



The Brigus Vindicator

2020 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

The next Municipal Election will be held in September 2021.

If you are a resident of the Town of Brigus and take pride in the future of our community, please put your name forward for the upcoming municipal election in September 2021. Citizens like you are needed to assume leadership roles to represent the people in our community and to provide direction on the policies and programs that will lead to better quality services for communities.

Education & Training

Training and Seminars were cancelled due to COVID-19.

Congratulations to Councillor Ralph Trickett on receiving his 20 year Long Service Award

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 was a cost sharing basis of 90/10. Upgrades to the intake began in August and was completed mid-September.

There was approximately 300ft of work completed under the Farm Road - Water, Sewer Phase III (Extension 2), which included the installation of a fire hydrant.

Capital Works funding for 2021-2022 - Conception Bay Highway –Water & Sewer Services has been applied for.

Gas Tax

There were no projects completed this year under Gas Tax.

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!

A special thank you to all during uncertain times with COVID-19.

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 12 noon 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

Due to restrictions in place, there was no Recreation Program offered this year. The town had 6 workers (Riley Oliver, Ryan Percy, Ryan Farrell, Jasper Scott, Chloe Clarke and Mackenzie Rose) hired under Canada Summer Jobs whose time was dedicated to town maintenance.

It was a different year for Recreation in our community. Due to COVID-19 restrictions events this past year have been limited. Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, Recreation was happy to offer Yoga at the Recreation Center with Emma Chafe as well as the skating rink which was a hit. In keeping with the COVID-19 guidelines and recommendations our Recreation Committee was able to put off an outdoor movie night at the Brigus Ballfield followed by fireworks, the third annual Halloween Hunt which took place on October 25th. Unlike other years, the hunt took place at the Municipal Park but was another great success, with much fun had by both children and adults. Thank you to all the Businesses who took part. Your support does not go unnoticed.

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

The Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony had a good attendance. Thank you to all who came out to kick off the Christmas season. Thank you to the volunteers on the Recreation Committee for dedicating their time to decorate the Brigus Playground. We would also like to thank the Brigus Historical Society for their hard work and dedication in lighting up Wilcox Gardens. It was beautiful.

Other events included; Easter Bunny drive by, cold plate fundraiser, Christmas craft sale, mummering and Christmas Parade.

Recreation honored the late Sgt. Herman Williams with a memorial plaque and gathering. The plaque is now displayed at the Brigus ball field.

We hope that in the New Year our 50+ club will be back to regular weekly meetings. We were given funding through the Community Healthy Living grant which we look forward to using to bring more to our group in the coming months. 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

We sure missed everyone this year at what would have been the 33rd Annual Brigus Blueberry Festival. We hope that COVID-19 allows us to plan for August 2021.

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

Sixty Six (66) General Repair, Thirty Two (32) Shed and Extension, Three (3) House developments, One (1) Commercial development were issued throughout 2020.

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 8th, 2020 Council approved their 2021 balanced budget in the amount of \$\$954,415.00. 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

2020 was a very different year for The Brigus Volunteer Fire Department. Although there was no fundraising, training and meetings were limited. We would like to thank the members for their dedication to the community. Our Fire Brigade answered 5 Fire Calls, 9 Accidents Calls; 2 False Alarms; 2 Missing Persons & 1 Lift Assist. Also our Fire Brigade and Council would like to congratulate the following for their dedicated years of Service: Bill King – 35 Years of Service & Shears Mercer Jr. – 35 Years of Service.

Unfortunately, The Ladies Auxiliary were unable to hold their annual 60+ Christmas Dinner but hopes to be able to host the event in 2021. 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.

Raffles, Breakfast with Santa, and the Santa Claus Parade were also cancelled due to the recommendations set forth by the CMO.

On December 19th, Santa did a drive through Brigus with the assistance of the Fire Brigade and Recreation Committee. We thank you for taking the time to help spread joy during these difficult times.

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. Council's new Tax Collection Policy was approved at the November 2020 meeting. A copy of the policy can be found on the Town's website.

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; such acts include graffiti in the area of the tunnel which is quite costly to remove. 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 October, VOGN - the Volkswagen Owners Group of Newfoundland gathered in the Towns Centre. There were approximately 30 cars in attendance.

Hold fast & stay safe. We are in this together!

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

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