

November 30, 2011

**NEWSLETTER**

Dear Resident:

As we are quickly approaching the end of another year, we feel, as a council, we should briefly reflect on some achievements over the past year, and to bring you up to date on some of our current activities of council.

◆ **FINANCIAL STATUS:**

The Town of Bay de Verde has for years faced an incredible financial debt under repayment terms to the Provincial Government which made it impossible to overcome. The high cost of past infrastructure projects (water and sewer, road surfacing) coupled with penalties and arrears climbed to approximately \$800,000. After lengthy discussions and negotiations with the Department of Municipal Affairs, a repayment schedule was arranged. This agreement gave the town an opportunity to rationalize its debt without significant increases in taxes and fees. The Town's debt also prevented approval of capital works due to the high debt service ratio. It was apparent the situation required a resolution which would enable council to move forward with improvements.

The current financial situation has improved dramatically, with a balance owing of approximately \$158,000. This amount will be eliminated within the next two years. The retirement of this debt will allow the Town to pursue future infrastructure funding and over the longer term lessen the residential tax burden.

◆ **WATERLINE PROJECT:**

This project has an approximate cost of \$2,850,000. This amount is shared between the Federal, Provincial Governments and the Town. The Town's share amounts to \$285,000. The purpose of this project is twofold. Firstly, in areas where low pressure and/or silt is being experienced, this line is designed to take the demand off the residential system and correct problems currently occurring. Secondly, the line will be a gravity system dedicated to the shell processing facility. Cost savings indirectly will account for approximately \$30,000 per annum. As well, the sale of unchlorinated, unfiltered, gravity flow water will generate a substantial amount of revenue .

Given the current commercial demand for water, revenues generated will repay the Town's commitment over a two year period. Please note, this waterline is Town infrastructure, owned by the Town and fully controlled by the Town. In the long term, revenues accrued from this waterline will be a significant source of funding within the

Town's financial framework.

The second part of this project should be tendered in the near future. This phase involves the upgrading of the existing pumphouse structure. Please note this water system is designed to be gravity flow for both residential and commercial usage.

◆ **MAIN ROAD UPGRADING:**

Council is continuing to lobby our local M.H.A. to have the main highway leading into and through the community upgraded. The upgrading will include widening, increase shoulder width, replacement of guide rails and resurfacing. Minister Johnson is aware of the condition of this section of the main highway. Through Council, I will be insisting this upgrade be included in this years highway improvement for the district of Trinity-Bay de Verde.

◆ **PUMPER TRUCK:**

The Town will take possession of a new pumper truck for the Fire Department to replace the current vehicle. This truck should arrive by mid year. The total cost is approximately \$232,000 under a 90/10 cost shared agreement with the Department of Municipal Affairs. The Town's cost will be approximately \$23,000.

◆ **BUILDING PERMITS AND REPAIR PERMITS:**

Prior to the construction of any structure (house, shed, etc.) a building permit must be approved by Council. Please do not start construction in the absence of a permit. Various circumstances could arise to require a resident to stop construction. As well, the Municipalities Act empowers Council to issue "Stop Work Orders" if deemed necessary. Repair or improvement permits may be obtained from the Town Clerk and do not require approval in council.

Please Note: Residents in some cases have undertaken construction without Council approval of sheds and outbuildings. Stop work orders and dismantling of such structures could be ordered by Council. Several factors such as objections by residents living in the immediate area to such a building would be an example of requiring a stop work order unless prior approval is granted by council.

◆ **ROAMING ANIMALS:**

Council has received several complaints regarding roaming dogs in the community. Residents who own dogs are reminded Town regulations require dogs to be tethered. Owners of dogs are legally responsible for the actions of these animals. In the event that a dog causes damage to property or injury to a person, the owner can be held legally responsible. Such damage or injury may result in lawsuits or other legal proceedings against the person owning or accepting responsibility for such animals.

The solution is simple: **TIE YOUR DOG!!**

◆ **PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS:**

Property Tax Assessments are carried out through the Municipal Assessment Agency. The value attached to your property is a result of assessment for tax purposes only and is not intended as a real estate value. An assessed value is placed on all properties for the purposes of applying the mil rate for tax purposes.

F.Y.I. How does the mil rate apply? Mil rates are usually expressed mathematically. As an example: A property assessed at \$50,000 with a mil rate of 9 mils in basic terms means \$9.00 of property tax for every \$1000.00 of assessed value. For this example the total value would be \$450.00 of property tax

◆ **FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

**STREET LIGHTS:**

Street lights in the Town of Bay de Verde costs approximately \$2,000.00 per month, annualized for a total of \$24,000.

◆ **50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARIES:**

If you know of any couple who will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in the near future, please give us a call. The Council has a policy of issuing congratulations and giving a plaque on these occasions.

◆ **CONCERNS, COMMENTS, COMPLAINTS:**

In the event a resident has a concern which would involve council, the appropriate procedure would be to state your concern, request, etc., in writing, accompanied with your signature, and submit it to the Council office. Thank you!

In closing, we would like to take this opportunity to wish each and everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

GERARD MURPHY  
MAYOR