see any gophers out today so no shadows either. Guess this means spring won't be too far away. In the meantime, we are expecting more snow and I know Town staff will continue to get the bulk of it removed from the main routes. The thaws we have had have left it pretty slick underneath and even with the sand and salt that's been laid down you would be wise to take it slow.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> Bonnie Campbell is retiring after 10 years with the Town. **Our** best wishes go out to Bonnie and thank you for your service. Glen better have something special planned for **this** Valentine's Day!

***Mayor Gordon Reynolds***