



# The Brigus Vindicator

## 2015 Year in Review



### What's New

In June Kevin Spracklin Jr. was hired for the position of Maintenance/Public Works. Kevin comes with a background in operating equipment. He is working out very well and has attended a number of training courses. Matthew Hepditch left this position to seek further employment and we thank him for his time and wish him well. In November Geraldine Boland was appointed Asst Clerk which comes into effect January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. Allisha Ke left this position and we thank her and wish her well.

In November, Council hired Sandy Newton as our consultant at a cost of \$6,667.00 on a cost shared bases of 75/25 between CBDC/Council. Sandy along with staff is working with ACOA and other Government Agencies on the following:

- Lighthouse hiking trail enhancements (including directional and trail head signage and a parking area)
- A new Visitor Experience map (permanent installation and hand-out version)
- Historic Story Boards
- Development of an app that provides a GPS-linked walking tour via IOS/Android smart phones/devices
- Development of a self-guided walking tour
- A permanent Blueberry Festival stage

Our Rec Center is now set up as a warming center in case of an emergency.

**National Building Code of Canada:** It is now a requirement that smoke detectors be installed in all sleeping rooms and each corridor in a house.

### Education & Training

Council and Staff attended the following Education & Training throughout the year:

- Avalon Regional Meeting (MNL) - Ralph
- Avalon Regional Meeting (PMA) - Geraldine, Ralph & Lorne
- Clean & Safe Drinking Water Conference - Matt
- Municipal Safety Workshop - Ralph, Lorne, Wayne & Allisha
- Symposium - Ralph
- MNL Convention - Byron Ralph & Lorne
- Budget Training - Ralph, Lorne & Wayne
- Confine Space - Kevin & Charles
- Avalon PMA Training & Meeting - Ralph, Lorne, Geraldine

In order to receive "Gas Tax Funding" Council is required to attend a minimum of 2 training sessions per year.

Congratulations to Deputy Mayor Ralph Trickett on receiving his 16 year Long Service Award Certificate from the Dept of Municipal & Intergovernmental Affairs.

### Capital Works

Council has applied for Funding in the amount of \$169,791.00 on Rattley Row for 2016 to repair rock wall and road structure. This funding is provided on a 90% / 10% ratio with the Town having to repay 10%. We are hoping to obtain this funding for the 2016 year.

## **Waste Management**

Residents are reminded that bulk garbage is included with your domestic weekly garbage collection. Council would also like to remind residents that garbage should be kept in a proper garbage container or covered.

The Harbour Grace Waste Recovery Facility is open to residents during the following hours: Tuesday & Thursday 12am to 4pm and Saturday 9am to 5pm. Items such as Construction/Renovation Materials, Metals, Electronics, Furniture etc free of charge. Or you may contact Otto Clowe for a price on having your materials disposed of, call 709-363-7185

Council would like to remind residents, if they contact the town office, arrangements can be made to pick up metals, such as: hot water boilers, stoves etc. Metals are not collected during the weekly household garbage collection or you can drop them off at French's in Bay Roberts.

## **Recreation**

Canada Day was a huge success this year with a Canada Day Cake, Games, Bouncy Castle, along with Hotdogs and Drinks. Entertainment was provided by Terry Kelleher and the Balloon Man. Thanks to our staff and students for putting off such a wonderful event.

The Summer Recreation Program had another successful year with 60 children registered and 9 summer staff. This year we offered a half day program with ages 5-8 in the morning and 9-12 in the afternoon. We did a number of outings and special events which included 1. Manuels River & CBS Pool 2. Earles Riding Horses and Bowling 3. Axtion & Bowering Park and Local Boat Tour with Rodney. We finished the summer with a Rock Start Party Bus trip and Pizza Party for both kids and parents.

The Blueberry Festival was a great success with the Recreation staff overseeing the camper parking at the Playground and running the Nevada Booth.

The Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony had a good turn out with many in attendance. Thank you for coming out and kicking off our Christmas season. Thank you to all the businesses who donated for our draws, much appreciated.

This year has been another exciting one for our seniors group. They attended a number of information sessions and an outing that included, NL Power, Railway Coastal Museum, Quidi Vidi Village and Foot Care Nurse, as well as a few entertainers. They participated in several fitness sessions which included bowling, therabands, Curling, and Walking Track. We also received a Provincial Wellness Grant in the amount of \$5,400.00 and Eastern Regional Wellness Coalition in the amount of \$1,000.00 These grants are being used for outings, lunches, curling set etc.

Our Walking Track is accessible to all and was put there to promote walking and physical activity within our town especially during peak summer months when our narrow streets are usually so congested. We invite you all to get out and check out our new track. 4 Laps equals 1km. In 2016 it is planned to have landscaping done along the walking track. We look forward to lots of activities in the new year that will continue to focus on wellness. Wishing all our seniors a wonderful Christmas and health and happiness in the new year.

## **Town Staff**

We applaud Town Clerk/ Manager, Wayne Rose, Recreation Coordinator John Brown (Part Time) and Geraldine Boland (part time) for their hard work and dedication which keeps the Town office operating efficiently.

Kevin & Charles also had a very busy year with a variety of maintenance tasks that they are responsible for. Thanks to all staff for a great job!

## **Blueberry Festival**

The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Brigus Blueberry Festival, once again had a successful year with approximately 10,300 visitors. The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual will be held on August 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, & 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Congratulations to the Blueberry Festival Committee on putting off such a successful event.

