



The Tickle Newsletter



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January - March 2026



@townofpcsp



@pcspnl



pcsp.ca

Changing Lives Abroad, One Mission at a Time (or Seven!)

Resident Debbie Churchill, has recently returned home after completing her seventh humanitarian mission with Team Broken Earth, an experience she describes as deeply rewarding. These missions focus on providing essential medical relief, education, and community support to vulnerable populations. While Debbie's work has taken her to Antigua and Guatemala, Team Broken Earth also serves communities closer to home, extending their reach both locally and internationally where help is needed most.

While the team recognizes that a single week cannot change the entire world, they know it can change someone's world and that impact is what continues to drive Debbie and her fellow volunteers forward. With a steadfast commitment to helping as many people as possible, Team Broken Earth will continue serving these communities for as long as there is a need.



That's Olivia!



Olivia Acreman Shines as a National Soccer Champion

Portugal Cove-St. Philip's is proud to celebrate Olivia Acreman, who has been representing our community on the national soccer stage. Olivia competed at the 2025 Toyota National Soccer Championship in Charlottetown, PEI, as a member of the U15 PYL St. John's Soccer Club. As the only PCSP player on the team, she helped secure their place at Nationals after winning the provincial league title. The team delivered a strong performance, finishing with a 2-2 record against top competition from across the country.

More recently, Olivia returned from Laval, Quebec, where she competed in the U16 NDC Cup hosted by Canada Soccer. She was selected to play with Canada Selects, a team made up of elite players from across the country, competing against teams from Ontario and Quebec.

The Town congratulates Olivia on these outstanding achievements and wishes her continued success as she proudly represents PCSP and Newfoundland and Labrador.

Thank You.

December always brings a special kind of magic to PCSP, and this year was no exception. From handmade cards and generous donations to voices singing loud and proud, the season came alive through countless acts of kindness shared across our community.

With the support of PCSP Town Council and staff, the PCSP Lions Club, Alick Tsui, Santa NL, dedicated parade participants, and generous residents, that goodwill turned into real impact. Food hampers were distributed, along with warm clothing and other donations, reminding us just how powerful community spirit can be. Congratulations to our People's Choice Award winners, a tie between Coopers Heating's Whoville and the Girls Auxiliary's Sugar Plum Fairies, along with several other outstanding floats who helped make the parade unforgettable.

Thank you to everyone who took part, supported the events, or shared a smile along the way. Because of you, the season truly shone a little brighter



And, the Winners Go...

Ho, Ho, Ho!

This year marked the launch of a new community initiative celebrating parade floats, and what a debut it had. From tinsel-drenched tractors to the Grinch on wheels, the 2025 parade was bursting with creativity, community pride, and festive flair. Choosing winners was no easy task, but a few floats truly rolled away with the spotlight!

Merry & Bright - Best Overall
Cooper's Heating Solutions

Elves' Choice - Most Creative
St. Lawrence Anglican Church Thrift Store

Little Elves on Parade - Best Youth
Girl's Auxiliary Sugar Plum Fairies

**Spirit of Giving - Best Non-Profit,
Organization or Individual**
Chris Boyd & Family

Santa's Helper - Best Business
Ernest Automotive

Reindeer Runaway - Best Walking Group
Royal Canadian Sea Cadets Corps

People's Choice Award - Community Favourite
**Cooper's Heating Solutions &
Girl's Auxiliary Sugar Plum Fairies**





FIRE SAFETY

Holiday

WITH KINDLE THE ELF



@pcspfire

This past December, the Portugal Cove–St. Philip's Volunteer Fire Department continued its annual festive tradition, lending a sprinkle of festive imagination to an important message: keeping our community safe from fire hazards during the holidays. Enter Kindle the Elf, the department's newest seasonal recruit. Borrowed from the beloved "Elf on the Shelf" tradition, Kindle spent each day in December popping up around the station as part of a fire-safety countdown. With every new hiding spot came a new piece of advice, helping residents learn how to prevent common seasonal fire risks.

