

# Nick Duivenvoorden stepping down as mayor to run for Liberal leadership

After more than seven years at the helm of the Village of Belledune, Nick Duivenvoorden is stepping down as mayor.

Last month, Mayor Duivenvoorden said he would resign at the end of the year to pursue the leadership of the

New Brunswick Liberal Party at its convention in October.

"I certainly bring some diversity to the race because I'm a non-traditional candidate," said Mr. Duivenvoorden. "I like to speak in a casual manner and I'm a guy who likes to roll up his sleeves and

get things done.

"Things, especially fiscally, have to be done differently because we're heading in the wrong direction and moving there

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## The Belledune Messenger

*The voice of the Village of Belledune*

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A Chaleur Sawmills owner says the credit for the mill surviving one of the longest slumps in the U.S. housing market goes to the company's workers.

# Chaleur Sawmills

*Running at 100 per cent capacity in a tough market*

Massive, powerful machines are scooping logs out of the water, into debarkers and along tracks where they are quickly sawed into lumber. The air is heavy with the moisture from the wood.

It's very noisy. Guy St. Amand, Chaleur Sawmills' mill production director, is wearing protective earmuffs. I'm wearing earplugs. Although we're only a foot apart, I barely hear him above the din.

This is the sound of a company fighting for survival in a market hard hit by the decline in construction of homes in the U.S. Already, many mills have shut down. Chaleur Sawmills, though,

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# CREDIT UNION \$

## Update

On September 21, 2011 a committee was formed to investigate the potential to establish a credit union in our area. Committee members have been busy meeting with various credit union officials and managers. Through this consultation process, it became obvious that a credit union in this area would need several hundred committed members.

We cannot organize a credit union without adequate membership. If you want a local credit union and are interested in becoming a member of this credit union you should complete the attached expression of interest. If we get enough interest, we will proceed to the next step to form an official credit union through the sale of memberships.

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## **YES! I am interested in joining a local Credit Union**

Please complete the following brief expression of interest. You can return mail it to:

**Belledune Economic Development Office  
112 Shannon Drive, Unit 5  
Belledune, NB  
E8G 2W2**

Or deliver it to the municipal office at: 2330 Main Street, Belledune.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# Charity bonspiel will be Jan. 21

Belledune's curlers are planning a second annual charity bonspiel.

Last year, local curlers raised more than \$1,000 and donated the profits to Yvette LaPointe to help cover some of the costs of a surgery to treat multiple sclerosis. This year, the bonspiel will be held at the local arena Jan. 21 with a pub night at the recreation centre after the curling.

Teams of four to eight can register for the curling tournament with a minimum \$30 donation per team. During the day, the arena will be licensed and selling coffee and Bailey's or hot chocolate and Bailey's or a selection of cocktails and beer, as well as non-alcoholic beverages. The

curling tournament will hold a Closest to the Button 50/50, and every team will have the opportunity to play multiple games.

The door to the Belledune Recreation Center will open at 7 p.m. with live entertainment starting at 8:30. The bar will be open for drinks and wings will be served at 50 cents a wing until they run out. The cover charge for the pub night, which is open to all, is \$ 5. The registration fee for curling includes this cost.

All interested teams should contact organizer Sandenn Killoran at sandenn87@me.com or 520-9722 by Jan. 19.



## Mea Culpa!

The Village of Belledune had neither taken possession of the former Belledune School by the end of 2011 nor sold it to a private company for a senior's housing project. Incorrect information appeared in the December issue of The Belledune Messenger.

## Birthday Corner

Happy Birthday, Rachel! James Risdon, publisher of The Belledune Messenger, wishes his daughter, Rachel Risdon, a very happy 19th birthday on Jan. 4.

To get your loved one's b-day in The Belledune Messenger, e-mail [acimediagroup@nb.aibn.com](mailto:acimediagroup@nb.aibn.com).



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# Belledune tax rate rises by five cents

The Village of Belledune's municipal tax rate is nudging up and will mean an extra \$50 on the tax bills of homeowners with properties assessed at \$100,000.

"The tax rate increase for 2012 is five cents [per \$100 of property evaluation] over 2011 and the utility rate remains at \$600 per year for residential water and sewer," said Brenda Cormier, the Village of Belledune's clerk-treasurer.

In the municipality's 2012 general operating budget, the fringe rate, which includes residences and non-industrial business, is set at .9513 and the central rate, which applies in Belledune's heavy industrial zone, is 1.1784.

In 2010, the Village of Belledune kept the lid on taxes, making it the second-lowest taxed municipality in New Brunswick. Only the parish of Grand Manan had a lower tax rate in 2010.

Then, last year, the Village of Belledune increased its tax rate by 1 cent per \$100 of property evaluation, to .9013.

In its budget for the coming year, the Village of Belledune is expecting to spend just a touch over \$4.7 million. The lion's share of that is going to fiscal services, at almost \$1.15 million, transportation at just over \$826,000, protective services at about \$825,500 and general government expenses at roughly \$795,500. The recreation budget is set at \$400,000, environmental development at almost \$522,000 and environmental health at \$181,000. Public health and welfare has been allotted \$2,000.

The money to pay for all of this is expected to come from several sources. Non-tax revenues are expected to cover a little more than \$375,000, an unconditional grant from the province another roughly \$41,000 and tax revenues the remaining almost \$4.3 million.

As in previous years, industry is expected to shoulder the bulk of those taxes, with more than \$3.7 million to be raised through the central tax rate of 1.1784 which applies to industry. Residents and non-industrial businesses are expected to pay slightly more than \$576,000 based on the fringe tax rate of .9513.

