

MAYOR'S REPORT

AUGUST 27,2010

With summer slowly fading, it's great to be back home after a 16 day vacation which brought me to South Dakota on a motorcycle trip. It was very refreshing, and at one point, I forgot what day or date it was. That's a vacation!

Things are kind of quiet here on the home front, but there are some things going on. The City of Berlin and Laidlaw Berlin Biopower have to come to an agreement on construction and operational stipulations that will mitigate most of the day to day impacts the project will have. The biggest gain for Berlin is the fact that Laidlaw fully agrees to build the so called "Riverwalk" from the lower end of their property (where the Community Club was) all the way up to and past the old Riverside Mill which is still standing. As part of the agreement, Laidlaw will set aside \$325,000 for annual maintenance of the walkway once it is built. That is a huge win for the taxpayers and residents of Berlin who want to enjoy the scenic view from the mill side of the river. Laidlaw also agrees to fund \$125,000 to work with the State of New Hampshire and Berlin to investigate and determine the best course of action to deal with any subsurface contamination of their site as a result of over 100 years of making pulp. Berlin will finally be able to wrap it's hands around what is there, and what we can do on the site that is unaffected by Laidlaw's daily operations. It will be a while, however, what will become of the north 60 acres still owned by North American Dismantling Company. The Laidlaw project still does not have it's final permit and things are moving slowly but surely. There are a few people, all of them who have jobs or who don't have to worry about income, and the principals of Clean Power Development, are willing to go to any length to prevent Berlin from creating 40 new high paying jobs and realizing the more than \$1Million dollars in new tax money. With Clean Power Development, their case is simple. Less competition for low grade wood,

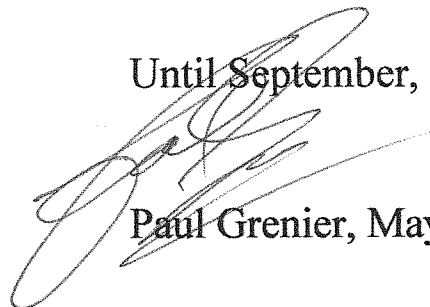
the cheaper it is to purchase. With the glut of low grade wood in the forest, prices are bouncing on the floor of about \$26-30 per ton. Any logger will tell you that those prices are not sustainable to stay in business. As your mayor, I will work as hard as I can to make sure I keep my promise to you to create new wealth and jobs in Berlin.

As we get into September, the search will get underway in earnest for a new City Comptroller. By the time the holidays arrive, we should have a candidate in place and on the job. Hutchins Street from the 12th Street Bridge to the entrance of the Northern Correctional Facility will be repaved curb to curb. We got very favorable pricing on the sewer connection to the bridge, so the extra money will be used for an important byway in town.

All of you hockey fans in Berlin/Gorham, you will be in for a treat this winter!! The Notre Dame Arena will be installing a new four sided clock/scoreboard in about two weeks. It will be state of the art, and will be mounted to the rafters above center ice. After this season, we will be retiring the old clock which has been in existence for over 30 years. Also mark your calendars for September 18th. Berlin High School will have their homecoming activities, and on that day, it will be my honor to name the athletic field and track complex "Gaydo Field" after longtime friend, teacher, and local sports columnist Mike Gaydo. Mike left a lasting legacy in his adopted home town, and there is nothing more fitting than to recognize his service to our area student athletes in perpetuity. I hope you can join us in this festive ceremony.

Finally, I wish all the best and a speedy recovery to Pat Forestall.

Until September,



Paul Grenier, Mayor