Using a familiar character made the information more accessible for children, turning safety reminders into a playful daily ritual. Parents shared posts with their kids, teachers followed along with classes, and the community quickly grew fond of seeing where Kindle would land next.

The initiative didn't just resonate locally. CBC picked up the story, highlighting the department's creative approach and shining a national spotlight on the importance of fire safety during the busiest, brightest time of year. With holiday gatherings, decorations, and kitchen chaos in full swing, it's easy for safety checks to slip down the list. Kindle served as a cheerful nudge, helping families keep prevention top of mind.

READING BINGO



With Beachy Cove Elementary and the PCSP Lions Club!

Beachy Cove Elementary School was delighted when asked to partner with the PCSP Lions Club in a Fall Reading Challenge. Our learners were invited to participate by completing various blocks in the Reading BINGO Card over the month of November. Thanks to the incredible number of entries submitted, it's clear that students embraced the opportunity to dive into books and cultivate a genuine love of reading.

To celebrate their commitment, several lucky participants were chosen in a random draw to receive exciting prizes. This initiative successfully encouraged literacy engagement and demonstrated how fun and rewarding the habit of reading can be for our whole school community.

Thank you PCSP Lions Club!



Waste Collection Schedule

The 2026 waste collections schedule is now available! Residents can download it directly from our website, pcsp.ca. Magnet copies have been mailed to residents to use throughout the year!

For Digital Download, visit our website pcsp.ca/services/garbage-recycling-services



Winter Reminders

As winter settles in, it's important to ensure your garbage and recycling can be safely collected despite snow and ice.

Never Miss a Collection Update!

Sign up for PCSP Connects to receive alerts for changes in waste collection. Choose to receive alerts via phone call, text message, or email!
pcsp.ca/sign-up-for-pcsp-connects-today/

Keep Your Garbage Box Accessible

Clear away snow and ice from around your garbage box to allow for easy collection.

Mark Your Garbage Box Clearly

Use reflective markers or flags to make your garbage box visible in snowy conditions, especially during low-light mornings.

Place Items Safely on the Curb

If you don't have a garbage box, place bags and bins securely curb side, avoiding where they might be buried by snow plows.

Winter Parking Ban Until April 30th, 2026 (Inclusive)



No parking on any street reservation within the Town between the hours of 12:00am (midnight) to and including 8:00am.



At any time when there is a snowfall and for 12 hours after the snowfall has ceased.



Vehicles left on the roadway may be ticketed or towed at the owner's expense.

Full information
pcsp.ca/article/winter-parking-ban-in-effect-2/

Winter 2026 Fitness + Programs

Adult Fitness (Tuesdays & Thursdays)

January 20 to March 26

(No class on March 17)

19 Sessions

Cost: \$47.50 / Time: 9:30-10:30am

Kickboxing (Thursdays)

January 22 to March 26

(No class February 12)

9 Sessions

Cost: \$87.00/ Time: 6:30 - 7:30pm

Playgroup (Wednesdays)

January 14 to March 25

11 Sessions

Cost: \$27.50 / Time: 10:00-11:30am

Sit and Fit (Tuesdays & Thursdays)

January 20 to March 26

(No class March 17)

19 Sessions

Cost: \$47.50/Time: 11:00am-12:00 pm

Storytime (Fridays)

January 16 to March 27

11 Sessions

Cost: Free / Time: 10:30-11:30am

Pickleball (Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays)

**January 12 to March 30 (No Session
March 16, 17 and February 11)**

Cost: \$2.50 per session / Time: 1:30-
2:30pm & 2:30-3:30pm. Limit of one
(1) time slot per day.

Yoga (Mondays)

January 19- March 23

(No session February 9)

9 Sessions

Cost: \$87.00/Time:6:30-7:30pm

Yoga (Wednesdays)

January 21- March 25

(No Session February 11)

9 Sessions

Cost: \$87.00 / Time: 5:15-6:15pm

Zumba (Wednesdays)

January 21 - March 25

(No Session February 11)

9 Sessions

Cost: \$86.00/6:30-7:30pm



**Registration opens
Tuesday, January 6th at
9:00 am via eServices**

**View the Program Package
at pcsp.ca/classes-courses**

NEW

PICKLE PRACTICE

Clinics, Tournaments, and More!

