

## **2015 Newsletter**

It is somewhat hard to believe that another year has gone by. As we grow older, the common saying that time waits for no one, seems to be more fitting, these days, as time really does seem to go by much more quickly. Despite the fact that there never seems to be enough time to deal with the many community issues and concerns, Council was very busy and ultimately successful, over the past year, in resolving a few of the more immediate concerns as indicated in the project approvals noted below.

The Street Paving Project, in the amount of \$312,025.00, held over from 2013, was completed in 2014. The project paved a number of gravel streets and replaced sections of asphalt on several other streets. Unfortunately, our Street Paving Project approved for 2014, in the amount of \$549,709.00, did not get completed and is being held over for completion in 2015. The tender for this project has been awarded to Penney Paving Ltd. and the project is expected to be completed early in the 2015 construction season. This project will also pave a number of gravel streets and replace sections of asphalt on several other streets. To continue with Council's Street Upgrading Program, Council has submitted another funding application to our Provincial Government to upgrade several additional streets within our Community this year. Council is optimistic that funding for this project will be approved.

The Salt Water Line Replacement Project, in the amount of \$488,482.00, held over from 2013, to serve the shrimp plant, was completed in 2014. This project should relieve the tremendous demand on Council's water supply when the shrimp plant is in yearly production.

This year Council will install a sewer system in the Greenham's Point section of our Community. Council will use its Gas Tax Funding of \$456,000.00, accumulated over the past four years, to complete this project. All preliminary work has been completed for the project and tenders will be called early in the Spring.

Council was successful in 2014 in acquiring funding, in the amount of \$39,000.00, for a Community Enhancement Employment Project to complete needed work on the hiking trails. Last year, responsibility for the various hiking trails was passed over to Council by the Twillingate Islands Tourism Association. Efforts are presently ongoing by Council to acquire permission to occupy the trails from the Crown Lands Division of the Dept. of Environment and Conservation. Once completed, Council will be seeking funding to complete additional upgrading of the trail system. Council has already met with government officials regarding funding and other matters related to trail development.

At this time of the year, Council would like to give thanks to our MHA, the Honourable Derrick Dalley, for his many efforts in acquiring much of the above noted project funding through the 90/10 Provincial/Municipal Cost Sharing Capital Works Program. Thanks to Minister Dalley, as well, for the Provincial contribution of \$26,111.00 to replace the condenser at our arena and the \$39,000.00 contribution, as above indicated, for work on the hiking trails. We look forward to his valued assistance again this year.

...over

This past December, Council approved its 2015 Budget and is pleased to report that there will be no change in the rates and fees charged for municipal services this year. To balance a budget without some adjustment to support ongoing initiatives, is always a challenge. As a result, Council would like to appeal to all taxpayers to make every effort to have their tax account paid by the deadline date of June 30<sup>th</sup>. This is essential so that Council can continue to maintain ongoing operations and honour payments on its long term Capital Works debt.

Council would like to extend appreciate to the various clergy for participating in the Tree Lighting Ceremony held this past December 1<sup>st</sup>. Thanks to members of the Fire Department for your involvement again this year. Thanks to the Salvation Army Band, Gary Cooper and Pastor Phalyn Anstey for your musical and singing talents. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Thanks to all individuals, as well, who came out to the well-attended ceremony and fireworks. We would certainly be remiss without thanking the man of the hour "Santa Claus". Thanks Santa and we sure look forward to your visit with us again in a few short months from now.

We would like to sincerely thank all businesses that financially supported the fundraising program to assist the needy at Christmas time. Your generosity made Christmas a little more joyous for fourteen families.

As always, Council would like to extend thanks to all its staff for their tremendous work over the past year and thoroughly look forward to working with all employees again this year. As all of our employees are essential and sincerely appreciated, Council endeavours to maintain a good working relationship with all its staff members throughout the year. We know the work load is often heavy but, somehow, all essential work does manage to get done. Thanks to the volunteer efforts of both the Fire Department and Recreation Committee, over the past year, and best wishes in support of your many ongoing efforts to enhance fire protection and recreation in our Community this year and in the years to come.

As both the fishing industry and the tourism industry continue to play a major role in the economic well-being of our Community, Council would like to thank all involved in these two vital industries. The fishing industry has met with many challenges over the past number of years and will, no doubt, continue this year to challenge many involved in this industry. Despite the many challenges and adversities, people somehow seem to overcome both and move on, just to meet more and more of the seemingly endless cycle. You are all a strong group of individuals! The tourism industry continues to grow in our Community with more visitations every year. Operators of tourist and tourist related businesses are, no doubt, pleased with the growth of the industry in our Community over the past few years, and look forward to greater visitations in the years to come.

Thanks for your attention and all the best to everyone for 2015.