

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

Check Before You Cut



This is the fifth in a series of articles by Steve Andrews, Chairperson, Planning & Development Committee

Town staff are asked many different questions when an individual resident inquires about a development or building permit. Some of the more common ones include:

- *Are there conditions or regulations that apply to the development of property?
- *What process does an individual have to follow to develop land?
- *What fees are involved in developing property?
- *How long does it take to process a building application?
- *Does a person need a permit to repair a dwelling?
- *How do I find information on the Town's zoning requirements?

While all of these are very good questions, the first question you really should ask depends to a degree on your situation. Typically, you are about to buy a piece of property or you have bought or already own a piece a property or you are already living in a home on a piece of property. You now wish to develop or make some changes to the property.

If you are a potential buyer, then probably the first question to the town should be – What zone or zones is this land in and what forms of development are permitted? .

If you are a current owner, then your question will likely be – Can I do the following development on the land I own under current regulations for this zone?

If you are living in a home on a property, then your first question might be – Do I need a permit to make the following change to my property?

Not infrequently, the process for all three of these situation leads to a point where the clearing of some land is necessary. At that point the question should be asked of town staff – Can I go ahead and clear a specific part of the land in order to proceed with the development? Unfortunately, this question is often forgotten both by individuals and larger scale developers. The result is often the wholesale destruction of the trees and shrubs on what was once a

beautiful piece of property. While this is to some degree inevitable in a fully serviced sub-division, that situation only exists in a small portion of this community, which is attempting to retain its rural character.

In the un-serviced or semi-serviced (water only) areas of town, avoid any cutting or grubbing of the land until you have gotten formal approval from the town for the specific development. By doing this you can avoid taking out forest and shrubs that will give you privacy, that will hold back water on steep slopes (and we have lots of those in the town), clearing the wrong areas for a house or septic field and destroying the rural nature of this community.

Strictly speaking the Town Council could require that each applicant acquire a cutting permit as part of the development process, but if people exercise a little common sense, we should not have to go to that level of detail except in the case of large scale developments and those who operate wood lots within the town.

The bottom line then is CHECK BEFORE YOU CUT, otherwise you may spend the next 20 years bringing your property back to life.

Councillor Stephen Andrews
Chairperson, Planning & Development Committee

Mayor Signs Chronic Pain Awareness Proclamation



Mayor Norm Collins and long time PCSP resident Emir Andrews (left)

At the council meeting of Nov. 4, 2007, Mayor Norm Collins signed a proclamation declaring Nov. 3rd to 11th, National Pain Awareness week in the community. Representing the Association at the signing was Mrs. Emir Andrews, a long time resident of Oliver's Pond Road here in the town. For further information about the Association you may contact Carol Stanley at chronicpain.nl@hotmail.com . The next meeting of the Association will be January 29th from 3:30 to 5:30 at the Mews Center, in St. John's.

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

On-line www.pfsp.ca

Holiday Greetings From Your Mayor



Mayor Norm Collins and his wife Agnes wish everyone holiday greetings and happy New Year

Here we are at the end of 2007 and like many of you, I wonder where the time went. It is once again the holiday season, and that provides us all an opportunity to spend time with our family and friends. It is a time to look forward to what the future will bring, and an opportunity to just relax. During this time, we want to wish each of you and your families a wonderful holiday and peace and happiness for the New Year. We also would like to stop and reflect on our achievements over the last year.

Work continues on the new Town Plan. Once complete this document will properly guide the Town through its exciting journey of change. The Town will also be implementing a study to determine the need for a business park in the Town, as well as studies on Coastal Management, Wetlands and Historic resources. These projects show the dedication and commitment this council has toward providing a balanced approach to development in the Town.

The spring of 2008 the Town will see the commissioning of the Town's new Waste Water Treatment Plant in Portugal Cove. This is a state of the art facility providing secondary treatment of our wastewater. This treatment facility employs technology which is second to none in this province. This project highlights the tremendous commitment the Town has in preserving the environment, and is one of the reasons why the Town won the prestigious Newfoundland & Labrador Environmental Award.