## Belledune EMO Emergency Preparedness Tips

*Prepare for winter storms and stay safe!*

1. To prevent ice dams on your roof, keep attic well ventilated and its floor well insulated.
2. Seal cracks, holes and entry points for cable, phone lines, etc.
3. Insulate exposed pipes.
4. Trim trees and shrubs to remove weak branches that could damage your house or power lines.
5. Shut off outside taps.
6. Ensure your vehicle has salt or sand and a shovel.
7. Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to arrive.

## Messenger Classifieds

### Relay for Life Meeting

The next meeting for the 2012 Relay for Life will be held at St. Gabriel's Parish Hall in Belledune on Jan. 12 at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. There are a few committee positions to be filled. You can register your team then or put a team together and join us at our next meeting. The date and time of the February meeting of the Relay for Life will be announced in that month's issue of The Belledune Messenger. Have a healthy 2012 and please join us in this Relay for Life!

### Sleigh Rides

Sunnyside Farms is once again hosting horse-drawn sleigh rides this winter season. Enjoy the pristine silence of winter while hearing only the sound of jingle bells while the sleigh is pulled by our Belgian draft horses through our farm's snow-covered forested trails. Warm up at our cozy bonfire and enjoy a cup of hot chocolate or apple cider after your ride.

Evening and day time rides are available. Please call 237-2523 for your reservation and group rates.

## The Village of



is seeking the services of an individual to serve as:

## Emergency Measures Co-ordinator

All interested persons are requested to submit their resumes to:

**Village of Belledune  
P.O. Box 1006  
Belledune, N.B.  
E8G 2X9**

Fax to 522-3704 or e-mail bell002@nbnet.nb.ca, or drop off at 2330 Main Street **No later than Jan. 13, 2012.**

### Qualifications:

Persons with background experience in emergency training such as fire, police or ambulance as well as administrative services are being sought.

Compensation for services is available for this voluntary position.

Village residency is a pre-requisite.



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Continued from Page 1

## Duivenvoorden: North needs better connections

at the speed of light," he said.

During the first nine months of 2012, Mr. Duivenvoorden will be spending time in communities throughout the province, listening to people's concerns and introducing himself to voters.

He says the North needs better connections with other parts of the province. Fiscal responsibility, job creation, population growth and environmental sensitivity are the key planks in his platform. During his absence from his farm, Shore View Holsteins, his son, Derek Guitard, will take care of operations.

At his last public council meeting in December, the outgoing mayor expressed his thanks to the residents of Belledune.

"It's been an intense privilege for me to occupy this chair for the past 7.5 years," he said.



Chaleur Sawmills' Alain Poitras, of Belledune, operates a stacker in the mill.

Continued from Page 1

## Sawmill has increased production

is holding its own due to a combination of cutting costs and innovation. In three years, the company founded in 1993 by Norbert, Jim, and Raymond Maltais and Dwayne Wood, has managed to increase its production by 17.5 per cent, add a night shift and continue to provide jobs for its 325-strong workforce despite a 39 per cent drop in wood prices and a five-year drop in U.S. housing starts.

"The market isn't there," says

Mr. St. Amand. "You can put a lot of wood out there and it lowers the price. We're waiting for housing starts in the U.S. to pick up. There should be better days in the future."

Until then, he says the industry will remain in survival mode.

"It's about survival in the industry. Who will be left?" says the mill's director of production. "We're doing okay. We haven't felt it yet."

## Belledune Community Resources

*The Belledune Messenger is pleased to provide the following list of important community resources. Should there be others you would like to see added, please e-mail: [acimediagroup@nb.aibn.com](mailto:acimediagroup@nb.aibn.com)*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Belledune District Planning Commission</b>  | <b>542-2688</b>   |
| <b>Belledune Public Library</b>  | <b>522-3701</b>   |
| <b>Emergency</b>   | <b>911</b>  |
| <b>Environment New Brunswick Emergencies</b>   | <b>547-2092</b><br><b>1-800-565-1633, afterhours</b>              |
| <b>MLA Roland Haché - Nigadoo Chaleur Riding</b>   | <b>542-2424, during business hours</b>                            |
| <b>MP Tilly O'Neill-Gordon - Miramichi Riding</b>  | <b>1-800-567-5564</b><br><b>237-2333</b>                          |
| <b>NB Power - Outages - Streetlights</b>   | <b>1-800-663-6272</b>   |
| <b>RCMP</b>  | <b>911 For emergencies</b><br><b>1-888-506-7267 Non-emergency</b> |
| <b>Blue Bin Recycling Program</b>  | <b>546-8016, ask for Sarah</b>                                    |
| <b>Restigouche County - SPCA - Animal Control</b>  | <b>684-4396 / 557-9790 emergency</b>                              |
| <b>Roman Catholic churches - St. Gabriel The Archangel &amp; St. John the Evangelist</b> | <b>237-2027</b>   |
| <b>Royal Canadian Legion Durham - Jacquet River</b>                                      | <b>237-2983</b>   |
| <b>Village of Belledune Municipal Office</b>   | <b>522-3700</b>   |
| <b>Interim Chief Administrative Officer - Mel Parker</b>                                 | <b>522-3703</b>   |
| <b>Community Development Officer - Andy Flanagan</b>                                     | <b>522-3797</b>   |
| <b>Administrative Assistant - Nicole Carrier</b>   | <b>522-3700</b>   |



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