

TELEPHONE 425-6271
Area Code 604

P.O. BOX 520
SPARWOOD, B.C.
V0B 2G0



March 19, 1984

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Greetings to our
Neighbors of the Future:

Sparwood of 1984 has been blessed with the best of three worlds - a rich history, a vision to build to the future and the determination to see that future realized. You of Sparwood 2024 are the best judge to weigh how those plans were fulfilled and whether our dreams marched to the tune of the reality we envisaged.

If there is one legacy which has been the mainstay of Michel/Natal that has been retrieved and carried forward by the Sparwood of 1984, that legacy is the word of "perseverance". Through good days and bad, the community has always felt that tomorrow would always reap its reward and that Sparwood would always come out on top. Time was not to be considered constant, but merely an interval where plans could be fixed and the commitment realized through the determination and the will of the people - and with that will stands endurance - an endurance that transcends the bad days with an inspiration to build upon the good days. It is a Sparwood that lasts. It is a Sparwood that grows. It is a Sparwood that cares.

On reflecting on our community, there is a great deal to treasure. The residents interacting and working as a community-family is probably the virtue that stands out. Through their

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initiative the service organizations, various public boards and volunteers create an atmosphere that kindles the spirit to do what is seemingly the impossible. They have carried the "name" forward that Sparwood is a "home community" that lives and grows with pride.

On looking back, Coach John Kovak and his assistant, Billy Watson, gave their heart to the Elk Valley Boxing Club to the point where they trained Scott Bannink to capture the National Crown for two consecutive years.

The Kinsmen, merely one year in existence, promoted and developed a community ski-hill which stands a recreational pride in the community.

The Lions Club developed a fine community park and then turned around to donate \$5 000. to the hospital for a Century Tub. They also assisted many in need and are currently ready to turn over a further \$18 000. of items to the new aquatic and recreational centre which was opened on January 6th of this year.

Carla Terava (Sparwood Secondary High School Teacher), has educated many virtuosos who have gained recognition on the provincial scene while her colleague, Shawn Nerbas, developed a mining course that is a first in the province.

The Rotarians are currently concluding a fountain in our commercial core which we refer to as Centennial Square.

The list of achievements runs on, but there are also those unheralded devotees who give of their time to serve. They include the leaders of the Scouts and Girl Guides, the sports clubs and those that reinforce the cultural and creative fabric of this community.

And then there are the other service clubs who serve and give of their heart and open their doors to assisting those in need. They may not be as high-profiled as those mentioned, but they serve with the same zeal.

All touch. All give of their best to Sparwood. All meld to forge an example of true virtue, offering a stability that is

measured in the ethic that "we truly are our brothers keeper".

Canada of the early 1980's has been faced with economic hardship. As a one-resource town (coal), we have seen dreams colliding with the world market, but that has never interfered with our vision that Sparwood has a destiny and that Sparwood will meet the challenge of that destiny. This is seen in the fact that, as the country now struggles with economic survival, Sparwood is facing major commercial, industrial and recreational growth. Industrial development is echoed with two major bulk plants being planned and built this day. The commercial growth is the reality of the expansion of the Greenwood Mall which houses a grocery store (Overwaitea) that has a selection and square footage unheard of for a community of this size. The recreational growth is seen with the fact that Sparwood has opened its indoor aquatic and recreational centre (The Elk Valley Leisure Centre) which is also not heard of in a community of our size and is being received extremely well by the patrons. We also are awaiting play on a new nine-hole golf course developed by the Elk Valley Recreation Society.

But growth is not achieved without its fair share of debate. How well we have debated and how well the decisions were made sits as our legacy to you. Whether we have aspired and succeeded well can only be measured by your concerns for your tomorrow and how you have come to respect our decisions. We can only pray we made the right ones. We can only hope that the wishes of the residents of Sparwood and the common good to take community-as-a- whole did win out.

For you in 2024, there is a sincere wish that your families and thoughts of our Sparwood of 1984 will be treasured. We do acknowledge that you will have your own dreams, your own vitality, your own thoughts of your neighbor but remember our past, grow beyond our weaknesses and learn from our mistakes. Capture and nourish the good of our character and the best of our coal-mining heritage. We can only hope that the unique pride and caring that

is our current strength will have maintained itself into the future and will lay the foundation to your next forty years. And remember your children, for they are your tomorrow as you were ours. Love them and grow with them. The Sparwood you leave them to maintain, cherish and build was our aspirations that you face today.

Grow well, grow strong, be mindful of the heart . That is our desire for you.

Sincerely yours,

Toto Miller
Toto Miller
Mayor

Alderman Lola Chapman

Lola Chapman

Alderman Luigi Amerio

Luigi Amerio

Alderman Lucie Ackles

Lucie Ackles

Alderman Harold Jangula

Harold Jangula

Alderman Terry Kushniruk

Terry Kushniruk

Alderman Simon Senycz

Simon Senycz

Loretta Montemurro, Clerk Administrator

Loretta Montemurro

Brian Erickson, Deputy Clerk

Brian Erickson

Bert Eckel, Public Works Superintendent

Bert Eckel

Gary Walker, Director or Recreation & Leisure Services

Gary Walker

Gary Tamblyn, Co ordinator of Recreation & Leisure Services

Gary Tamblyn

Don Wilson, Fire Chief

Don Wilson