



## Town of Dundurn Mayor's Report - Year in Review

On behalf of the Dundurn Town Council and Town Employees I would like to thank all the residents and land owners for their support in the past year. I wish you happy holidays and prosperity in 2017.

As mayor and town council, it is our duty to provide amenities and services in the most economical way possible. This has been a challenge because the town has experienced very little growth over the past twenty years, yet operating costs and utilities have continued to increase resulting in consistent tax increases. For the past two years, we have managed to hold any further increases and wish to continue on that path in 2017 if possible.

Recent improvements such as the tie in to Sask Water pipeline, a shared new lagoon, and our successful negotiation with the Dept. of Highways and Infrastructure have allowed the town to be prepared for growth. This began in the fall of 2015 with the startup of the Sunshine Meadows Development. This new development consists of 300 home sites, 14 acres of commercial land, land for a possible new Fire Hall, 5 acres for a Recreation Centre, and 6 acres for a High School if the school board approves. We would like to relocate the Fire Hall to this highway site because most of the fire department's responses are highway related. The new community when complete will feature a manmade lake, rubberized walk paths, 300 newly planted trees and a park like setting complete with a playground. Recently the developer has agreed to meet with the town to negotiate a fenced community garden complete with irrigation or a fenced off-leash dog park. At the current lake in Phase 1 of the project, the developer has also offered to build a shack on the lake for people who want to skate on it and we are currently reviewing the regulations for this.

Town Council's views are that to develop a new Recreation Centre, Fire Hall and other expensive amenities it would be advantageous to join with our surrounding community partners. Some of these potential partners have created the Blackstrap Regional Planning Group which we declined to join as the group does not have approval by the Ministry of Community Planning. The town is already an active member of the approved Waterwolf District Planning Commission, through which we receive support and resources to assist us in our plans for growth. Many other unanswered questions existed regarding joining the Blackstrap Regional Planning Group. Joining such an entity could have put us in a minority voting position which could then deny opportunities that favor you, the town tax payer.

We recently became aware of correspondence from this group sent to various entities asking for support of a resolution for a Recreation Centre at Strehlow Road, which is in the North section of the R.M. of Dundurn. Our name was included in that resolution without any consultation with us. I would like to go on record as saying that the Town has never supported or approved this. Many other names such as Whitecap Dakota First Nations, Department of National Defence, Resort Villages of Shields and Thode were also named as supporters of a complex at that location – I cannot confirm if any of these parties named support this in writing. More than a demographic study by the RM must be considered as their plan for a twin rink (hockey, lacrosse, and other indoor sports), a business centre providing space for municipal government offices, local businesses and an auditorium to support large group meetings and community events in the RM would cost \$20 plus million dollars. Hardly seems worth the price tag when serviced land in the town is already available at no cost.

Our growth plan along with the Recreation Centre feasibility report is being finalized. For \$6 - \$7 million including all infrastructure, we can have a Recreation Centre built that will have 10,000 sq. ft. of open space that can be utilized for many different needs, along with a regulation size hockey rink. Phase 2 of the new development is approved and will break ground in the new year, we look forward to working hard to attract new commercial business' and we are confident our aggressive tax rebate program will be very attractive to new business.

In sound regional planning, growth must start from within the circle and move outwards, not vice versa. Dundurn has been hamstrung for many years. This past year we have overcome many hurdles, and we are moving forward and open for business. We are more than willing to consider common sense regional issues with all our neighbors. Thank-You.

Have a great 2017  
Per Vinding, Mayor