



Mayor's Notes January 2026



Happy New Year Bow Island! We have had another successful year of growth, development and infrastructure upgrades and I anticipate there will be more of the same in 2026. Community events organized by various groups and the Town were definitely a highlight and I know there will be lots of activity this coming year as well. Thank you to everyone who works so hard to make all of this happen.

When asked why Bow Island is having this resurgence and success, my answer is always: “the people”. People who are recognizing the opportunities to make a living here and raise their families in safety. Entrepreneurial people who are willing to invest their time and money in a variety of businesses. People who appreciate the small-town life and understand they must step up and participate to make the most of life here. People who understand the meaning of community and know what it takes to build one. People who care. We are blessed to have people working for the Town who care and want to build up our community. They do their best every day to make Bow Island better. Of course, they can't do it all so we are so fortunate to have folks who volunteer their time and talents to a variety of activities and causes that significantly enhances life in our community. Keep in mind that the Bow Island community is not just within our boundaries and not just made up of Town residents and taxpayers. The County residents who reside and work around Bow Island are just as much Bow Islanders as the rest of us and they contribute greatly to our community.

In 2026 we will see continued building in Parkview and in the Northview subdivision, north of first avenue. The Town hopes to announce another new subdivision on the west side hopefully there might finally be some progress on the new care home. We will see more infrastructure replacement too. A significant project for the Town will be the update of our **Municipal Development Plan (MDP)** over the next several months. The Bylaw for the new MDP has been given first reading and it will now be reviewed by Council, staff and the public. The Municipal Development Plan is the Town's long-term blueprint for growth and development over the next 10–20 years. It sets policies for land use, housing, infrastructure, economic development, recreation, and environmental stewardship. Community input is very important in creating this plan so public consultations will be held in the coming weeks before the Bylaw receives final reading. Watch for notices of those events.

Alberta Transportation has still not called for planning proposals from consulting engineers for the Bow Island section of Highway 3 but there is some speculation that it will happen this year. Once a firm is in place, consultations with the Town and public will take place. Currently detailed planning is underway and near competition for the Medicine Hat to Whitla section which *might* mean work could begin next year after Taber to Burdett is complete. Of course, all future projects like this will depend on what's in the government coffers and \$44 oil doesn't build many kilometres of road.

There's been more reports of vehicles being broken into and other property crime in the community. We must all be careful to ensure vehicles are locked, and have no valuables left in them. Outside house and yard lights can serve as a deterrent especially in the darker parts of Town. Calls to the RCMP non-emergency line: **310-RCMP** go right to a dispatcher 24/7 who is able to send help during or after an incident. If you feel threatened, by all means call 911. Yes, there might be a chance no one will be nearby, but they will come as soon as possible but can only investigate **IF they are notified**. Catching and convicting these culprits depends on gathering evidence which requires the public's help and cooperation. Don't let these guys win!

I am very sorry to hear of the passing of a former valued member of our community and our Town team, Mrs. Shirley Wilson. Shirley was a dedicated volunteer and a great employee. My condolences to her family.

I wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous 2026!

Mayor Gordon Reynolds