



St. Alban's, NL Strong Roots



The Resident Connection

Volume 2 Issue 4: Fall 2014

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Town of St. Alban's

Dear Fellow Residents and Stakeholders,

“A Proud History and Hometown Strong”

On behalf of Council, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on some Council and Town staff activities since the last newsletter.



Council held “Town Hall Meeting 2014” on October 6th and turnout was excellent providing a forum for information but also an opportunity for two way communication. Also since the last newsletter, the new town website at www.stalbans.ca was published and a new Facebook page (at no cost to taxpayers).

TOWN OFFICE

Public Service Hours:

9:00 am to 4:00 pm / Monday to Friday

Office & Emergency Contact:

Phone: 538-3132

(For after-hours emergencies such as water shut off, etc. call 538-3132 to get the contact #s via recording.)

Email: st.albans@nf.aibn.com

Website: www.stalbans.ca

Public works have completed in excess of 65 water and sewer jobs this year since last winter. Many of these jobs and projects are multiple days and as such takes much time and resources. This work is producing excellent results but limits resources for other activities.

The Council Finance Committee has held pre-budget consultations with all town departments (Fire & Rescue, Recreation, and Public Works). It was an excellent meeting and the information will be used in analysis and review of budget 2015 as well as investment estimates for next five years. There are many needs that are long term and need to be planned in advance to be able to make progress toward achieving them.

Finally, a sincere thank you to Genevieve Tremblett for her longstanding service to the community and wish her all the best in her retirement. She served the town and residents for 37 years in a role that is increasingly more complex than the average citizen will be aware. Sandra Cox was the successful successor recommended by a selection and screening committee of Council and takes on this important role.

Thank you for the opportunity to take a few minutes of your time as you read this communication on what's happening with “your” Town.

Best Wishes to Everyone For A Safe And Joyous Holiday Season,
Jamie LeRoux

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Council meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month.

Council meetings are open to the public. To add an item to the agenda please contact the council office. If a delegation wishes to address council, please designate a spokesperson.



The Resident Connection

YOUR COUNCIL UPDATE

Summary of Town Hall Meeting

The "Town Hall Meeting 2014" held on October 6th provided a town update and status of town priorities. There was also a question and answer session. The meeting was an extension of newsletters and information provided on the town website.

Capital Works Projects and Funding Update

Since obtaining Municipal Capital Works funding in 2014 for Phase III water service upgrade and a third lift station upgrade, the Town has obtained a new engineer firm. These projects are in engineering stage. An application has been submitted for municipal capital works for 2015 for a chlorination facility upgrade at well site. The electronic mapping of water and sewer line drawings will be done in 2015 and funded from gas tax funding. The Fire Department and Town will pursue funding for a rescue truck to aid in the transport of first responders to rescue operations.

Council Planning

Council and committees of council will work toward long term planning. The needs are great from all departments. However, we will have to face this challenge by looking at next year and future years with a plan. Estimates are being prepared.

Update On Roadways

Council continues to advocate the provincial government for paving of the provincial road at the end of St. Alban's from wharf road to the end of that roadway. Council is looking at capacity for major town road upgrades in the long term estimates.

Fire Department Officers Update

The Fire Department recently had election of officers. These officers are as follows: Simon Collier - Fire Chief, Gary Framp - 1st Assistant Fire Chief, Trevor Hodder - 2nd Assistant Chief, Alvin Crant - 1st Captain, Perry Cox - 1st Lieutenant, Corwin Willcott - 2nd Lieutenant, Perry Cox - Treasurer, Gary Framp - Secretary. Thank you to the officers and all members of the department for their valuable service.

The Challenge of Incremental Improvements to Town & Infrastructure

(By Mayor Jamie LeRoux)

Municipalities are burdened with more costs relative to limited revenue opportunities as compared to their provincial and federal counterparts. Municipalities NL, the provincial organization representing municipalities in NL, is advocating for a revised fiscal framework that will provide more resources for towns to maintain services and reinvest in infrastructure. The infrastructure deficits in towns are steadily growing.

In the meantime, in most towns residents are unaware of the cost of running a town and investing into infrastructure. The Town of St. Alban's has been trying to educate residents in newsletters, town hall meetings, and website information, and so forth. In addition to that, Council is thinking strategically to determine what capacity we have for additional projects along with those done in recent years such as water and sewer upgrades but even more if possible. Residents rightfully so are wanting more road work and maintenance, road improvements where possible and residents want improved water and sewer (some residents are impacted more often than others). With public works crews engaged heavily into repair and improvement of water and sewer systems, we need to look at this critically as to the needs in other areas as well.

Most of us are familiar with rising costs of cable, satellite, internet, cell, and/or phone. Any of the forgoing individually as a monthly cost typically far exceeds the cost of water and sewer for those that have access to these municipal services. However, the increasing costs to operate, maintain, and reinvest in water and sewer is substantial. As a Town and residents/stakeholders we cannot afford not to invest into our future.

PEOPLE FEATURE

This Issue - Thank you to the members of these service organizations/groups that make communities stronger! Great groups to join and/or help!

Lions Club:

"Whenever a Lions club gets together, problems get smaller. And communities get better. That's because we help where help is needed – in our own communities and around the world – with unmatched integrity and energy." - Lions

International: www.lionsclubs.org

Legion:

"As a national organization committed to our Veterans, their families, and the communities they call home, we offer programs and services for a wide variety of groups on both local and national levels" - Legion

National: www.legion.ca

Knights of Columbus:

"All the good works we do are informed by our four core principles: Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism" -

K of C website: www.kofc.org

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Fire Department: 538-3000

Emergency Services: 538-3117

Police: 882-2230

Medical Centre: 538-3244

Visit www.stalbans.ca and click the "Emergency Contacts" and "Emergency Preparedness" links in the red bar at the top of each webpage in the website.

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR EMERGENCIES?

Check out the below sites:

www.getprepared.gc.ca

www.gov.nl.ca/fes/emo/