



What's Going On in Portugal Cove - St. Philip's

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Public Works *New service, new faces*

Last week, the Town launched its own garbage collection service, with a brand new truck and two new employee positions to keep our town clean.

The new Labrie truck is equipped with dual compartments to allow for separated paper and cardboard recycling, due to start in July. The new truck will be partnered with a standard pickup truck, equipped with a specially designed screened area. The second truck is necessary to accommodate the Town's many narrow lanes and streets which lack proper turning areas.

Leo Benoit and Basil Hibbs, both residents of the Town, are excited with the new job and new equipment. "It's a great truck" said Leo after one week on the job. "We work together as one now." They, along with other public works staff, have been trained on the new truck and feel comfortable with the route and the responsibilities.



Both Leo and Basil have worked with the Town in the past, and welcomed the chance to work with the Town in providing the new service.

"I was looking forward to the chance to work full-time with the Town" says Basil, also known as B.J. "This is a chance to provide a service we can take pride in."

If you happen to see the guys on their route, please take the opportunity to say hello.

Hey Dogs!



There's a great place to run around without that darn leash - and your friends are there too. Come check out the dog park at Voisey's Brook!

A Salute to our Volunteers in Portugal Cove - St. Philip's

"Volunteers Grow the Community"

was the theme for this year's Volunteer Appreciation Week.

Here are a few of the volunteers around our town.

Among the many volunteers recognized this week, the Town was proud to present awards of recognition to the residents pictured:

Robert O'Brien - *10 year volunteer award*

Carole Crane - *10 year volunteer award*

Brenda Johnson - *10 year volunteer award*

Cecil Burry - *Volunteer of the Year award*

Thanks and appreciation is expressed to all of our volunteers, and to Minister Dianne Whelan and Rev. Karen Thorn who presented the Volunteer of the Year award. A special thanks to Nita Mason who gave an inspiring speech to those who attended the volunteer recognition ceremony.



Congratulations to Lion Randy Dicks who recently receiving his Harry A. Newman Award for leadership and commitment to volunteer work with the Portugal Cove-St. Philip's Lions.

Left to right is Bert Driscoll, Bradley Moss, Nancy Somerton, Fred Thompson, Randy Dicks, Sharon Andrews, Gladys Churchill, Olive Churchill, Mary Thorne. Missing from photo Josephine Somerton, Martin Smith, & Boyd Merrill.

Over 30 people turned up to help with the OceanNet beach clean up at St. Philip's beach as part of the 22nd annual Earth Day. OceanNet holds beach clean ups around the province regularly, and is proud to have passed the 10,000th clean up mark!

The Town was happy to contribute supplies for this effort. Pictured among some of the proud volunteers are Deputy Mayor Keith Mercer, Councillors Adrienne King, and Jon Seary.

Many thanks to Robert O'Brien and the OceanNet team for organizing these events that help to beautify our town. Go Bob, go!



New Initiatives in Portugal Cove - St. Philip's

Acting Mayor Keith Mercer is pleased to provide an update of ongoing initiatives by the Town of Portugal Cove St. Philip's

“Although this is a relatively small community and there have been some challenges at the council table, plans for the growth and development of the town are moving forward”

Keith Mercer, Acting Mayor



New Municipal Plan

Last spring work commenced on a complete review of the town's Municipal Plan which included five community consultation meetings involving both business leaders and residents. To maximize participation by residents some of the meetings were delayed till early fall. In the fall, the consultants, SGE Acres Ltd. presented council with three alternative approaches to follow. The final choice of approach, which was a blend of the three provided, was submitted to the consultants early in the new year. The first draft of the written portion of the plan is expected to be delivered within the next week or so. While this may appear to be a slow process, most of council believes it is better to take our time and do things right given we expect to live with most of the plan for the next 10 years. Several more community meetings are planned to give residents a chance to influence the final document.

New Wastewater Treatment Plant for Portugal Cove

The town currently operates a state of the art waste water treatment plant in the St. Philip's area. This plant has been given high marks by environmentalists as the only chemicals it uses are molasses and baking soda. A similar plant is now under construction in the Portugal Cove area and should be operational within the next year. Both plants are designed with excess capacity and should easily handle the anticipated growth in the serviced areas of the community for many years to come.

