

If you are not one of the nearly 175 residents or more who attended one of the 5 Open House sessions at the Town Hall or the 5 Public Consultations sessions held at Beachy Cove School, then council hopes that you have at least taken some time to look at all or parts of the draft plan. Many of you have chosen to send your comments via e-mail or letter and that is very much appreciated.

The draft plan including the associated maps, as indicated in the flyer that went to all households in the community, is available; to view in paper format at the Town Hall, on-line at the Town's website, on a CD or copied to your own memory stick from the Town Hall and of course for purchase in paper copy for some or all of the documents if the other options are not suitable.

REMEMBER YOU HAVE UNTIL **December 19<sup>th</sup>**, 2008 to submit comments on this draft however, comments received after this date will still be considered.. If you wish to see what others had to say at the Public Consultations, a summary of the comments we received will be posted on our website, once complied by staff. If you prefer or require your own paper copy, then contact the town office where the notes will be available.



As many of you know it has been over two years since we started this process. The charts below, which were presented at the Public Consultations and displayed at the Open House sessions, show **where we have been** with the review process, **where we are now** and **what will happen** over the next number of months. The time frame for getting the second draft plan was much longer than we anticipated since, shortly after the background report was submitted, the Planning Consultant who started the work resigned from the consulting firm and was replaced by the current individual, Mr. John Baird of Hatch Mott MacDonald Ltd. At the best of times such transitions are not easy but Mr. Baird has done a very good job of getting the process back on track.

As you review the charts above, you will note that there is about a three month period allowed for government review of the draft plan. This is an estimate based on the fact that several different government departments and agencies must review the plan to ensure it does not

## What we've been doing in Portugal Cove - St. Philip's



t conflict with federal and provincial interests and legislation.

If, for some reason, you are unable to make your comments on the draft plan by the December 19<sup>th</sup> deadline, you will have one more opportunity for feedback on the plan after the province has done so. This will be during the Commissioner's hearing that we expect will occur in late April or early May barring any other unforeseen delays. Any suggested alterations to the plan received after December 19<sup>th</sup> will be put on file and considered once the province has completed its review.

On behalf of Council I would like to thank all those who have or will take time to provide feedback on this draft plan as well give a sincere thank you to the town staff and our consultant who have put in many extra hours to facilitate the review process. I would also like give a special thank you to Beachy Cove School for allowing us to use their facilities for this important community effort.

Stephen Andrews  
Chair, Planning & Development Committee

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



Mayor Norm Collins with Wife Agnes Collins

Well folks –It's hard to believe that it is once again, time to say Happy Holidays to you and your family! What a great year we have had here at home in Portugal Cove – St. Philip's. This past year has brought us many moments of consideration and pride.

2008 began with our continued promise to complete a new Town Plan for Portugal Cove – St. Philip's. We recently completed Town consultations referring to the new plan and are just about complete with the process. The final plan should be available to the Town in the second quarter of 2009. We have had an immense amount of positive feedback and are working diligently to ensure that residents can be part of a Town Plan that they can be proud of.

In late 2007, the Town took over 9 local roads. In 2008, several of them have been newly paved and have seen many improvements, with the remaining roads scheduled to be upgraded in the New Year. Some of the major arteries in the Town such Old Broad Cove Road, as well as Bennett's Road have seen major reconstruction. The Town looks better than it ever has, especially with our unique new street signs, all of which will be erected by the end of the New Year.

The second Wastewater Treatment Plant began operation in the Portugal Cove side of the community. This technology was also featured in the May 2008 issue of Environmental Science & Engineering, described as being “indicative of the Town's commitment to proactive environmental protection for its pristine harbour”. The Town has received a great amount of interest with regards to the efficiency and the technology engaged by our two Wastewater Treatment Facilities.

The Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department had a busy year in 2008. Recreation in communities the size of Portugal

Cove – St. Philip's is all about partnership and volunteerism. Many of the Recreational activities that take place in this community such as the Regatta Festival, PC-SP End of Summer Regatta, Winter Carnival, Christmas Parade, and Canada Day are possible due to community groups getting together and giving so freely of their time to make them successful. Without groups and organizations such as the Volunteer Fire Department, the Royal Canadian Legion, the Lion's Club, many church and youth organizations, these events would not be possible. The Town would like to acknowledge all those people and groups in the community that volunteer their time to offer quality programming and services to its residents. Some groups mentioned above as well as the Minor Soccer, Minor Softball, Girl Guides of Canada, the Scouting Movement, 50+ Club, Women's Institute, PCSP Rowing Club, Martial Art Groups, and many more, make these events possible. The Recreation Department would like to thank you all for your time and hard work.

2009 promises to be a great year for the Town of Portugal Cove - St. Philip's Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department. The Town has moved forward with some areas of the Recreation Master Plan and has committed to major playground work, upgrading of parks, and upgrading of the Recreation Centre. The playground work has already started and the work at the Recreation Centre will begin in February.