In 2008, the Town took over nine local Roads. This has brought increased services to the residents of these roads, especially in snow clearing. Instead of being low priority roads for the Department of Transportation, they are now given the same excellent snow clearing service provided to other residents of the Town. Feedback from residents of these roads has been completely positive.

I am also happy to say these roads will be completely upgraded and paved over the next two years. The Town looks forward to providing a continued high level of service to all local roads, and will continue discussions with government to ensure all roads in our Town receive a high level of priority.

Council has adopted its budget for 2008 with no fee increases. The Town is committed to bringing you the best services possible for the best value. Our dedicated staff is very professional in providing services to the Town. Staff make sure our roads are safe and our water is clean. As well, they provide Recreation, Administrative, and Library services.

The Town recently made application for nine million dollars in funding under the 2008-2011 Multi-Year Capital Works Program. The Multi-Year Capital Works Program is a program designed for larger municipalities to avail of a 50/50 funding arrangement with the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. This provides larger Towns like Portugal Cove - St. Philip's the ability to plan longer term for its capital works priorities. It is also a great opportunity because for every dollars worth of Capital Works the Town receives, we pay just 50 cents. Interests rates are still at a very low level making this program all the more attractive.

Projects applied for include a Recreation /Leisure Centre, which includes a gymnasium, new library, fitness centre, banquet hall and stage for cultural events. Other projects include a chlorination building and the upgrading of local roads.

Over the next five years the Town will be receiving over \$700,000.00 in gas tax funding. Council is considering its options for using this money. The intention is to find a project that will be environmentally friendly and something all citizens can use. The Town looks forward to identifying a project early in the New Year and moving forward with this project ASAP.

Best Wishes for the 2008 year,

Mayor Norm Collins



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

Another Year In Recreation



Voisey's Brook Playground, Portugal Cove - St. Philip's

This was a busy year for Recreation in the Town of Portugal Cove - St. Philip's. With the completion of the Recreation Master Plan in March by Tract Consulting, Council and staff now feel they are moving in the right direction in trying to better the Town's recreation programs and services. This plan included many recommendations, and highlights areas of the Town that are lacking what residents need and want. With the 2008 budget now approved by Council, there are funds allocated to start new initiatives. There will be improvement to the playgrounds and parks, upgrades to the Recreation Centre, plans for walking trails, and start-up funds for new programs. Programs such as the Parent/Tot Program, the Aerobics Program, and the Infant Massage Therapy Education Sessions. Further details of these programs are available at the Recreation Department.

Many recreational activities in this community are not organized and implemented by the Recreation Department alone. Most of them are done through partnerships. Some of them include the Volunteer Fire Department, Royal Canadian Legion, the PCSP Lion's Club, Beachy Cove Elementary, 50+ Club, all the Church Groups, Girl Guides Organization, the Scouting Organization, Minor Softball, Minor Soccer, and many businesses in the community. Without these partnerships, the Town would not be able to offer the events and programs that we do. The Town of Portugal Cove - St. Philip's Recreation Department would like to take this opportunity to thank all those groups, organizations, businesses, and individuals that take the time out to assist with recreation. We would also like to wish them all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope that 2008 brings us many new Recreational experiences and that the residents take the time to get up and get active.

If anyone has any questions regarding the Recreation Department, please call Dawn at 895-8000 ext 4.

Parents and Tots Group

The Town of Portugal Cove - St. Philip's would like to invite all parents and tots to come out for a morning of games, learning, and socialization. Families are asked to bring along toys that they wish to share. There is no registration fee, just a drop in fee. If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact Dawn Chaulk at 895-8000 ext 4.

Wednesdays
10:00a.m. – 12:00a.m.
Recreation Centre
Starting January 9th, 2008
Drop in Fee - \$2.00

Aerobics

The Town of Portugal Cove - St. Philip's Recreation Department will be offering aerobics classes for 11 weeks at the following times and locations:

Tuesdays & Thursdays
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Recreation Centre

Wednesdays
7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Beachy Cove Elementary

Cost: \$100.00 for 3 classes a week/ 11 weeks
\$80.00 for 2 classes a week/11 weeks
Drop-in fee of \$4.00 per session

Pre-registration: Monday, January 7th
Portugal Cove – St. Philip's Town Office
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Payment can be made by phone. To register or for further information call Dawn @ 895-8000 ext 4

Seniors' Party

January 5th, 2008 at 4 PM
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 10 in Portugal Cove.
Seniors should be 60 plus, and must be residents of Portugal Cove - St. Philips.
Dinner will be served at approximately 6 pm. Music starts at 4 pm
This event is sponsored by the Lions Club, the Legion, and the Town of Portugal Cove - St. Philips.



