

TOWN OF BRIGUS NEWS LETTER 2009

2009 was a great year for the town of Brigus. Some of the highlights of this past year include:

Development:

68 General Repairs; 25 Sheds & Extensions & 19 House Development permits were issued.

Capital Works:

Approximately, \$38,000 was spent to pave some roads for the first time and repair other roads.

Playground:

Work is ongoing at the playground. This past year some additional landscaping work was completed. Pea stone, at a cost of \$3000.00 was purchased which is used as a safety base around playground equipment. Three more pieces of playground equipment were purchased at a cost of \$8012.83. Council has budgeted funds for 2010 to complete the playground.

Administration:

Again this year the town office has operated efficiently thanks to the tireless efforts of Clerk/ Town Manager, Wayne Rose and Geraldine Boland (part time) who fills in during Wayne's absence. We applaud both of them for their hard work and dedication.

Maintenance and Public Works:

Maintenance supervisor, Kevin Rose & George Fry (part time) did a great job taking care of the town maintenance. Their tasks include road maintenance, snow clearing, garbage collection, water and sewer service installation, monitoring water quality, waste water management & a variety of general maintenance duties around the town. Peter Jerrett has been hired, and is training as a replacement maintenance supervisor for Kevin Rose who is nearing retirement.

Summer Recreation Coordinator:

Recreation Coordinator Lori Quinlan, had another great summer recreation program. 51 children were registered in the program with 25 to 35 attending on a regular basis. In addition to the regular activities, children took part in 5 field trips outside the community including one overnight trip to Camp McCarthy, Carbonear. These trips were paid for by the Sports and Recreation Commission and the Town of Brigus. Lori also helped organize the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony which had the largest attendance and was the most successful to date.

Fire Department:

The Brigus Volunteer Fire Department had a great year, answering only 8 fire calls. In February, council appointed Rodney Mercer as Fire Chief replacing George Fry who retired from that position. We congratulate the members for their dedication and hard work during fire calls, training and fund raising activities. The ladies auxiliary once again did a great job on the 60 plus Christmas Party and Breakfast with Santa. The Santa Claus parade went over really well also. To both groups keep up the good work! We ask our residents for their continued support in removing snow from around our fire hydrants, after all they are for your protection.

Sports & Recreation Commission:

On May 05, 2009 due to the lack of membership, council took over administration of the Sports & Recreation Commission, with councilor Ralph Trickett acting as chair.

Brigus Blueberry Festival:

Congratulations, to the Brigus Blueberry Festival Committee Inc. for the time and effort put in to making the event a great success. Attendance for this past festival was approximately 13,000 visitors. The 23rd annual festival will be held on August 12, 13, 14 & 15, 2010.

Tropical Storm Chantel:

This past summer Hynes Construction Company Ltd. completed repairs to areas of the town that had flood damage due to Tropical Storm Chantel, (2008) total cost of this construction including engineering was \$250,412.00

Waste Management:

If you have a vehicle, no longer in use, which you would like to be disposed of, town employees will remove it for a nominal fee of \$10.00 per vehicle. No charge during cleanup week! As per Occupational Health & Safety Requirements, town employees will not be picking up garbage bags which weigh more than 40 pounds. If you dispose of sharp materials such as broken glass or needles which could pose a safety hazard to our workers, please secure them properly and mark the garbage box or bags accordingly. Please report people found dumping illegally to the town office. The Municipal Dump which was scheduled to officially close December 31, 2009 has been granted an extension until

December 31, 2010. Council is presently working on a waste management plan, which will see our garbage go to the Robin Hood Bay Waste Facility. We ask people who walk their pets, if they mess not to forget to clean up after them.

Permits:

Applications for development permits should be forwarded to the town council office well in advance of council meetings, which are held on the first Tuesday of each month. This will give the public works committee ample time to view the development site, which in turn can avoid unnecessary delays in receiving your permits.

Data Base:

If a tax payer would like to voluntarily forward his or her e-mail address to the town office, it will be stored in a town data base, and not be given out to the public. This data base will be used to keep residents posted on notices of interest. We will continue to circulate these notices in the usual manor as in the past. Visit the town's web page www.brigus.net

Budget:

On December 01, 2009 council approved its 2010 balanced budget in the amount of \$645,354.92

During budget preparation the property tax mill rate was reduced from 8.5 mills to 8.0 mills. The service fee for water turn off / water turn on (at the residents request) has changed to water turn off \$20.00 and water turn on \$20.00.

Volunteers:

To all volunteers, keep up the good work! If you would like to become a volunteer or get involved there are many organizations in the town that could use your help. Remember Volunteers Build Communities.

Special Birthdays & Anniversaries:

If you are celebrating a Birthday, Anniversary or a Special Occasion and wish to receive a certificate of Congratulations from the Town of Brigus, please let the Town Manager know in advance so that one can be arranged for you.

Municipal Elections:

The election was held on September 29, 2009. A separate election was held for the position of mayor, which resulted in Byron Rodway being elected mayor by acclamation. Eight residents were nominated for the six council seats. The successful candidates were: Ralph Trickett (deputy mayor), Pauline Mercer, Faith C. Roberts Pike, Michael Fowler, Lorne J. Youden and Greg Hiscock. 56% of eligible voters cast ballots.

Grants / Funding

This past summer a Special Assistance Grant in the amount of \$5000.00 was received from the Dept. of Fisheries & Aquaculture. This grant was used to replace the Harbour Pond slipway with a new launch way.

The Town of Brigus and Cupids Trail Committee has made a joint application to ACOA to access approximately \$250,000.00 funding. This funding will be used to develop the Brigus Light House Hiking Trail and the Burnt Head / Spectacle Head Trail in Cupids. It is hoped these trails will eventually be linked together and will provide a safe, quality experience to users while providing access to the area's, rich natural scenery and cultural assets.

This past fall the town received a Community Enhancement Employment Program which employed 13 people. Some preliminary work began on the Light House Hiking Trail. Town road signs were repaired and refinished, some rock wall work was completed as well as other odd jobs around the town.

Special Events:

July 10th - July 13th, 2009 saw the official launch for the Celebrating Bartlett 2009 in Brigus. This event brought the story of Captain Bob Bartlett and his accomplishments to a new generation of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. Throughout the weekend the town was blessed with great weather, great meals, high class entertainment and lots of activities for those who visited. The event was well attended and a huge success. From the Canada Post Ceremony to release a commemorative Bartlett Stamp to the departure of the Maine based expeditionary schooner Bowdoin (from Bartlett's era), everything went very well. Special thanks, to Historic Sites Association of Newfoundland & Labrador who were the lead organizers behind this initiative. Also thanks to all individuals, service groups and businesses who helped make this event a huge success.

November 03, 2009 the Royal Couple, Prince Charles and his wife Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall visited Cupids and Brigus as part of their Canadian visit. While in Brigus the couple enjoyed a leisurely stroll which began at Barracks Lane, touring the grounds of St. Georges Heritage Church, visiting the John N. Leamon Stone Barn Museum and Hawthorne Cottage. The Royal couple also took time along the way to meet and chat with residents and visitors who came out to view the Royal visit.

November 14, 2009 the Olympic Torch Relay passed through Brigus and made stops at the Knights of Columbus Building and the Historic Tunnel. The Olympic Torch was on its way to the Vancouver 2010 Winter Games, which will begin February 12, 2010.

Brigus Town Council.