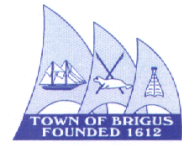




The Brigus Vindicator

2019 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.

When visiting the town hall you will notice that we have recently completed renovations. The exterior of the building has been painted to match our newly constructed stage as well as some updating inside which includes an updated layout, wheel chair accessible counter, paint and flooring.

Municipal Election

There was a By-election held on September 24, 2019 after Councilor Raelene Wall resigned from her seat. Shears Mercer Jr and Greg Hiscock ran for the position and Shears Mercer Jr. was elected.

Education & Training

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

MNL Avalon Regional Meeting - Ralph Trickett,

2019 Clean & Safe Drinking Water Conference - Kevin Spracklin.

Recreation NL Conference – Raelene Wall and Bobbie Hepditch

PMA Convention – Wayne Rose

PMA Fall Forum- Wayne Rose & Katie O’Flaherty

MNL Convention – Byron Rodway, Paul Matthews, Ralph Trickett and John Brown.

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

Regrets

Council would like to remember those of our community who are no longer with us.

Capital Works / Projects

Council was approved for 2019-2020 Capital Works funding for in the amount of \$458,709.00 to upgrade the intake at Long Pond. This is on a cost sharing basis 90/10. This should start the spring of 2020.

Capital Works funding is applied for to extending sewer line on CB Highway.

Council hired Nova Consultants Inc. to engineer a “Pedestrian Bridge” located next to the Town Stage at a cost of \$5,865.00 (Taxes Inc.). A call for tender was issued but we had no response. Council will re-tender this spring.

Renovations took place at the Town Hall. An accessible counter was added along with new flooring at a cost of \$10,512.42. The Town Hall was also painted through the Impacted Fish Plant Worker Program.

Gas Tax

A new Washrooms/Canteen/Storage building was built at our park. This cost \$93,570.15. Council has a balance of \$200,521.28 left to be distributed over the coming months.

Town Staff

We applaud Town Clerk/Manager Wayne Rose, Assistant Clerk Katie O’Flaherty and Recreation Coordinator Bobbie Hepditch for their hard work and dedication which keeps the Town office operating efficiently.

Thank you to Kevin & Charles who also had a very busy year completing a variety of jobs and maintenance work around town and to all of our casual workers 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 proper garbage containers or covered.

Recycling Program will continue on a bi-weekly basis. Information regarding the Recycling Program can be found on the Towns website www.brigus.net. Your support in recycling will help reduce waste at landfills along with helping the environment.

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, and Furniture etc. can be brought to this facility and disposed of free of charge. You may also contact Otto Clowe for a

price on having your materials disposed of; call 709-363-7185

Council would like to remind residents that by contacting 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 container is located behind the town garage or you can drop them off at French's located on Lt. Stick Drive in Bay Roberts.

Recreation

It was a great year for Recreation in our community and we are very happy with our new storage/washroom/canteen facility located at our multipurpose park.

There were a number of events held this year with the help and dedication of our Recreation Coordinator Bobbie Hepditch and the Recreation Committee.

Canada Day was a huge success again this year which included a bike parade and prizes for best dressed bike, free play, games, bouncy castle and face painting. Hot dogs and drinks were also provided as well as Canada day cupcakes. The Barcs League also held a ball game which drew out a crowd. Thanks to our staff, students and volunteers for putting off such a wonderful event.

The Recreation Committee offered a noncompetitive, mixed age summer softball/t-ball program and ended their year with a BBQ and fireworks. There was lots of fun had by all. A special thank you to Mike Power for the firework display.

Due to a decrease in participants, The Recreation Program offered a full day program this year for kids ages 5-12. The program was ran by Jacob Parsons, Zachary Trickett, Spencer Norris, Madison Mercer, Chloe Clarke, Mackenzie Akerman, Tori Efford, Benjamin Percy and overseen by Bobbie Hepditch - Recreation Director. The registration fee this year increased to \$85 per child. We went on several field trips and held several special events this summer.

It was another rewarding year for recreation with Staff overseeing the camper parking at the Playground, Toonie parking on our new parking lot, as well as the Nevada Booth during the Blueberry Festival.

The second annual Halloween Hunt took place on October 27th. The hunt was a great success, with much fun had by both children and adults. A big thank you to all the Businesses who took part.

Thank you to Recreation and Fire Department for their work in a successful Bonfire night.

The Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony had a large attendance. Thank you for coming out and kicking off our Christmas season. Special thank you to the Shearstown Brass Band for playing. We would also like to thank the Brigus Historical Society for their hard work and dedication in lighting up Wilcox Gardens. It was beautiful.

Our 50+ group continues to grow and with support from the Community Healthy Living Fund we are given opportunities to purchase and participate in different activities. This year we have purchased a two lane bowling set. Curling has been a long time favorite of all those who attend. Our group has also enjoyed entertainment and information sessions. If you have a suggestion on activities or sessions you would like to see please forward them to brigus@eastlink.ca or pass along to Bobbie during the Tuesday sessions.

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 32nd Annual Brigus Blueberry Festival was a great success for the new committee with approximately 9,000 visitors. This year the Festival was ran by the Blueberry Festival Group - a Committee of Council which consists of Councilor's Randy Spracklin and Shears Mercer Jr, Assistant Town Clerk Katie O'Flaherty and Public Representative Barry Gosse.

The committee would like to thank the Fire Department for their support and guidance in helping make the festival a great success. Together we will do great things.

The committee has since purchased all materials used during the festival from the former Blueberry Festival Committee for a sum of \$2000. The Town of Brigus looks forward to supporting and promoting the 33rd Annual Blueberry Festival which will be held on August 7th, 8th, & 9th, 2019.

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 town's 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

Thirty Six (36) General Repair, Thirteen (13) Shed and Extension, Four (4) House developments, One (1) Commercial development were issued throughout 2019.

Rental Units are available on School Lane. Contact John Buckle 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>

Check with the Town Office to determine if a permit is required before starting any work on property. Applications for development permits should be forwarded to the Town Council Office well in advance of Council meetings to avoid unnecessary delays in obtaining your permit. Applications are reviewed the beginning and middle of each month giving the Development 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 10th, 2019 Council approved their 2020 balanced budget in the amount of \$935,515.12. 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 20 Fire Calls, 2 False Alarms & 3 Lift Assist.

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, thank you for your continued dedication to the town. Keep up the good work.

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 Visa and Cheques.

Tax Receipts: Where possible, tax receipts & statements 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 please send information to brigus@eastlink.ca.

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. Council would also like to thank all those who are in any way helping to keep our town tidy and keeping our hydrants free of snow.

Special Events: In June 2019 The Ride for Dad visited Brigus with approximately 300 motor cycles. This group of riders were on a fund-raising campaign in aid of Prostate Cancer. The Tom Furey Classic Car Club visited Brigus on August 25th. Proceeds from this activity were forwarded to the Heart & Stroke Foundation., In October VOGN - the Volkswagen Owners Group of Newfoundland gathered in the Towns Centre. There were approximately 30 cars in attendance.

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!

PO Box 220, Brigus, NL A0A 1K0 PH:(709)528-4588 FAX: (709)528 4588