



St. Alban's, NL Strong Roots



The Resident Connection

Volume 3 Issue 1: Winter 2015

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Residents and Stakeholders,

On behalf of Council, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on some activities and plans as we begin a new year.

First, I would like to acknowledge all those that serve our Town, and I speak as a resident first and foremost, but with an inside track to Council more than most citizens will ever come to know in their lifetime. All those that served on Council, committees, or worked for Council (past and present) are important folks that keep our municipal services going and infrastructure working. I have organizational experience which includes working and partnering with all levels of government. However, there's no more important job than the business of municipal government and serving your community. In particular, the work of municipal staff of all capacities is ever so important to the operation of our town today and securing our future.

To that end of securing our future, there are many priorities and needs as we go forward in the next decade that will require even more forethought and strategy, both today and ongoing to be successful. As the 2015 budget circular highlights, Council, staff, and all departments have looked ahead five or more years. Challenges are easier if broken into parts over time, and if the approach works, the next Council can build upon it, adjust as necessary, and take it to the next level.

In the meantime, it is important that Council, fire department, recreation committee, etc. continues to inform and engage residents and stakeholders. In terms of the responsibility of Council, it is Council that ultimately will have to make decisions having all the knowledge of everyone involved with municipal government and municipal services.

This newsletter covers topics related to our Town's future.

Most Sincerely and Respectfully,
Jamie LeRoux, Mayor



Town of St. Alban's

“A Proud History and Hometown Strong”



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

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

Municipal Plan and Development Regulations – A Better Planned Future

Relatively new in recent years is the municipal plan and the development regulations. Property owners, contractors, and anyone doing development or construction activity must ensure compliance and inquire when seeking permits. It can also be found on the town website. The plan and regulations cover every activity from excavation to building construction to decks/fences and essentially every activity. Well planned development serves the town now and into the future. It reduces issues, complications, and costs to both residents and the Town (which is one in the same). Council is engaging an engineer in relation to Valour Place where varying elevations in low lying area are creating a drainage issue. The goal is prevention in the future.

Snow Clearing Regulations - Creating Efficiencies and Minimizing Liabilities

During winter 2013-2014, Council implemented snow clearing priorities and procedures for both standards and efficiencies. Since that time, Council has adopted Snow Clearing Regulations that set out responsibilities and expectations. Both documents are available on the town website.

Future Investments - Approaches to Meet Important Priorities and Needs

Council will continue to apply for and utilize Capital Works funding for water and sewer related projects (90% funded by the province). Other projects like road work and paving will have to be funded from annual budgets. The goal is to eventually have annual budgets that can support paving a street or two per year. Then Councils in the future will have that capacity to continually invest into roads with repaving or repairing. A new fire station and public works depot will also be needed. Funds will be put into reserve each budget for these capital investments. Then in 5-7 years it may be possible to have sufficient funds to start these projects while the balance of funds needed to complete them at that time can come through funding and/or at least financing. If financed, the annual amounts will be directed to repay financing required.

Cost of Municipal Services – Shared Among All Properties with Access

As per applicable municipal legislation all owners of properties that are serviced and/or can be serviced by water and/or sewer will be imposed the water and/or sewage tax. Should an owner want to turn off the water and/or turn it on, that can be arranged as per applicable fee. There are significant costs for investment into infrastructure and the expense of operation/maintenance. Whether or not a property is occupied, the system still needs to be maintained year round. The Town has a well based water system pumping to all curb stops and sewage system with a network of 14 lift stations, manholes, and a sewage plant.

Come Home Year 2015 – Preparations To Come

Council is seeking a Coordinator. The applicant must be EI eligible (unemployed and received EI in last 3 or 5 years if maternity leave). Committees/organizations will be make the event a success plus all the usual events in that time frame. Come Home Year is a time to show our visitors that there are Strong Roots and a Stronger Future.

Town Improvements – Soon Will Be Time Again & How Best To Do More

It is winter now but in spring many property owners will be doing their annual maintenance. Council may ask for support from folks to participate in either organizing and/or general improvement to public places in town. This year is come home year and it will be nice to do more but it is also nice to do so in any year. Beautification Advisory Committee may be activated if there is sufficient participation.

Available Property Inventory for Newcomers – People Looking For Property

Anyone with residential or commercial property and/or land fronting on a publicly maintained road that is available for purchase may contact the Town office. Location and contact information can be maintained for prospective purchasers moving here.

PEOPLE FEATURE

This Issue – Thank you to all residents that expressed concerns on a particular matter and/or provided feedback on our Town.

by Jamie LeRoux

As a newer member of Council and Mayor, I have had the opportunity to speak with many residents. Other members of Council have also been engaged with residents regularly. Staff maintains an issue log so that Council understands outstanding resident matters. The goal of Council is to respectfully consider all the concerns or requests of residents.

Of course, the end result is not always what a resident requests or expects. Another Mayor in another region has publicly said something to the effect “Council has to look after the needs of many rather than the wants of a few”. That is a wise statement.

For every resident that may be displeased with a development regulation, section of municipal plan, or otherwise; there are twenty more residents that have expressed concerns of an opposite nature. People often speak on how we can improve as a Town and we will continue to focus on that.

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/