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

Book On Murray's Pond Fishing & Country Club Hits Shelves

Brown Trout And Rainbow Trout: A Journey Into Newfoundland Waters
(Newfoundland's Only Book On Trout Fishing)
Written by Donald Hustins

The book, *Brown Trout And Rainbow Trout: A Journey Into Newfoundland Waters*, discusses how Government encouraged a private fishing club (Newfoundland Game Fish Protection Society –today called Murray's Pond Fishing and Country Club) to stock waters depleted of native brook trout; when and where these fish were introduced; the science and environmental considerations involved when introducing exotic species; the impact these introductions have had on native indigenous species of fish; and how quickly these foreign species became part of our cultural angling traditions.

Government approved the planting of these trout because they wanted to see fished out waters replenished with trout. They worked out a unique deal with the Society, costing tax-payers nothing, whereby the Society gave government 10,000 fry annually for distribution throughout the province and in turn government gave the Society a private lease to Long Pond and Murray's Pond. This was the only time government leased public water in the province to the private sector

The Society first used a fish hatchery at Long Pond and then transferred the hatchery to Murray's Pond in 1894. The Society abandoned the hatchery in the 1960's when the Department of Fisheries put a halt to planting exotic fish in other waters because of concern that these introductions would affect native trout and wild salmon.

The book gives a great historical overview of the Society, its members and activities. In 1897 the Society purchased land fronting Murray's Pond and constructed its first club house. A few years later they added sleeping accommodation 'for members who desired early morning fishing'. Members greeted the upcoming fishing season at the club house with joy, laughter, a hearty meal and many 'Hip, Hip, Hurrah's over a drink of refreshment. The Telegram described a typical meeting in 1906:

" By motor car and carriage some 25 gentlemen sped out to the club house and set down for dinner. Shortly after 2:30 luncheon was served. The toast list was then duly honoured. The King's health, as an ideal sportsman was drunk with great acclamation. Hon. John Harvey moved the toast of the Newfoundland Game Fish protection Society, alluding to the good work done. Anglers the world over was the toast proposed by F. W. Ayre who got off a joke at the expense of the bait fishermen

After lunch the party visited the breeding pond and saw eighty-seven fish fed with whale meat, some of the fish running to four pounds."

The club was basically a men's fraternity for the first half of the century, a gathering place for male anglers to get away from the office and fish. The initial crown lease of the ponds was issued to the "Who's Who" of St. John's including many leading citizens, wealthy businessmen and politicians such as Robert Rendell, Michael Thorburn, Robert Bond, Edgar Bowring, Daniel Prowse to name a few. They were after all, the people who both the time to enjoy the sport and the finances to establish a hatchery. Each of the initial 25 members contributed between one and twenty-five pounds sterling for a total of 100 pounds to establish the Society and the hatchery.

This is the only book that discusses introduced species in Newfoundland in any detail and the impact these introductions have had on native fish species and our environment. It is also the sole book on trout angling in the province.

Readers will find information on how successful these introductions were and the record brown trout that were taken in our waters. For example, a world record sea run brown trout was taken at Lower Pond Witless Bay in 1960 by a lady angler, June Squires. The fish weighed 12.7 kg (28 lb.) and she held the record for 6 years. As recent a May 2003, another record brown trout was taken at Salmon Cove Sands weighing 32 ¾ lbs by angler T. Royal. His fish is a North American record for a sea run brown trout.

Information is brought up to date with specific suggestions on places to fish both species today, techniques used by seasoned anglers and most productive fly patterns.

The book retails at \$20 and is available from Donald Hustins (753-2930) or e-mail donaldhustins@hotmail.com.



Murray's Pond Fishing & Country Club