

MAYOR'S REPORT - NOVEMBER, 2021



The past year has been dominated by the Covid 19 pandemic and the mass vaccination program. I would like to first thank all those at Island Health who organized, and administered the vaccination program and who continue to do so.

Also, a huge thank you to all the citizens who can and did get their first and second doses. Although the vaccination did not wipe out the virus, officials report that those who are double vaccinated are far less likely to suffer from serious complications if they come down with Covid-19 or variants of it. At this point, the virus is still spreading and work continues on administering third doses and the roll out of the vaccination for younger children.

It is due to the current success of the vaccinations that life has for the most part resumed to somewhat normal or a new normal when it comes to the workplace, events and gatherings. Slowly community events are coming back and we are able to gather again. This is something I know I have missed the most through the pandemic. It is important for a community to be able to gather and celebrate together from time to time to share conversations. Whether it be an art show, a hockey game, a craft fair or occasions like Remembrance Day, these are the things that bind a community together. Social media can never replace real human interaction.

The month of November has been an interesting month when it comes to weather. Temperatures have been moderate and we have had our share of wet weather. We are hearing more often weather terms like "Weather Bomb and Atmospheric River" describing extreme weather events. It is becoming harder to ignore the fact that climate change exists. I believe we are going to see many more aggressive initiatives from other levels of government hoping to help curb the effects of climate change into the future, which local government will be obliged to follow through on. My thoughts go out to all those in the area and around the province who suffered hardships due to flooding. Once again I marvel how people rally together to help one another on every level when disaster strikes. The popular term for the outcomes of this cooperation is resiliency.

As we move into the December holiday season, I look forward to once again witnessing the spirit of giving continue. Whether it be shopping and eating locally, helping a community member in need or giving time or money to a cause. These are all ways we can support each other and ensure that we remain resilient.

Thank you to council, staff, community volunteers and residents for everything you do keeping our community safe, open for business and caring.

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"Building Community Together"