



Please forgive me but this month's Notes begin with some personal reflections. As many know my wife and partner of 30 years, Cindy Reynolds, passed away recently after many years of ill health. Cindy faced her health struggles with courage, strength, and determination, all the while maintaining her grace and compassion for others. This was her hometown and she cared deeply about our community and was proud to have been part of the Town staff 15 years ago. It was Cindy who encouraged me to return to Town Council in 2004 and to run again in all the subsequent elections. She shared my belief that the kind of community that we live in is what we make of it. Even though Cindy wasn't able to be active in the last several years she provided me with lots of encouragement and support to keep working with our team to move the Town ahead. Cindy believed, as I do, that in a strong community people work together to make things better and support each other in times of need. That belief has proven to be well-founded these past 12 days as our family has received so many condolences and offers of help along with real love and admiration for Cindy. We are all so grateful for the many kindnesses and encouragement on social media, by phone calls and in-person, especially last Saturday. Of course there has been the food! Thank you to everyone who sent or brought food here or to her mother Beverly's house.

I want to add special thanks to the people who show up when you are having the worst of days: the EMS team, Firefighters, HALO and the RCMP. Their professionalism and caring efforts were impressive and very appreciated. Over the years Cindy was well cared for by doctors and nurses in many places but especially here in Bow Island. We both have had so much gratitude for our local Healthcare professionals, including the RNs, LPNs and support staff who always treated her with kindness and respect. She was blessed to have been cared for by dedicated doctors and specialists, notably people like Dr. Edwards, Dr. Woodruff, Dr. Gordillo, Dr. Dhanani and Dr. Tawfeeq. Finally, thank you to Chelsea Geldreich for the regular visits and care that meant so much to both of us. I also want to offer condolences to the families of Lisa Braat, Ben Reimer and Dave Jones; 3 individuals who, like Cindy had prolonged health challenges and are no longer suffering.

***This may be a small community, but it is one with a big caring heart. Bless and thank you all!***

The big news this past month has been the sudden departure of two of our doctors leaving behind patients needing care as well impacting the operation of the hospital. There seems to be lots of rumours about why they left and I can tell you that at this point we don't know the whole story, but I do that most of the stories are not true. Of course people feel the need to know but for now all that matters is we are shorthanded. We all owe Dr. Tawfeeq a big thank you for stepping up and taking responsibility for the Long-term and Alfred Egan residents as well as providing coverage for 2 acute care beds. He is seeing his patients in the clinic Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday then is covering emergency on Thursday and Friday. Friday evening a locum comes on duty until Monday morning, allowing the Emergency to be open 4 days a week. Be assured, these are temporary measures intended to keep the whole hospital open and functioning. Obviously, we will have to rely more on EMS at times and we know those dedicated folks will provided the best service possible. CAO Matz and I have been meeting regularly with AHS officials who are working diligently to fill the 4 vacant physician positions here temporarily and permanently. There won't be a quick permanent fix for this situation, but I can assure you the municipalities and the health officials are doing their best to bring new physicians here and more importantly keep them in the community. In the meantime, we all must try to be patient and remember this is not the fault of the staff who are also affected by what has happened. If you see Dr. Tawfeeq thank him for stepping up once again for the community and urge him to take care of himself.

***Mayor Gordon Reynolds***

