



The Brigus Vindicator

2016 Year in Review



What's New

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.

A tourism chalet was set up at our Public Building on South Street from August to October which was run by Mr. Rob King. All indications showed a major success.

Based on complaints received from residents with regards to speeding traffic council installed two speed bumps. This didn't work out as well as planned and now have installed three, 3 way stops. This is now being monitored.

Council received a JCP topup grant to continue work on our lighthouse trail. The grant started October 11, 2016 to December 16, 2016. It was for 10 weeks for 8 people. The workers cleared along the trail, placed markers and built a kiosk which will have mapping of the trail along with advertising space. The money received from advertising will be used for the maintenance of the trail.

Education & Training

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

Avalon Regional Meeting (PMA) - Wayne Rose, Ralph & Lorne

Clean & Safe Drinking Water Conference - Kevin

Symposium - Ralph

MNL Convention - Byron , Ralph, Lorne, Shears, Greg, Tom & Wayne Broughton

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

Congratulations to Councillor Shears Mercer jr. on receiving his 16 year Long Service Award Certificate from the Dept of Municipal & Intergovernmental Affairs.

Regrets

Council regrets this year the passing of former Councillor, Mr. Gordon King. Mr. King served on Council from 1981 to 1985. Also councils regrets the passing of our employee, Mr. Shears Mercer sr. Mr. Mercer started work with Council from 1966 to his retirement on December 21st, 2001. Council would also like to remember those of our community who are no longer with us.

Capital Works

Council received funding to repair the retaining wall on Rattley Row. This work was awarded to the lowest tender, Concord Paving, in the amount of \$110,772.92 and will begin in the Spring of 2017

Gas Tax

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 - Concord Paving \$70,500.95 to install Storm Sewer on South Street

2017 - Concord Paving \$36,764.92 to offset Councils share of the retaining wall on Rattley Row

Town Staff

We applaud Town Clerk/ Manager, Wayne Rose, Assistant Clerk Geraldine Boland (part time), Recreation Coordinator John Brown (Part Time) and 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!

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 containers 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, prizes for best dressed bike, Games, Bouncy Castle, also 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 50 children registered and 7 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. Railway Museum & Bannerman Park 2. Earles Riding Horses and Old Mill Lane Bowling 3. Front Line Laser Tag & Bowering Park 4. Axtion and Holycross Park Holyrood and Local Boat Tour with Rodney along with Pizza Party.

The Recreation had another successful year with the staff overseeing the camper parking at the Playground and running the Nevada Booth during the Blueberry Festival..

The Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony had a large turn 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 several concerts at Sheila Nageira Theatre, as well the Mummers Christmas Concert at the St Geroge's Heritage Church. They participated in several fitness sessions which included bowling, Curling, and Tai Chi. They also enjoyed several entertainment sessions a pizza party and a desert tea. We also received a Eastern Regional Wellness Coalition grant in the amount of \$300.00 for further Tai Chi sessions. There are other Grants applied for but have not received any response to date.

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.

Blueberry Festival

The 29th Annual Brigus Blueberry Festival, once again had a successful year with approximately 10,300 visitors. The 30th Annual will be held on August 11th, 12th, & 13th. 2017. Congratulations to the Blueberry Festival Committee on putting off such a successful event.

Road Reservations

NOTE: Council has noticed that there are a number of residents that are bringing their fences and landscaping within the towns municipal regulations and road policy which has a road easement. Please consult with the town office before carrying out this type of work. Remember Council will not be responsible for any damage done to property within the road reservation.

Development Permits

Seventy Five (75) General Repair, Fourteen (14) Shed and Extension, Three (3) House developments, Three (3) Commercial developments were issued throughout 2016.

As you may have noticed, development has began on the seniors 10 unit complex on School Lane. 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

Budget

December 6th, 2016 Council approved their 2017 balanced budget in the amount of \$818,541.03. There are no increases in mill rates, water/sewer or permit fees

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

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 14 calls.

The Ladies Auxiliary once again did a great job on the 60 plus Christmas Dinner and the Breakfast with Santa. Thanks to all those who helped out. If you are 60 years of age or older and a full time residents and have not received an invitation to the 60 plus Christmas Dinner, please contact one of the members of the ladies auxiliary. 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.

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 or e-mail brigus@eastlink.ca

Website: If you would like a special event posted to our website go to 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 2016 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 2016 The Tom Furey Classic Car Club visited Brigus. Proceeds from this activity were forwarded to the Heart & Stroke Foundation. In September 2016 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!**

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