

At the last Council meeting we received a regular report from the Town's Development Officer, listing the value of **development permits** issued this year for both commercial and residential projects. For several years annual totals have ranged between \$3-4million. In 2024 the total reached \$15million and this year, so far, we are well over **\$20million**. With new residential lots coming online and possibly more commercial land development, 2026 should be another year of growth for Bow Island.

The Planning Commission recently approved the development of two 12-unit apartment buildings in the Parkview subdivision. The first will be built during 2026 and the second, the following year. This project marks the final sale of all the lots in Parkview and provides a variety of types of housing in this subdivision. Many of the new living spaces will be rental properties and others are available for sale.

An upgrade to 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue will begin in the coming year, to deal with drainage and to build the base of the road so that it can be paved once much of the Parkview construction activity nears completion. Administration will be bringing the budget for this and other projects to Council fairly soon. Our Public Works team had a lot on their plate this year installing the services for Parkview, building a new playground, road work and all the regular maintenance and upkeep of the Town. Hopefully we can take some pressure off them this coming year and trim their workload a little bit. Having a private developer do all the work on Northview Acres has helped.

The Board of the **Primary Care Medical Clinic** is working on transitioning management to the clinic corporation. Policies and other planning is being worked on, including the very important recruitment strategy. The clinic will require some equipment upgrades, and the recruitment campaign will require some funding, which will come from Provincial and Municipal grants. I have had inquiries about donations to help support some of those things. Donations can be made to the Town of Bow Island, and a tax receipt will be issued. Dr. Tawfeeq and Dr. Edwards have teamed up to provide patient care at the clinic and hospital with the support of locums and other healthcare staff. Our thanks to Dr. Edwards for coming out of retirement and battling through so much red tape to get his license re-started. Dr. Tawfeeq was carrying a big load on his own for some time, which we are eternally grateful for. He has been in the hearts of so many of us with the sudden passing of his brother in Iraq.

As previously reported, the Town has taken ownership of the **Harry Strom Provincial building**. We are pleased to have Home Care, Community Health and Western Falcon Energy (Polycore) remain as tenants. After doing some painting and a few other minor changes, our administrative staff and Council will move operations over there, but no timeline has been established yet.

December is always a busy month in our community, with a number of events and charitable works happening. The annual **Community Carol Festival** is at St. Michael's Church Dec 7, beginning at 2pm. That will be followed by **the Holiday of Lights Parade** at 5pm. The parade ends at the park across from PVL with the lighting of the tree and will be followed by family activities and fireworks at the Multiplex at 6. There is a **Christmas Supper at the Golden Age Club** on the 11<sup>th</sup> and tickets must be purchased in advance by the 6<sup>th</sup>. On the 14<sup>th</sup> there is **free skating** at the Arena after a presentation by the **Bow Island Skating Club** that starts at 1 pm. Pictures with **Santa** are at 2:45!

The **Food Bank** can always use cash donations, especially at this time of year and could really use some donated, inspected beef. If you can help, please **call 403-957-1075**. Light a bulb in memory of a loved one with a donation to the **Health Foundation Trees of Hope** campaign. **Call 403-545-3200 extension 3100**. **FCSS** is once again doing **Christmas Hampers** for people in need. They have been working on these for a while, but I am sure they would still appreciate cash donations that can be made at the Town office.

I am grateful to live in a vibrant, active community, where people care and look out for each other and work to make life better. All of us at the Town wish all of you a **very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year!**



*Mayor Gordon Reynolds*