Fridays | 10:00 am to 11:30 am | PCSP Recreation Centre

Beginners Pickleball Clinic

January 23 to February 6

Cost: \$20 for 3 sessions

Beginners Pickleball Clinic

March 13 to March 27

Cost: \$20 for 3 sessions

Mini Games Session

February 13

All skill levels

Cost: \$2.50 per person

Dinks & Drops Session

February 20

Some experience required

Cost: \$5.00 per person

Game Strategy Session

February 27

Some experience required

Cost: \$5.00 per person

Pickleball 4 Square Tournament

March 6

All skill levels

Cost: \$5.00 per person

Winter 2026 Library Hours

January 13th to March 27th

Tuesdays: 9:30am to 12:00pm / 2:00pm to 4:30pm

Wednesdays: 4:30pm to 7:00pm (activity night begins 6pm)

Thursdays: 9:30am to 1:00pm

Fridays: Storytime program 10:30am to 11:30am

Please Note:

Every Wednesday night, Mike will have an activity for families to come in and try!

Join us beginning 6:00 pm in the Library on Wednesday for a fun science or art craft!



pcsp.ca/library



YOUTH EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

PCSP Easter and Summer Day Camp

Submit applications to:

 careers@pcsp.ca

For full details, visit:

 pcsp.ca/local-government/careers

Applications due
**MARCH
20TH**

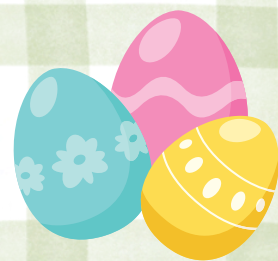


Easter Camp Registration

The Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's is pleased to again welcome participants to our Easter Camp! The goal of this program is to offer participants socialization, be active, have fun, and safe days with their peers. We ask for everyone's co-operation in following the procedures in place for the program to run successfully and within a safe manner. **The complete details of the camp will be available on our website in February 2026.**

The 2026 Easter Camp will run from Monday, April 6th to Friday, April 10th. The hours of camp are 8:00am to 5:00pm. Drop off will run from 8:00am to 9:00am, and pick up from 4:00pm - 5:00pm.

Registration will take place on Monday March 4th, 2026, at 9:00am for residents of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's only. If space permits, a non-resident registration date will be announced. Please make sure your eServices account is up to date, and subaccounts created for all participants prior to Friday, February 27th, 2026.



Save the Date(s)!

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

HIRED



Resume and Interview Workshop for Teens Mid February

A new opportunity is on the horizon for teens looking to build real-world job skills. This February, we'll be hosting a practical, confidence-boosting workshop focused on resume writing, interview preparation, and the essentials every young job seeker should know. Full event details, including dates, times, and registration information, will be shared soon. Stay tuned and help the teens in your life get ready to shine.



PCSP Winter Carnival

February 6th to 15th

Winter magic is on the horizon. From February 6th to 15th, our community comes alive with a full week of festive events for all ages and interests. If you love outdoor adventures, cozy celebrations, or family-friendly fun, this year's Winter Carnival has something waiting for you. We're crossing our fingers for a fresh blanket of snow to set the perfect scene, and we'll be sharing the full schedule soon. Mark your calendars and get ready to embrace the season.



Best of PCSP Call for Nominations February 9th to March 27th

We're gearing up to celebrate the outstanding people, groups, and businesses that make our community shine. The Best of PCSP Awards return on April 27th, 2026, and we want you to be part of it. The Call for Nominations open February 9th, 2026 and close March 27th, 2026. More details on categories and how to submit will be shared soon - stay tuned to our social media and website, and start thinking about who deserves to be recognized!



