



The Brigus Vindicator

2010 Year in Review



What's New

On December 31, 2010 Maintenance Supervisor, Kevin Rose officially retired from his position, of many years, with the Town of Brigus. We would like to wish Kevin "all the best" in his retirement. You will probably see Kevin helping out over the next while with Shane Sparkes, who moved into Kevin's position in December. Thanks Kevin, for all the years of service and a job well done!

Grants and Funding

In January, 2010 the provincial government signed an amendment to the Canada / Newfoundland & Labrador Gas Tax Agreement, securing gas tax funds for all municipalities in the province throughout 2010 to 2014. The Town of Brigus will receive \$161,565.32 . Gas tax funds are designated for environmentally sustainable municipal infrastructure projects. In July, Council approved three Capital Investment Plans. (1). To complete an ICSP plan. (2). To update the Brigus Municipal Plan & Development Regulations. (3). To carry out road improvements / paving throughout the Town.

In April, 2010 council received a Seniors Community Recreation Grant, in the amount of \$ 4000.00. This grant was provided by the Department of Tourism, Culture & Recreation and designed to provide programs and services focused on increased physical and leisure activity for seniors.

This past summer a Special Assistance Grant in the amount of \$3000.00 was received from Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture. This grant was used to upgrade the electrical system on the canopy located on the Government Wharf.

Planning

In order to receive gas tax funding, each community must have an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) in place. This ICSP is a long term strategic plan that will be a great tool in the ongoing development and sustainability of our community. A contract, in the amount of \$9,492.00, to develop the ICSP plan for Brigus was awarded to Graham Letto, Municipal Consultant. The ICSP Plan was adopted by Council in May, 2010.

In May,2010 the Town Council awarded a contract to CBCL Ltd. in the amount of \$ 34,701.96 to complete a review of the Brigus Municipal Plan and Development Regulations. To date approximately 30% of the work involved in the plan review has been completed. As part of the Town Plan review, public meetings will be held in the near future which will provide residents, an opportunity to discuss how our Town will be developed. A new Emergency Services Act was recently proclaimed by the Government of Newfoundland & Labrador. This act states that all municipalities in the province must have an Emergency Management Plan in place by May 01, 2012. Our Town Council set up a committee to develop this plan which will be completed and approved soon.

Capital Works

Approximately \$31,000.00 was spent on road upgrading and paving.

Council has applied for Capital Works Funding in the amount of \$ 5,000,000.00 (five million dollars) this is a three year plan and will be used to carry out water and sewer installations in the areas of Brigus, presently unserved. Unfortunately we did not get the support from the Department of Municipal Affairs that we had

hoped for. This funding is provided on a 90% / 10% ratio with the Town having to repay 10%. In September the Town Clerk / Manager reapplied for this funding, hoping to obtain at least some for the 2011 / 2012 year.

Hurricane Igor

On September 20, 2010 Hurricane Igor battered our province causing mass destruction to many Towns. Our Town escaped with only minor damage. Emergency Assistance Funding in the amount of \$24,878.65 was received to repair the damage caused by Hurricane Igor this past September. A special thanks to Town's Staff and Fire Department members for their help during the hurricane.

Waste Management

Council is presently working on a waste management plan, which will see our garbage go to the Robin Hood Bay Waste Facility. The tipping fee at this facility will increase on April 01, 2011 from \$51.00 per tonne to \$65.50 per tonne and \$20.00 per tonne for recyclable materials.

The Town called for tenders for waste collection in the fall of 2010, we were also involved in a regional tender call that included the Town's from Brigus to Holyrood under Eastern Waste Management. A second tender call for the Town of Brigus closes on January 06, 2011 which we hope to be more cost effective than the previous two.

Recreation

Work is ongoing at the playground, this past year some additional pea stone was added, which is used as a safety base around the equipment. The last three pieces of playground equipment has been installed and a washroom has been built in the playground area.

