

## **Mayor's Notes** November 2024





**Remembrance Day** ceremonies will take place at the Legion Hall Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10 am. Come honour and remember those who have served for our country over the past 110 years. If you are unable to attend, pause at 11 am for 2 minutes and reflect on the sacrifices of young, ordinary Canadians who answered the call to duty.

It is a pleasure to welcome the *Modest Boutique* to the Bow Island business community. Lisa and Aggie have opened their store at the corner of Centre and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, offering lovely handmade fashions and are available to do alterations. Best wishes to you ladies and thank you for investing in Bow Island!

The water and sewer mains have been completed in **Parkview** and grading is pretty much complete. The surveyors will have the property pins in right away. Next will be the curb and gutters as well as the gas and power. Six of the seven single family housing lots have been sold and three of the seven higher density lots have also sold with deals pending on two more. If the weather cooperates, we could see some construction this fall. The Town must now consider where the next subdivision will be located. Bow Island is receiving lots of attention in the region for how quickly we are moving to solve our housing shortage. We are really pleased to have some good local builders and would like to see some experienced developers or property managers get involved too. Last week the leader of the Federal Opposition announced his idea to eliminate the GST on new home builds which could certainly help reduce housing costs. At the same time, however, he said he would eliminate programs such as the CMHC Housing Accelerator Fund, which awarded the Town \$1.5 million earlier this year with pretty much no strings attached. This funding allowed the Town to get moving on this important new subdivision, installing infrastructure and offering tax incentives. Without it we would have had to reduce the scope of the project and borrow money to move ahead, which would add cost to builders and ratepayers. Putting politics aside, I would like Federal and Provincial politicians to understand the significant positive impact a program like this can have in a small community like ours, especially where the town or village has to be the developer. Cut the big cities who have more development options but protect the small communities.

Council has approved a \$130,000 addition to the budget for design and engineering work on more lots in the Airport Industrial Park. This will be funded by reserves. Some paving has been done around town, including the walking path in the new park, but there is still more to be done before winter sets in.

The Giving Tree Campaign is underway as we approach the Christmas season. If you or someone you know needs support, pick up a confidential application at the FCSS office, or scan this QR code. Anyone can support the Giving Tree by contacting the FCSS office at 403-545-2200. They can provide you with a list of needs for an individual or family and help you bring joy and comfort to those in need. Cash donations are also welcome and are tax deductible. At this time of year, there is often extra pressure on the Food Bank. Cash donations can be made by e-transfer to 40milefoodbank@gmail.com or by visiting the FCSS or CRC offices.

Mark December 8<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for the **Parade of Lights** followed by the tree lighting across from Pleasant View Lodge. Start planning now how you will decorate your vehicle or just come out and enjoy the fun.

This is the second year for the **Bow Island Fire Academy** through the Prairie Rose School Division. The training is being provided by volunteer members of our Fire Department. Students have an opportunity to learn basic firefighting skills and achieve their level one and two certifications, although they must be 18 to be fully certified. This commitment by our members is admirable but not surprising considering the amount of time they put in on their own training every week. These 23 people continue to work hard to keep themselves and us safe.

Congratulations to our Recreation coordinator Kaylee as she and Devon celebrate their marriage next week in Mexico. Kaylee brings a lot of good energy to her role on the Town Team, and I wish them all the best.

A reminder once again of the RCMP Complaint Line number: 403-545-2100.

At the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, please pause to remember...... Lest We Forget