Seniors St. Patrick's Day Celebration March 17th

A wee bit of green and a lot of good cheer are on the way. Join us for our Seniors' St. Patrick's Day Celebration on Tuesday, March 17, from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm at the PCSP Recreation Centre. Expect a lively afternoon filled with laughter, music, and plenty of Irish spirit. Registration opens March 6 at 9:00 am through eServices or by calling 709-895-8000. Sláinte to a grand afternoon together.



Easter Egg Hunt

March 28th | Weather Date: March 29th

Hop into spring with us on Saturday, March 28th, 2026 (alternate weather date: Sunday, March 29th) for a day of fun, laughter, and egg-citement! This beloved family event is perfect for kids of all ages, featuring egg hunts, prizes, and festive surprises to celebrate the season. Registration opens on Friday, March 6th, 2026, at 9:00am via eServices and is exclusive to PCSP residents. Spaces fill quickly, so mark your calendars! Stay tuned—full event details will be announced in March 2026. Follow our social media and visit our website to be the first to know when the egg-cellent updates are released!

BUDGET

2026



The Town of Portugal Cove–St. Philip's extends sincere thanks to residents who took part in the 2026 municipal budget process. Community input plays an important role in shaping decisions that reflect local priorities, and Council appreciates the time residents took to share feedback, attend consultations, and stay engaged throughout the process.

Council is pleased to confirm that a balanced 2026 budget was tabled and formally passed at the Public Council Meeting held on Wednesday, December 17, 2025. This marks an important milestone for the current Council and reflects a careful, data-driven approach to maintaining services, planning for future needs, and ensuring fiscal responsibility.

The Town remains committed to transparency and public engagement and thanks residents for continuing to be active partners in building a strong, sustainable community.



For more information on the 2026 Budget, visit: www.pcsp.ca

Council Schedule of Meetings 2026

The new year is already warming up behind the scenes, and the 2026 schedule for Public Council meetings, Committee of the Whole meetings, and statutory holidays observed by the Town of Portugal Cove–St. Philip's is now finalized and available on our website.

January

Regular Public Council Meeting - January 28, 7:00 pm
Committee of the Whole Meetings - January 14 and 15

February

Regular Public Council Meeting - February 18, 7:00 pm
Committee of the Whole Meetings - February 4, 5, 25, 26

March

Regular Public Council Meeting - March 11, 7:00 pm
Committee of the Whole Meetings - March 18, 19



Visit pcsp.ca/council to view full schedule

Electric Portable Space Heater Safety

When the weather turns cold, it can bring a chill into our homes. Portable space heaters have become a popular way to supplement central heating or heat one room. If you plan to use portable electric space heaters, make sure to follow these tips and recommendations:

HEATER CHECKLIST

- Purchase a heater with the seal of a qualified testing laboratory.
- Keep the heater at least 3 feet (1 metre) away from anything that can burn, including people.
- Choose a heater with a thermostat and overheat protection.
- Place the heater on a solid, flat surface.
- Make sure your heater has an auto shut-off to turn the heater off if it tips over.
- Keep space heaters out of the way of foot traffic. Never block an exit.
- Keep children away from the space heater.
- Plug the heater directly into the wall outlet. Never use an extension cord.
- Space heaters should be turned off and unplugged when you leave the room or go to bed.

Types of electric space heaters

Oil or water-filled radiator

Heated oil or water travels through the heater.

Fan-forced heater

A fan blows warm air over metal coils.

Ceramic heater

Air is warmed over a ceramic heating element.

Infrared heaters

Heat is created by infrared bulbs.

Fact

Two in five deaths in space heater fires involve portable electric space heaters.



**NATIONAL FIRE
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**
The leading information and knowledge resource
on fire, electrical and related hazards





Looking for a fun and friendly way to spend your Friday afternoons? The Rainbow 50+ Club meets every Friday in the PCSP Recreation Centre from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. We'd love for you to join us!

