



The Brigus Vindicator

2017 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.

Council received funding from ACOA and the Provincial Department Tourism, Culture, Industry and Innovation in the amount of \$248,621.00. This funding will enable us to provide the following: Visitors Service and Experience Map, Audio Tour App, Townscape Interpretive signage, Lighthouse Trail Enhancements and a Permanent Stage. Work on these projects will start in the spring of 2018.

Municipal Election

In September, Municipal Elections were held and the following were elected: Mayor Byron Rodway, Deputy Mayor Wayne Broughton, Councillors Ralph Trickett, Raelene Wall, Randy Spracklin, John Brown and Paul Matthews. Not returning are Councillors Lorne Youden, Shears Mercer jr., Tom Ryan Sr., and Greg Hiscock Council would like to thank them for their years of services to the town.

Education & Training

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

Clean & Safe Drinking Water Conference - Kevin

MNL Symposium - Ralph & Lorne

PMA Convention - Wayne Rose

Election Training - Wayne Rose, Ann Whelan & Geraldine Boland

Budget Training - Ralph Trickett, John Brown & Geraldine Boland.

Council Orientation - Byron Rodway, Wayne Broughton, Ralph Trickett, Raelene, Randy, John, Paul & Wayne Rose

MNL Convention - Byron Rodway, Paul Matthews.

Municipal Assessment - Wayne Rose, Katie O'Flaherty, Bobbie Hepditch, Raelene Wall

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

Regrets

Council regrets this year the passing of former Councillor, Mr. Wayne Russell. Mr. Russell served on Council from 1978 to 1981. Council would also like to remember those of our community who are no longer with us.

Capital Works

Council has applied for 2018-2019 Capital Works funding for Water/Sewer phase 3 Farm Road and Conception Bay Highway Sewer Services in the amount of \$1,151,125.85.

Gas Tax

Council has a balance of \$42,456.47 left to be distributed over the coming months.

Town Staff

We applaud Town Clerk/ Manager, Wayne Rose, Assistant Clerk Geraldine Boland (part time), Recreation Coordinator John Brown (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! Geraldine will be finishing up with the Town of Brigus in 2018 and we applaud her 18 plus years of service.....thank you. In Geraldine's place Council has hired Katie O'Flaherty as the New Assistant Town Clerk. John Brown also left his position as Recreation Director and we thank him for his years of service. In John's place Council has hired Bobbie Hepditch as our new Recreation Director.

Council also hired several casual workers to do tree pruning. Work will continue in the Gullies area in the spring.

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 proper garbage containers or covered.

Council recently renewed their contact with Ridge G&P contacting starting January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020. Council is also looking at implementing a Recycling Program starting in 2018. More to follow on this at a later date.

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 can be brought to this facility and disposed of 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 a recycling is located behind the town garage or you can drop them off at French's on Lt Stick Drive 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 Front Line. Thanks to our staff and students for putting off such a wonderful event.

Also a ball tournament between the senior and younger players of Brigus was held on Canada Day which was a huge success. With such interest a league named Brigus Adult Recreation Coed Softball was formed with 4 coed teams playing throughout the summer. It is great to see softball resume in our community, thank you to the executive who made this possible.

With the interest in the ballfield a local contractor was hired and improvements were made to the field, also a Community Enhancement Grant was received in the fall which allowed for new dugouts to be built.

The Recreation Program had another successful year with 60 children registered and good attendance throughout the summer. We offered a half day program again this year, with ages 5-8 attending in the morning and ages 9-12 in the afternoon. This worked well for our staff to child ratio which was never higher than 1:8. The program was run by 8 staff that included, Max King, Victoria Percy, Julie Gosse, Jordan Spracklin, Katie Quinlan, Tamika Fowler, Taiya Efford and John Brown Recreation Director. The registration fee this year remained the same at \$80 per child. We went on several field trips and held several special events this summer, which included: Canada Day Festivities; Axtion and Bowering Park; Bell Island Mine Tour; Front Line laser Tag and Bannerman Park; Johnson GEO Centre and Holycross Park Holyrood; Boat Trip with Junior Mercer and 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 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. Also thank you to the Brigus Historical Society for lighting up Wilcox Gardens.

This year has been another exciting one for our seniors group. They attended a concert at Sheila Nageira Theatre. They participated in several fitness sessions which included bowling, Curling, and Tai Chi & low impact exercise. They also enjoyed several entertainment sessions and a desert tea. We received a grant in the amount of \$4,882.74 from Community Healthy Living Fund for fitness & programming. We would like to thank Marilyn Connolly for all her hard work with the seniors program.

Our Walking Track is accessible to all and was built 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 30th Annual Brigus Blueberry Festival, once again had a successful year with approximately 10,300 visitors. The 31st Annual will be held on August 10th, 11th, & 12th, 2018. 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 building their fences, walls and landscaping within the road reservation, the towns municipal regulations and road policy outline the 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

Sixty One (61) General Repair, Twelve (12) Shed and Extension, Four (4) House developments, One (1) Commercial developments were issued throughout 2017.

Rental Units are available on School Lane. Contact John Buckell at 709-697-1883 or bucklescontracting@yahoo.ca for more information.

Also on Curtis Lane Condos are available. Contact Jeff Reardon, Hawthorne Condos at 709.746.4523 or jeffreardon@royalpage.ca or visit their website at: <https://hawthornecondos.ca>

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 5th, 2017 Council approved their 2018 balanced budget in the amount of \$859,166.00. 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.

Congratulations to the following firemen for their years of dedicated Service: David King 50 years; Denzil Norman 40 years; Barry England 30 years; and Graham Hiscock on 30 years.

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!