



The election on October 16th featured the largest group of candidates Bow Island has ever had. We are fortunate to have had so many people willing to step up and serve our community. Six of those candidates were not successful but they are to be commended for putting their names forward. Three of our incumbent Council members, were among those not elected which is undoubtedly disappointing for them, but I hope they are all proud of their service to our Town. Nan Maclean had 10 years on Council, Marj Moncrieff 7 and Kevin Davis 4. Three individuals of different backgrounds, with a common goal of seeing Bow Island become a better place to live. This sort of commitment is what **community** is all about. Many thanks to them for their contributions and best wishes for the future.

The new Council starts work on the 2nd by taking training along with several neighbouring councils. This course will provide the rookies and veterans with an understanding of how municipal government works and what our roles and responsibilities are. This is especially important now, with the updates that have **finally** been made to the Municipal Government Act.

We all recognize that volunteers are crucial in a strong, dynamic community. We know that in little ways and big ways volunteers can make a significant difference to the lives of other individuals and the community as a whole. That is very true when considering the commitment and efforts of our Emergency Services people. This summer and fall they have put in a phenomenal number of hours fighting grass fires, and attending accidents. During the snow storm a few weeks ago they manned the road blocks, in the cold, on the highway for hours. Some of them took part in the rescue of a stranded motorist south of Medicine Hat. When the AHS ambulance personnel are off duty some of these capable volunteers step in to very professionally take care of us. They put in countless hours of training to be prepared to do the best job possible, as safe as possible. When we hear those sirens and see the flashing lights race out of town we all wonder what has happened and we just expect that those volunteers will all come back safely. A few weeks ago that was sadly not the case for a volunteer of the Walsh fire brigade. The tragic death of James Hargrave serves as reminder to all of us that there are risks in what this group of volunteers does in serving our community. They train and practice seriously to reduce those risks and they look out for each other when they're on the job. They deserve our thanks and support but let's say a little prayer when we see and hear those lights and sirens.

Our firefighters were in action on Election day out at the Landfill when strong winds sparked a fire in the wood pit, which had not been burnt for a week. The fire spread to the grass in the coulee to the east and worked its way back up into the yard behind the shop. The building was seriously damaged as was the crawler tractor inside. The Landfill Board is waiting for inspections by the insurance company to decide what to do with the building and equipment. The Board is currently installing a scale at the Landfill to weigh all loads coming in and the recyclables going out. They are required by the government to know how much product is being received and up until now it is only been an estimate. Contractors are charged for bringing material to the Landfill but now it will be based on an actual weight rather than an estimate. At this time there is no plan to charge ratepayers for bringing household waste; that is covered under the tax requisition to the Town and County.

I have been asked to once again remind residents to be mindful of what you are putting in the sewer system. Public Works staff are frequently finding the pumps at some of the lift stations plugged due to materials such as rags, towels and disposable wipes. Some brands of wipes call them "flushable" but as every municipality in North America is finding, they are causing huge problems in the sewer systems because they do not break down enough to pass through the screens and pumps. The so-called premium brands of toilet paper can be problematic if you have a worn sewer line on your property or not lots of outflow. These products also don't break down quickly and if there is any restriction in your line or not adequate flow you may have backups.

Saturday November 11th is, of course, Remembrance Day. The service at the Legion begins at 10 am. Thank you to the Legion volunteers who organize and run this important ceremony.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

*We will remember them. from **For the Fallen** by R.L. Binyon*

Mayor Gordon Reynolds