Three Plans for the Future

The Town has a Storm Water Management Plan that is slated for delivery later this year. Once approved by council, we will proceed to organize the necessary funding to meet the recommendations of the plan over a period of years to avoid leaving any properties in jeopardy flooding.

The Recreation Master Plan was presented to the community a couple of weeks ago and will be coming to council for a final review and vote in the near future. The plan, if fully implemented, would cost some 11 million dollars spread over a number of years, and provides for a variety of recreational facilities within the community including a possible partnership with the Eastern School Board involving Beachy Cove school. In addition we are expanding our partnership with the City of St. John's and contributing to the expanded development of the Rotary Sunshine Park through added parking facilities and improved trails.

Finally, a Strategic Plan will be developed that will take into account the findings of the new municipal plan, the recreation plan, and couple them with the various initiatives Council is considering. This will result in a general guideline that will help coordinate and bring these ideas to fruition. Your Council wants to do more than just govern - we want to build a successful and innovative community!

Town and NAPE ratify new Collective Agreement

Last week the town and its union voted to ratify a new 3.5 year collective agreement. Council was provided with a thorough review of a number of key clauses that were changed and highlighted other minor changes. Acting mayor Mercer commented that the town manager together with an experienced negotiator did an excellent job. While some councilors would have liked more time to review the agreement, most were satisfied by the explanations provided by the negotiator. Based on the review of the final negotiated document, the majority of council were pleased to vote acceptance of the contract.

More initiatives, continued on page 4



More New Initiatives in Portugal Cove - St. Philip's

New Garbage Collection Service

On April 16th, the town commenced handling its own garbage collection rather than continuing with an outside contractor. Residents have already noted the new modern truck acquired by the town. This truck is equipped with a double compartment to allow for the collection of recyclables such as paper and cardboard. The recycling program will be started in July so residents should keep an eye out for notices. To operate the truck two current employees of the town have been trained and two people will be hired to replace them in line with our union contract.



Recycling is coming in July!

Growing Businesses in the Town

Business development within the community is expanding at a steady pace. Over the last year we have seen a half dozen home office businesses established, a stand alone childcare facility in the Portugal Cove area, a wind turbine business and a hairdresser operation to name a few. In addition a significant new senior citizens complex is in the works in the St. Philip's area and sizeable expansion to a nursing clinic in the Portugal Cove area. We've also made changes to the business taxation regulations to allow new businesses a full year tax free.

Alternate Power Sources for Town Facilities

Inspired by a wind power proposal submitted by a local business, the Town is investigating the feasibility and benefits of installing a wind turbine power generator to offset the Town's power requirements. In addition to becoming a user of "greener" power, the plan would see a reduction in energy costs over the long term. Considering a second wastewater treatment plant is coming, and a new recreation centre is proposed, this idea makes more and more sense. We'll keep you updated.



Gateway Project at Portugal Cove

Many residents have commented on the overall condition and esthetics of the Bell Island Ferry terminal and surrounding area. Working with the Bell Island council and Tract Consultants, the Town expects a proposal to enhance and improve this area will soon be in the works. Improvements include a new building to house Tourist information, related facilities, and offices for the Department of Transportation.

Housing Development

Finally, on the housing development front things have been slowed to a more sensible pace and size. Two of the three large developments that were the subject of debate during the municipal election have, with the cooperation of the developers, been scaled down with larger lots and more appropriate roadways.

A couple of new developments have been approved that required the preparation of new regulations. These involved large serviced lots with pond frontage while the other had large lots with water service only. Individual home development proved challenging and frustrating for both the council and the applicants as the new council attempted to work within the rules that are in place. It is hoped that the new Municipal Plan will help resolve some of the problems encountered.

For further information on any of our initiatives, please contact: Keith Mercer, Acting Mayor - keith.mercer@pcsp.ca or Rodney Cumby, Town Manager - 895-8000, rodney.cumby@pcsp.ca