

# MAYOR'S REPORT

## JUNE 30, 2012

I submitted June's Mayor's Report so that it would coincide with the long July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday week. It is a time for family members to get together and celebrate summer as we also celebrate our nation's birthday. The framers of our constitution all the way back to the 1770's could never have dreamed that their blueprint for the greatest democracy man has ever known would be so enduring. When the Supreme Court last week ruled that the provisions in the Affordable Care Act are legal, the separation of powers envisioned between the Executive Branch, the Legislative Branch, and the Judicial Branch of our government were on full display. Although the nation is somewhat divided on this issue, our nation can move forward with improving the law if there are weaknesses that develop. Repealing this law will cripple any further effort at making health truly affordable for all citizens.

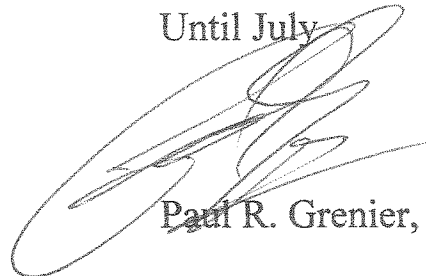
On June 20<sup>th</sup>, I represented the City of Berlin in a very important trade mission in the beautiful city of Sherbrooke, PQ. The meeting and presentation was organized by State of NH DRED Commissioner George Bald and was sponsored by PSNH. I have to say that DRED's North Country representative, Beno Lamontagne of Colebrook, was very effective in both communicating with prospective Canadian business people and making them comfortable with New Hampshire. Beno is very professional yet has a very laidback easygoing style, a trait that earns the trust of would be business clients. These missions are a way for communities and prospects to get to know each, but most importantly, develop a dialogue that hopefully benefits the business prospect, in turn the community. There is a strong level of interest in Berlin and it will be the job of Beno Lamontagne, Comm. George Bald and my office to ensure that all concerns are dealt with in a timely manner. We are developing a trust, and as such, we all must put our best foot forward. Remember, the next time you are seated at a local restaurant, there may be a patron who's primary mission is to listen and ask questions. We ALL have to be Berlin's ambassadors.

I want to take a moment to thank by name, Lucie Remillard, Russ Otis, Dori Ducharme, Peter Higbee, Denise Morgan-Allain, Mike Rozek, Lefty

Theberge and Diana Nelson. These highly dedicated people are the members of Berlin's City Council. We just completed about ten days ago the FY 2013 fiscal budget. From the time the City Manager presents his budget for review in the third week of February until we adopt the finished document on the third Monday of June, there were countless hours spent going over computer printouts, asking tough questions, saying no to some but at all times keeping the discussions civil and productive. This particular group of councillors is the absolute best I have ever worked with in my 19 plus years of service to the city. A big thanks as well go to Yvette Leighton for helping us save the visiting nurses program, Administrative Assistant Sue Tremblay and City Comptroller Patty Chase for being at our side and helping us through the process. Patty and Sue, your service during budget season was critically important and I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Lastly, speaking of service, I want to publically thank Mike Caron of Caron Building Center. Mike is chairman of Berlin Industrial Development and Park Authority (BIDPA), and serves as a water commissioner on the Berlin Water Works. Recently, he donated time and materials to install a permanent stairway at BHS's Gaydo Field. Anyone who has ever been there know how difficult it is for older citizens to navigate to the bleachers and field from the Kelley Field House. Mike and a group of generous volunteers spent the day on June 28<sup>th</sup> to install stair landings on the banking of the field. I've had the pleasure of working with Mike since I became mayor. Mike is a consensus builder, gets the job completed to task, keeps people task oriented at meetings, and makes sure Berlin succeeds. I can say that Berlin is in good hands when Mike Caron takes on a project....Thank you very much for being a powerful community voice at a critically important time.

Until July

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul R. Grenier', is written over the printed name below.

Paul R. Grenier, Mayor