

## **2016 Newsletter**

I can't believe another year has gone by so quickly. It only seems like yesterday when the last newsletter was mailed. Last year was a very busy, challenging and interesting time for Council and through our many efforts, we were successful in addressing some matters of concern as highlighted below.

Along with the Street Paving Project held over from 2014 for \$549,703.00, a second project for \$282,500.00 was completed during the past year. One can only agree that these two projects alone were badly needed and have vastly improved the drive throughout our Community. To continue with the Street Upgrading Program, Council has applied for cost shared Capital Works Funding to upgrade additional streets this year. We trust that our application will be viewed favourably and that funding for the project will be approved.

Council was, as well, successful during the past year in acquiring funding for \$228,712.00 to replace the watermain crossing Tickle Bridge. This is a very essential project because any major problem associated with that section of watermain would not be easily fixable. Considering age and location, it was deemed necessary to replace this section of watermain so as to ensure no long term interruption in water supplied to residents and businesses located on the North Side of our Community.

Council was very pleased to have been able to install water and/or sewer services at two separate locations in the Bayview section of our Community during the past year. This project was completed at \$419,780.00 with Gas Tax Funds received from the Federal Government over the previous four years. Council will continue its efforts to install sewer services throughout other areas of Bayview.

As residents are aware from the 2016 Property Assessment Notices, mailed to property owners this past Fall, there is a significant increase in property values. The present reassessment of property is based on market values as of January 1, 2014 while the previous assessments were based on market values as of January 1, 2011. Since the property reassessment will result in a tax increase for most property owners, Council has lowered the mill rate from 8.75 mills to 7.5 mills to minimize the increase. Council is requesting taxpayers to make every effort to have taxes paid by the deadline date of June 30<sup>th</sup>. We thank you for your efforts in this regard.

As in other years, Council would like to express its sincere appreciation to our former MHA, Mr. Derrick Dalley, for securing cost shared funding from our Provincial Government for the two Road Paving Projects and the Waterline Replacement Project as above mentioned. We would also like to thank him for securing funding for \$12,205.00 to upgrade the hiking trails, for \$15,000.00 to purchase recreation equipment, and for \$25,000.00 to assist our Fire Department with the purchase of a pick-up truck. We thank Mr. Dalley, as well, for

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his involvement in securing funding for road improvements made by the Dept. of Transportation and Works to Route 340 on both the North and South Sides of our Community, and in the Bayview area, and for meeting with Council on several occasions, over the past year, to discuss matters of concern to our Community. We wish him all the best in his future endeavours. We now look forward to meeting with our newly elected MHA, Mr. Derek Bennett, to get acquainted and to discuss concerns relative to infrastructure needs for our Community.

The Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, held on December 7<sup>th</sup>, was very well attended again this year. Thanks to all who attended. A special thanks to all who participated, especially “Santa” who always brings a smile to our faces.

Thanks to all businesses that continue to support the fundraising program to help needy families at Christmastime. Thanks to our staff for the tremendous work that you continue to do every day. To our firefighters, Recreation Committee members, and all other volunteer groups, appreciation is extended to you for the tremendous volunteer work you all do for the betterment of our Community.

To conclude, Council would like to express its appreciation to all business owners and to all involved in both the fishing and tourism industries, as these are the main sectors that continue to sustain our local economy.

Thanks for reading, and moving forward we will continue our efforts to bring needed improvements to our Community.

Wishing everyone the best for 2016.

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Gordon Noseworthy - Mayor