What's Happening? Weekly card games and great conversations. Monthly socials featuring a delicious catered lunch. Non-members are welcome to join these events for a small fee! New members are always encouraged to sign up – everyone is welcome! For more information or to sign up, please contact Gary King at 709-691-3902.

\$10.00 per year membership or \$5.00 weekly

Memorial United Church



Loose Threads Sewing Club

Gatherings continue every Monday from 1 to 3 p.m. Bring your current project, enjoy great company, and stitch the afternoon away.

Cake Walk and Tea

The ever-popular event returns in late January. Stay tuned for the official date.

People of the Sea Service

Scheduled for mid-to-late March.

Friday Night Trivia

Plans are underway to launch a monthly trivia night! Details will be shared soon.

For updates, timing, and announcements, please visit the church Facebook page.



<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064877972508>

BRANCH 10, PORTUGAL COVE *Legion Happenings...* 709-895-6521

Did you Know?

The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #10 holds many community events each season! Follow their Facebook page for their event announcements.



@RCLPortugalCoveSt.PhilipsNewfoundland



If you're looking for a place to host your next event, please don't hesitate to call us @ 709-895-6521. We have great rates and our hall has A/C and an outdoor deck.

Please be advised that the Legion has been designated as a SCENT FREE building. We respectfully request your cooperation. Thank you. Always accepting new applications.

The Legion needs you!



The PCSP Lions Club 'Friends in Music' program is run by volunteers, and the Town provides the venue free of charge. Amateur and professional musicians donate their time and come to the PCSP Rec Centre to lead the sessions. All music genres are covered. Audience members can bring their instruments and play along (chords and lyrics are provided) or just sit back and enjoy.

We get together two Sundays each month, and admission is free!

Visit us at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/3184846355128213> to see videos and schedules.

Mayor's Message



Mayor Bartlett serving breakfast during Breakfast with Santa at Brookside Intermediate

Contact:

Email: dave.bartlett@pcsp.ca

As we begin a new year and look ahead to the winter months, I want to take this opportunity to say how honoured I am to serve our community as Mayor. Stepping into this role has been both humbling and energizing, and I am grateful for the trust residents have placed in me.

Throughout our events and meetings, I've had the privilege of meeting many residents, volunteers, and community partners, and I continue to be inspired by the pride people take in our community.

I would also like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who took the time to participate in the Town's budget consultations in late 2025. Your input played an important role in shaping Council's decisions, and I'm pleased to share that we have achieved a balanced budget for the year ahead with a decrease in the mil rate from 7 to 6.6 mils. This reflects our shared commitment to thoughtful planning and responsible financial stewardship.

Looking ahead, Council and staff remain focused on maintaining essential services, supporting community programs, and planning responsibly for the future. The winter months also bring opportunities to slow down, connect, and take in what the beauty of winter has to offer, and I encourage everyone to attend the Winter Carnival in February.

As always, I'd like to remind residents to stay informed by following Town updates, be mindful of winter safety and snow-clearing regulations, and reach out to the Town Office if you have questions or concerns. Your feedback matters, and open communication is key as we move forward together.

I look forward to the year ahead and to working alongside Council, staff, volunteers, and residents to continue building a strong, welcoming community. On behalf of Town Council, I wish you a safe, healthy, and happy start to 2026.

Dave

Annual Tax Time

Tax invoices are available the first week of January 2026

Invoices will be mailed to all households during the first week of January. If you haven't received your tax bill, please contact ar@pcsp.ca

- Property owner(s) are responsible for ensuring the Town has their current mailing address on file.
- Property owner(s) are responsible for understanding their tax and interest obligations regardless of any error in the issuance of notification from the Town.
- Payment Deadline is March 31, 2026.
- Taxes not paid in full by the due date, are subject to a one percent (1%) simple interest rate which will be applied on the first day of every month.
- Accounts with a balance forward in January for the prior years' taxes, may be subject to collection measures, recovery and legal action.
- Accounts currently on a pre-authorized payment plan will automatically be re-calculated based on your current balance.

Please visit the Town's website for the Town's Tax Collection Policy.