The community is growing and so is the need for improved recreational facilities. The Town Council and staff are committed to improving and implementing what the residents need to make their recreation and leisure activities successful. 2009 will be a great year for Recreation in the Town.

The Town also engaged in a Wind Energy Study in 2008 and staff and Council are working hard to keep the momentum going with this with hopes that in the near future the Town can implement and avail of the economical and environmental benefits of wind energy.

So as we celebrate this holiday season, I hope we will continue to spend time with family and friends. Let us use this time to reflect and count our blessings. The greatest gift we could exchange this season is to serve one another. From our families to yours, from our Town Council and staff, we wish your families all the love and blessings of the season.

Mayor Norm Collins

**Town Office Hours/ Closures for 2008**  
Monday - Friday: 8:30am - 4:30pm.

*The Town Office will be closed on the following days:*  
Christmas Eve/ Christmas Day - December 24th, 25th  
Boxing Day - December 26th  
New Year's Eve - December 31st  
New Years Day- January 1st, 2009

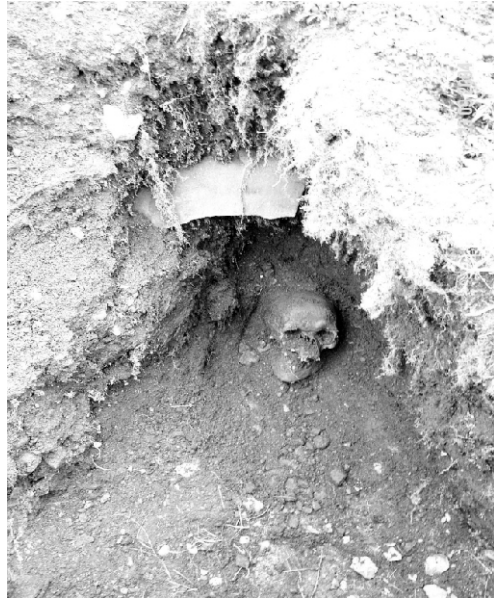


## Get Involved - Activities in Portugal Cove - St. Philip's

### Town Receives First Municipal Heritage Designation

The Town recently received its first Municipal Heritage designation. West point cemetery, one of the oldest cemeteries in the community, has been deemed a Municipal Heritage site, and as such inherits all the protective rights that would accompany such a designation. The PCSP Heritage Advisory Committee sought to designate the property when a couple of years ago, there were some graves unknowingly unearthed. These remains were sent to MUN for research, and are in the process of being returned to there proper resting place on West Point. The following article titled, "In Search Of Bones & Stones" is an article, written by Steve Sharpe, of the PCSP Advisory Committee that appeared in the Newfoundland Ancestor Family History Society publication, in reference to the cemetery.

### ... In Search Of Bones and Stones ...And Photos and Other Information.



Individual 3 and slate marker stone from trench at West Point

The Heritage Advisory Committee of the **Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's** has been researching the oldest burial site in Portugal Cove, at West Point: The information contained in this article is from the summer 2008 Heritage Advisory Committee report, prepared by Ian Murphy; and especially from the final report of salvage operations at West (also known as Wester) Point, Portugal Cove of the Provincial Archaeology Office in October 2004.

The West Point Cemetery dates back to the 1700's. In 2004 the grave site was disturbed by the construction of a housing development, whereupon the Provincial Archaeology Office then took control of the burial site. Materials plus human remains were then collected and given to MUN for study.

It was estimated that at least 13 graves were discovered, and possibly as many as 20 graves were contained at this site.

These people were most likely members of the early fishing families

*that founded the community, and may have been ancestors of families that are still living in the town today. Based on anecdotal evidence, collected from local residents by Ed Picco in the late 1970s, the family names of people buried there included Hanlon, Neary, Purcell and Dooley. And as Leslie A. Winsor states, probably a Fry or Allen who are in the Church of England Cathedral Records back to 1779, and maybe some Churchills, and Harveys who date to 1781 in the same records! In these records Portugal Cove was mentioned as a place where the person(s) lived.*

*Burials at the site most likely stopped when Church cemeteries became established in the community in the early 1800s. Local lore has suggested that it was a burial ground for Portuguese or French sailors. It appears more likely that it was a small burial plot for some of the earliest permanent settlers in the cove.*

*The earliest reference to the site was from Canon Smith, an Anglican priest who served Portugal Cove 1886-1914. According to Smith, the site was considered old and disused as of 1890. Through interviews, with historical researchers Picco and Winsor, the site had several grave markers up until the early 1970s. Three Latin-inscribed headstones were visible at the site until around 1970. Rev. John Hammond wrote that in 1972 he visited the grave of his great-great-great grandfather on West Point. There was an inscribed headstone in memory of John Hammond who died Feb. 19 1800 at the age of 89. The earliest recorded census for Portugal Cove, taken in 1794, lists a John Hammond. According to Reverend Hammond, his ancestor came from Jersey and settled in Maggoty Cove, St. John's. Hammond took a claim of land adjacent to relatives of the same Tucker family that later settled in Broad Cove (St. Philip'.*