## Development Permits

Sixty One (61) General Repair, Eighteen (18) Shed and Extension, Four (4) House developments were issued throughout 2015.

This year our old street signs that were first put into place in 1988 were replaced with our new street signs at a cost of \$19,835.00. This cost was offset from revenue received on the supply of water to the Barry Group Plant at Port de Grave.

As you may have noticed, development has began on the seniors 10 unit complex on School Lane. Council negotiated with Buckle's Contracting for the use of the land. Brigus residents have first round priority of renting the units. The Council Office is taking names of those who are interested in placing their names on the waiting list. For more information contact the Council office at 528-4588.

Avoiding unnecessary delays in obtaining your permit. Check with the Town Office if a permit is required before starting any work. Applications for development permits should be forwarded to the Town Council Office well in advance of Council meetings. This will give the Public Work's Committee ample time to review the development application and site. Applications are available at the Council Office or the Town Website [www.brigus.net](http://www.brigus.net)

## Budget

December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 Council approved their 2016 balanced budget in the amount of \$796,546.03. This being a reassessment year the percentages of values are gone up on average of 50% for the Town. Council voted to reduce the mill rate by 1.6 mills lowering our rate to 4.4 mills. There are no changes to the permits or water & sewer rates. Vendor Permits will come into affect January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 at a rate of \$50.00 per year. There are no other changes made to our tax structure.

## Provincial 911

**Council emphasizes the importance for everyone to have their civic address number on their house if you haven't already done so. Contact the Town Office if you need assistance.**

## Fire Department

This year the Brigus Volunteer Fire Brigade celebrated it's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on November 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>. The event was well attended and we thank all those who took part.

The Brigus Volunteer Fire Department had another great year. We thank the members for their dedication and hard work, during fire calls, training and fund raising activities. Our Fire Brigade answered 13 calls which included one house fire.

The Ladies Auxiliary once again did a great job on the 60 plus Christmas Party and the Breakfast with Santa. Thanks to all those who helped out.

The Santa Claus Parade was a great success, thanks to all those who participated with floats and who attended. To both groups, Keep up the good work.

Council would also like to thank our Fire Brigade & Recreation for the Community Bonfire held in November.

## Gas Tax

In 2014 Council approved their Gas Tax Agreement Allocation from 2014-2019 in the amount of \$196,141.00. To date the following has been allocated:

2015 -BioMaxx \$9,266.40 for Wastewater solutions to report quarterly on the flows & readings to the Federal Government Waste Effluent Regulations.

2015 - Concord Paving \$19,700.00 Paving sections of Roads located at Church Hill & Cemetery Road.

2016 - Concord Paving \$19,400.00 Paving sections of Roads located at Grebes Nest Rd., Cemetery Rd. & Water Street

2016 - Tenders to be called to replace culverts running from the War Memorial to Municipal Garage along with paving and re-doing parking lot in front of Fire Hall.

## Take Note

**Backwater Valves:** Council recommends that all sewer installations should have “Backwater Valves” installed. Also check your Insurance Policy or with your Insurance Company to insure that you are carrying sewer backup on your policy.

**Tax Payments:** As a reminder, you can pay your taxes by Debit, Visa, MasterCard and postdated cheques.

**Tax Receipts:** Where possible, tax receipts will be sent out by way of email.

**Data Base:** If a tax payer would like to forward his or her e-mail address, to the town office, it will be stored in the town’s data base, this data base will be used to keep residents posted on notices of interest. Visit the town’s web page [www.brigus.net](http://www.brigus.net) or e-mail [brigus@eastlink.ca](mailto:brigus@eastlink.ca)

**Website:** If you would like a special event posted to our website go to [www.brigus.net](http://www.brigus.net) click on “Events Calendar” then click on “Click Here to Request an EVENT to be Posted” fill in the information. Once this is done a request will come to the town office for approval.

**Fire Hydrants:** Even though Council workers will try and keep Fire Hydrants free of snow it is much appreciated if you or a group of neighbors when clearing their driveways would keep in mind to clear the hydrant next to them. These hydrants are there for your safety. For those who are already doing this, THANK YOU.

**Special Birthdays and Anniversaries:** If you are celebrating a birthday, anniversary or special occasion and wish to receive a certificate of congratulations, please advise the town manager in advance, so one can be arranged for you.

**Open Fires:** Residents take note that open fires are only permitted between September to April weather permitting and are under the control of the Dept. of Natural Resources (Not Council). Residents must take into consideration, weather conditions i.e. wind and how dry the area is adjacent to the open fire, caution must be taken before starting any fire.

**Vandalism:** From time to time the town experiences unnecessary acts of vandalism, should you witness any of these acts please contact the town office in confidence, so we can take the necessary steps and possible prosecution to rectify the situation.

**Special Events:** In June 2015 The Ride for Dad visited Brigus with approximately 500 motor cycles. This group of riders were on a fund-raising campaign in aid of Prostate Cancer. Also in June 2015 The Tom Furey Classic Car Club visited Brigus. Proceeds from this activity were forwarded to the Heart & Stroke Foundation. In September 2015 Brigus once again played host for the popular Targa Race, this concluded in Brigus with the presentations of Awards.

***The Mayor, Councillors and Staff would like to extend best wishes and a Happy New Year to All!***

**Please Help Keep Our Town Beautiful...  
Please Don't Litter!**