

## **Background Notes from the Mayor's Desk – October 2017**

Congratulations to our Economic Development Officer, Jon Allan, for the nomination of his creation, the "#ExploreSundre" marketing campaign, as a finalist for the 2017 Marketing Excellence (budget over \$50,000) Alto Award. As a finalist, this campaign will be published on the "Industry.TravelAlberta.com" website, as well as printed in the next edition of "Connections", a Travel Alberta publication.

Council has given Jon direction to "put Sundre on the map" and capitalize on the tourist market that is looking for an Alberta "staycation", and Jon has done a remarkable job of making people aware of opportunities in our community. Council gave some money to this project and Jon leveraged that money to access grants to make the campaign much bigger than we could have hoped. Our tourism numbers are at an all-time high for visits to the Visitor Information Centre, and that interest translates to money spent in our local businesses, and people looking to move to this incredible part of Alberta we call home. Well Done Jon :) The winner will be announced October 23, 2017 and we will certainly let you know the results.

### **What is happening with Broadband?**

Council tabled the discussion about considering Broadband options, until after the election. We all agree there is a need to pause, and to have the new "fresh eyes" of our incoming Council review Broadband options. Council feels we have received new information that may affect our choice of possible options. We want to give our staff a chance to answer some of our new questions, and yours, and Council believes we need to have another round of public meetings to present new information, and hear from you about your preferences.

### **What is the position of Town Council with regard to proposed gravel pits in the McDougal Flats area?**

Mountain View County will be considering redesignation of some of those lands at a public hearing October 11th and Sundre Town Council has directed Administration to prepare a letter outlining concerns expressed to us by residents, as well as questions and concerns raised by Councillors on your behalf. The public is welcome to attend this meeting at 9:00 AM Wednesday, October 11 at the Mountain View County office.

### **What is the latest on the Highway 27 "roundabout" project?**

I got the chance to speak to our Alberta Transportation partner yesterday (September 27th) and there have been some "across border (US) supply issue" problems that Town administration and staff, as well as Alberta Transportation staff, have been working together to try and sort out. The "raised material" that forms the actual roundabouts comes from the US and there have been some delays due to the spat of hurricanes down south. We are still hoping the weather stays as nice as it has been and the plan is to complete the project this fall. I remind everyone that this is a "pilot demonstration project" that will be studied for a year through all seasons, then evaluated, with your help, to decide if it will be permanent.

### **What's happening with Centre Street North's reconstruction?**

The Centre Street North project is on time and on budget, and scheduled to be completed this construction season. Thank you so much to everyone who has been inconvenienced by this very important project. There have been 13 poplar trees removed along the east boulevard. These trees will be replaced. The landscaping design called for their removal and they are a variety that is hard on people with allergies. They have really been hard hit by high winds and freezing rain storms. They rot from the inside out and there are safety concerns about them in the future.

As always, please call me (403-559-7352) to talk about any of these items, or any others - and be sure to get out and vote October 16th from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM at the Town Office. Check [www.sundre.com/elections](http://www.sundre.com/elections) for information on advance polling dates and locations.

Terry Leslie, Mayor  
Town of Sundre