



Improvements continue to be made at the Town Recycling Center, the latest being a dock for loading trucks. Our thanks to Randy Garrecht over at CPS for getting the concrete blocks for us and to John Jenkins from Poly Core for using their big loader to place them. Staff have also laid some recycled asphalt on the boulevard in front of the building to help fill in the holes and make it a little safer. The Town will see how this stands up and if need be, find a more permanent solution. Volumes of recyclables continue to rise, which is very encouraging for the landfill and our bottom line. The Recycling Center now has a barrel in the yard, next to the e-waste cages, for collecting dry cell batteries (AA, AAA, etc). It is accessible during business hours, from 7:30 to 3:30 weekdays. A little tip from the Fire Dept.: if you save your old batteries for a while, put a piece of tape across the + end to prevent them shorting and causing a fire when stored together.

Council has received a cost estimate from our engineers regarding developing more lots in the Westview Subdivision and have now asked them to get the design work done so that the project can go to tender as soon as possible. This would open up another 11 full-sized lots and complete the storm water retention area that will be straight west of the water treatment plant. This will be designed to slow and control the outflow of water from the subdivision in the event of a major storm but still allow the use of the area as some sort of park. The design will also provide another route out of Westview, to the south. The intent is to have the project completed this year. Council and management are currently looking at funding options.

The results of the 2016 Federal Census have been released and from the Town's perspective are quite disappointing in that they are obviously inaccurate. Stats Canada claims we have had a 2% drop in population and there are nearly 50 unoccupied dwellings in Bow Island. Anybody who has tried to rent a place in the last few years knows that is not true and anyone can see the Town has grown. Some of our key grants are based on these population numbers so it is very important that we have the right information. To that end, the Town will be conducting a door to door census this spring to get this corrected. It won't be overly detailed or take a lot of your time so please cooperate when someone, with proper identification, shows up at your door.

Last week the councils from the County, the Village of Foremost and the Town of Bow Island held a joint session down in Foremost, as we do a couple of times a year, to discuss issues of mutual concern. We had a presentation from Municipal Affairs regarding the requirements coming in the new Municipal Government Act for municipalities to formally create a collaborative framework and coordinate development plans with their neighbours. Part of this is about sharing of services and resources but only if it makes sense for all parties. The great thing about these new rules, that have been about 6 years in the making, is that we can develop plans and agreements that work for us and the government doesn't get involved unless an agreement can't be reached. I am confident that we won't have any serious issues that we can't resolve because we have good relationships with both of the other Councils, unlike some places where they don't even talk to each other.

When you hear that Federal money has been allocated for municipal infrastructure under the Building Canada Fund, don't expect any of it to reach Bow Island. The fund is to disperse \$942 million to the Alberta Government over the next 10 years and so far, \$148 million has been split by the Wood Buffalo airport and the Edmonton LRT. Another \$94 million went to 53 of the 300 communities who applied under the so-called Small Communities portion. (Bow Island was one of the 300 but not the 53). Last May, Minister Mason stated in the house that \$300 of the remaining \$700 million would go to municipalities but recently reneged on that promise, directing the entire amount to provincially owned infrastructure and to the provincial deficit. Building Canada was to help us rebuild our infrastructure, not to pay down the provincial credit card.

Mayor Gordon Reynolds