*The Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's now wishes to retrieve these remains for reburial at the West Point site. The Town has requested the return of these remains, markers, and artefacts. The West Point site is now registered as a Heritage Site with the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador: see <http://www.heritagefoundation.ca/property-search/property-details.aspx?id=4381>*

*However there seems to be a problem in locating exactly where the remains have been stored. Hopefully they will be found soon. There were photos of the site from about 25 years ago, but they seem to have also disappeared. If anyone has any information, photos, articles or data concerning these "Bones and Stones", please contact the PCSP Heritage Advisory Committee or Steve Sharpe at [steve.sharpe@nl.rogers.com](mailto:steve.sharpe@nl.rogers.com) 722-3138.*

Submitted by Stephen Sharpe  
Member: PCSP Heritage Advisory Committee  
Member: Family History Society of NL  
Member: Newfoundland Historic Trust

Since this article was published, the remains have been under further research, and will be returned for proper reburial in the very near future. It should be noted that geographic coordinates of the grave locations were recorded and the remains will be returned to their respective gravesites, as per their original resting place.

## News & Things to do in Portugal Cove - St. Philip's

### Information for Petition False & Misleading

It has Come to Council's attention that there is a petition circulating in the Community entitled "Stop the Town Plan".

Much of the information provided for the background for this petition is at the very least misleading. The authors of the poster and petition have chosen, for some reason, to remain anonymous. So, let's clear the air.

The Town Plan is in it's draft form and the Town is still receiving your written comments on what you like about the plan and what you would like to see changed. Council organized a comprehensive public consultation program for the preparation of the draft Town Plan. In 2006, the public was invited to neighbourhood workshops that were designed to obtain resident's input on local planning issues. Opportunity was provided for written submissions and, a 1-800 telephone line was also established for residents to call and offer comments and/or concerns. Once a draft of the Town Plan was completed and made ready for public consideration, Council arranged a second community consultation program, which was more extensive than the first. The current consultation process involved:

- 1) The preparation and distribution of a four-page flyer to every household highlighting the significant elements in the draft Plan.
- 2) An advertisement was placed in *The Telegram* newspaper notifying the public on how, when and where they can view the entire planning document;
- 3) Copies of the the draft Plan and maps were placed on display at the Town Hall for public viewing and the documents were also placed on the Town's website;
- 4) A total of 10 public consultation sessions were held during a two-week period (November 18, 19, 20, 25 and 26th). There were open house sessions held in the afternoons at the Town Hall and structured meetings in the evenings at Beachy Cove Elementary School. The latter were hosted by the Chair of the Planning and Development Committee of Council and included a presentation by the Town's Planning Consultant followed by a question and answer period.
- 5) Opportunity for written submissions is also available by either email or regular mail. Almost five weeks have been allotted for written comments and, while a deadline has been set for December 19, 2008, comments received beyond that date will be considered.

Following the completion of the public consultation program, Council will consider all the comments and concerns raised and will revise the draft Plan accordingly. The revised Plan must be forwarded to Municipal Affairs for review by government departments. Once released by the province and following any recommended changes that are to be made, Council can then adopt the draft Plan. At that stage the public will be invited to participate in a Public Hearing that will be scheduled several weeks after the Plan is adopted by Council. A commissioner will be appointed to hold the Public Hearing. Residents will, once again, be provided with an opportunity to speak to the Plan. They will be able to speak at the Hearing or provide their comments in writing. Following the Public Hearing, Council will consider the Commissioner's Report on the Hearings and may approve the Plan with or without changes.

The Town Plan becomes legal and binding upon both Council and residents, once the final version of the Plan is submitted to Municipal Affairs for a final review and registration in the Gazette.

Council feels certain that at the end of this consultation process it will have prepared a Town Plan in an open and transparent manner. We believe the public consultation process is important so we developed a program that goes considerably beyond what is required by the provincial planning legislation. It is important to keep in mind that town plans are meant to be living documents. This means they are designed to reflect the issues and concerns that are important today and, if and when circumstances change, the Plan can be amended to accommodate change. So, lets continue to work together on this important project to ensure our community is planned and developed in the interest of all residents. Lets continue he planning process so that we can provide for a healthy, safe and enjoyable environment for present and future generations.

If you have any questions on the Town Plan, or need clarification, please feel free to contact the following individuals at 895-8000.

Geralyn Lynch, Town Planner

Rodney Cumby, Town Manager

Any of the Councillors

Council encourages you to voice your concerns or comments to the town plan, as well as to seek clarification

### Christmas Decorating Contest

The Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department would like to notify all resident of the Annual Christmas Decorating Contest. Members of your local council will travel throughout the community during the evenings of Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> to judge all the decorated houses. Get into the festive spirit and challenge your neighbor or family member to out do you with their Christmas lights and decorations. This contest does not require you to pre-register. However, if you do not want your house to be missed or you think we better not miss your neighbor's house, please call Dawn @ 895-8000 ext 4.



Santa arrives in the old pumper at the town tree lighting ceremony.  
Photo by Cassandra Leigh Clarke Benoit