The Summer Recreation Program had a record number of 76 children registered with 35 to 40 attending on a regular basis. In addition to the regular activities, children took part in 5 field trips outside the community, including a tour of Bell Island Mine. These trips are cost shared by the Town of Brigus and the Sports & Recreation.

The Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony had the largest attendance ever and was enjoyed by all.

The Seniors Healthy Living Club, which was started last spring, is being enjoyed by all who attend. It began by obtaining some ideas from the people involved, a barbecue was held on June 25, 2010. Throughout the fall a number of special guest speakers were brought in provide valuable information to the group, some topics discussed were: Will's and Testaments, Home Energy Efficiency, Healthy Eating and Medical Alert. Thanks to Recreation Coordinator, Lori Quinlan for all her help.

Town Staff

We applaud Town Clerk/ Manager, Wayne Rose & Geraldine Boland (part time) for their hard work and dedication which keeps the Town office operating efficiently.

Kevin, George & Shane also had a very busy year with the variety of maintenance task that they are responsible for. Thanks to all staff for a great job!

Development Permits

80 General Repair:21 Shed and Extension and 7 House development permits were issued throughout 2010. Applications for development permits should be forwarded to the Town Council Office well in advance of Council meetings. This will give the public works committee ample time to review the development application and site. Avoiding unnecessary delays in obtaining your permit.

Budget

December 07, 2010 Council approved their 2011 balanced budget in the amount of \$693,399.00. There has been some increase in the building permit fee structure. However, tax rates remain the same as 2010.

Fire Department

The Brigus Volunteer Fire Department had another great year answering 12 fire calls. We thank 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 the Breakfast with Santa. The Santa Claus Parade was a great success, which enjoyed perfect weather and many floats attending. To both groups, Keep up the good work.!

Blueberry Festival

The May issue of Saltscapes: Canada's East Coast Magazine named the Brigus Blueberry Festival number 8 of the top 10 festivals in Atlantic Canada. This past year saw record attendance of approximately 17,000 visitors. The 24th Annual will be held on August 11th, 12th, 13th & 14th 2011.

Take Note

Lift Stations: Our maintenance staff are still encountering problems with items such as cloth and plastic being disposed of in our sewer system. This causes the pumps to bind up and causes sewer blockages. This problem is happening frequently at the Beaver Pond Lift Station, which services homes in River Head, that are connected to the Towns Sewer System. Please, refrain from disposing of these items in the sewer system.

Data Base: If a tax payer would like to forward his or her e-mail address, to the town office, it will be stored in the town's data base, this data base will be used to keep residents posted on notices of interest. Visit the town's web page www.brigus.net

Special Birthdays and Anniversaries: If you are celebrating a birthday, anniversary or special occasion and wish to receive a certificate of congratulations, please advise the town manager in advance, so one can be arranged for you

Fridge Magnets: Enclosed you will find fridge magnets which contain 5 commonly used emergency numbers.

Vandalism: From time to time the town experiences unnecessary acts of vandalism, should you witness any of these acts please contact the town office in confidence, so we can take the necessary steps and possible prosecution to rectify the situation.

Special Events: June 19, 2010 Ride for Dad approximately 500 motor cycles visited Brigus, this group of riders were on a fund raising campaign in aid of Prostate Cancer. June 26, 2010 The Tom Furey Classic Car Club visited Brigus, proceeds from this activity were forwarded to the Heart & Stroke Foundation. September 2010 Brigus once again played host for the popular Targa. This years race appeared to have went over very well.

New Vehicle: December 30, 2010 A tender from Terra Nova Motors in the amount of \$23,827.18 was accepted for the purchase of a 2011 GM Pick-Up, this vehicle will be used as a maintenance / utility vehicle.

The Mayor, Councillors and Staff would like to extend best wishes and a Happy New Year to All!

**Please Help Keep Our Town Beautiful...
Please Don't Litter!**