



The Resident Connection

Volume 5 Issue 1: Winter 2017

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Residents and Stakeholders,

Happy New Year to everyone! It is 2017 and it is also a municipal election year. The Council recently approved its fourth and final budget as can be found in the budget circular.

However, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all of the first responders and everyone involved in the response effort as per the Thanksgiving rainstorm from Hurricane Matthew. As per the coordination effort from the Town's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), it was very evident there was no shortage of people in town and area helping out from mitigation, response, rebuilding, logistics, supplies, resources, and contingency plans as the hours and days unfolded (during the storm event itself and during the state of emergency thereafter and beyond).

Town and area residents, businesses, organizations, volunteers, local government departments, and too many individuals/groups to list, pulled together to overcome all challenges caused by the damage and isolation that resulted from the event. The Town was the first to enact emergency measures and stayed the course 24/7 at the EOC and/or on call thereafter.

In fact, in this newsletter "Your Council Update" contained within is devoted to the topic of emergency management and preparedness. Some past newsletters referenced the Emergency Management Committee, Town emergency plan, and the emergency management training undertaken by Council, staff, and the fire department. This newsletter is focused on our recent experience as a town and using it to be prepared for any future disaster or community emergency. The goal is to be even stronger should a future community disaster response be necessary.

Most Sincerely and Respectfully,
Jamie LeRoux, Mayor

Please see "Budget Circular 2017" for details on the budget for this year. Past newsletters are available on-line at the Town website.

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 on call contact #s via recording.)

Email: st.albans@nf.aibn.com

Website: www.stalbans.ca

Facebook: **St. Alban's, NL**

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Public council meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month (except 1st Monday in July and August) and held on Tuesday in case of a holiday.

If a delegation wishes to address council, as per an item upcoming on council agenda please make a request and designate a spokesperson. Rules of procedure apply accordingly.



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YOUR COUNCIL UPDATE

Special Feature: "State of Emergency"

This Council update is devoted to emergency preparedness and the importance of being prepared for other such events in the future. It highlights the recent emergency event and the use of it as a lesson for the future.

You Can Never Be Too Prepared!

The Town was prepared for dealing with emergencies and disasters (through plans, training, etc.). During the debrief session with Fire & Emergency Services NL after the rainstorm event, some areas for improvement have been identified (extra emergency centre supplies, designated community bulletin boards if there are power outages, more life jackets, etc.). However, there were no urgent items that needed to be addressed. In fact, during the rainstorm proactive decisions were made reducing damage to properties and infrastructure and securing emergency services for all communities. In the days following the rainstorm decisions were also made that resulted in getting a connection reestablished in just five days as opposed to weeks. Although things went well, the town cannot get complacent in that there could be future events and different ones such as forest fire or even flooding but in wintertime and/or without power or running water. A future event can be more challenging.

Putting The Town Back Together

The Town was fortunate to have significant local resources from heavy equipment (Town, contractors, etc.) and many local skilled operators, trades persons, labourers, etc. From the first day of the response after the storm the Town had 13 pieces of heavy equipment deployed and 19 persons in the field. It was technically uncertain what was going to happen as per disaster relief the morning after but Council and the Emergency Management Committee did not waiver and knew the Town and area needed to get back to normal as soon as possible for everything from medical and emergency services to school, work and businesses.

Council and the Emergency Management Committee made the decision to start the approaches for the culvert crossing before the province was even supportive of the interim solution. This decision resulted in a connection in five days. Some alternatives considered would have been substantially longer (weeks) and any delay on culverts would of added up to a week to the culvert crossing itself. Council thanks the Transportation and Works Officials in the Ministers office, the Minister, and the Premier for recognizing the value of local decision making in the emergency response and its effectiveness. As the Mayor advised "if the world is not ready to come to us, we are coming to the world". The support of the Minister and Premier was great and they also benefitted from the Town's Emergency Management Committee "thinking outside the box" to get it done sooner than later for the good of the whole area.

Fire & Rescue Department – Fire, Rescue and RAIN Department!

Everyone knows how valuable of a service our firefighters provide in protecting residents and property. During the extreme rain event (one of the highest on record for this area in recent memory), the Fire Department was out during the event monitoring the town and working with town crews and contractors as per mitigation. It was quickly realized that we could use more water related gear and life safety gear than ever imagined. Who knew we would need life jackets when getting around town!

More Payment Options (Online Banking)

You can now pay Town Taxes via BMO online banking by adding the Town of St. Alban's to the biller list and thereafter pay directly from banking site.

PEOPLE FEATURE

A sincere thank you to everyone for pulling together in the response effort to the Thanksgiving rainstorm. During the storm and the week following during the state of emergency and beyond, the town and area had individuals, businesses, corporations, organizations, government departments, and volunteers pull together and be resilient. Thank you from Council, Staff, & All Departments

Digging, Building, Dismantling, Paving, etc.? Plan Ahead and Check For Required Approvals & Permits

Don't risk your time and investment for non-compliance to regulations and/or required approvals. Improper land use impacts costs to all taxpayers as per complicated maintenance of town and effects on other properties. Council prefers to prevent all stop work and/or removal orders.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Fire Department: 538-3000
Emergency Services: 538-3117
Police: 882-2230
Medical Centre: 538-3244
Or to Get a # call 911
(911 is directory service)
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/