



GAMBO NEWSLETTER

January 2014

Mayor's Message

- Mayor Peter Lush

It is indeed a pleasure for me to provide an update on the Town's activities. First of all, on behalf of Council, I wish you a prosperous, healthy and happy new year.

The new Council members are getting acquainted with each other and our committee structure. I am pleased to report, Council members are addressing your issues on a daily basis and are working on future projects and activities. I am hoping for a productive four years together on your behalf. The work of a Councillor is endless and I commend each of them for their commitment and dedication to our town.

If you need any assistance, do not hesitate to contact me at home at 674-5172, on my cell at 674-1518 or at the Town Office at 674-4476.

Budget Update

Things are moving in the right direction from a financial position. We have had surpluses the past four years and this year, 2014, we were able to bring in a balanced budget without any increases in taxes.

Please note the following highlights in the 2014 budget:

- Municipal Operating Grant increased for 2014 to \$175,556
- Panel replacement for one Lift Station
- Purchase of new Loader
- Purchase of land for an extension to the Trailer Park
- Development extension to Pioneer Street
- Repairs to the Fun-N-Sun swimming pool
- Repairs to the Loggers Memorial Park
- Commitment to install a Splash Pad

Animal Control

We continue to get complaints from residents regarding roaming cats. Unfortunately our Animal Control Officer has been off on medical leave for the past few months. We have found it necessary to fill this position in the interim and are currently advertising for the position. Once that position has been filled, he/she will start work immediately. We encourage all residents to clean up after their pets, especially when using our trailways, track & field or Fun-N-Sun area. We would also like to remind residents to have all pets licensed on an annual basis.

Administration

I would like to begin by thanking everyone who got out and voted on September 24th, 2013 to elect your new Town Council. We have begun the task of setting out our plan for the next four years which will see our town undertake significant development and initiatives. The success of our endeavors will continue to depend on the support and cooperation of our elected councillors, staff, volunteers and community at large. Residents of Gambo are among the best in the province for supporting the events hosted by the community; whether it is the Loggers Competitions, Smallwood Days, the Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting or any other event hosted in the community. Not all towns can say the same and we need to continue our community pride and participation.

The Administration Committee will be dealing with various issues and initiatives in the coming months and I have chosen to outline a few of them for you. We have begun the process of negotiating with the Public Service Union to develop a new collective agreement for our outside staff. This will hopefully be concluding in the near future. We have a full-time employee at the Smallwood Interpretation Centre for this year and we hope to continue promoting our town's rich intangible cultural heritage through supporting this facility. We are also in the preliminary stages of re-developing our Town Plan to address issues affecting zone regulations and future developments. There will be a public information session in the near future, aiming to seek input from our residents on how we should proceed with the new Municipal Plan. We have also recently formed a partnership with the Family Resource Coalition to provide space so they can run a childcare center in our town. These are just some of the things we will be encountering in the coming months. I encourage anyone who has questions about the administration of our town to contact the office and we will try our best to clarify any issues for you.

Waste Management

CNWM (Central Newfoundland Waste Management) will be launching the next phase of waste management in the fall. This will be the separation of household waste into a wet and dry system. Information on this will be distributed soon by CNWM.

The newest addition to the waste management is drop off points for e-waste. This includes electronic waste such as TV's, computers, radios, phones etc. To dispose of your e-waste, please bring your items to the Green Depot in town. Hours of operation are: Monday and Thursday, 9:30am - 3:30pm and Saturday, 9:30am - 1:00pm.

Pritchett's Building Supplies and the Green Depot are taking part in MMSB's paint recycling program. Used paint can be dropped off during regular business hours. Cardboard is still being collected at the Town Yard. Hours for cardboard drop off

are: Saturday and Monday, 10:00am - 12:00pm and 1:00pm - 3:00pm. Council and staff will be organizing another tire collection day in the future and will advise residents once a date has been set.

Please make good use of the facilities that are available; everything recycled and diverted from the landfill helps the environment and reduces our cost of disposal.

Public Works/ Capital Works

Council has applied for and is still awaiting approvals on the following Capital Works Projects for the fiscal year 2014/2015:

- Waste Water Treatment Facility - \$6,000,000.00
- Church Road Upgrade and Paving - \$295,510.00
- Splash Pad/Change Room Facility, Fun-N-Sun - \$225,000.00
- Water Booster Pump Upgrade - \$163,069.00
- Street Upgrades and Paving - \$629,721.00

Council is seeking input from residents, businesses and landowners as we develop a new Municipal Plan and Development Regulations. An information session will be held at the Gambo Community Youth Centre (GCYC) on Wednesday, February 19th, 2014 from 2-5pm and 7-9pm. This information session will give you an opportunity to learn about the planning process including Council's long-term goals, policies and regulations to manage land use and guide developments. It is important for Council to hear the opinions of all residents to ensure the new Municipal Plan reflects our community profile.

In the spring, Council will be completing an extension to Pioneer Street in Gambo South. This extension will allow the development of three homes in this area and a business that was recently approved.

Council is also in the process of placing a tender for the purchase of a new loader for our Public Works Department to replace the current machine that is approximately 14 years old.

Council is pleased that in the 2013 building season we issued 8 Residential Building Permits and 7 Commercial Permits. This new construction is a great stimulus for our local economy.

Recycle My Cell Program

Recycle My Cell is a national industry initiative led by the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association (CWTA) along with its members (wireless manufacturers and service providers) to raise awareness about mobile device

recycling. The goal of the program is to minimize the number of handsets entering Canada's landfills.

The Town Office and Smallwood Academy are now official Recycle My Cell Drop-off Locations. Unwanted mobile devices can be dropped off at either location to be sent to a recycling facility where they will be refurbished or dismantled for scrap. The scrap materials are then used to produce new mobile devices and a variety of other items. For more information visit www.recyclemycell.ca.

Fire Department

The Gambo Fire Department currently has thirty-one members with another four application pending approval. The Department is constantly seeking new members. If you are interested in joining, please contact the Town Office or any member for an application. The Department holds meetings every Tuesday evening with three training sessions and one meeting each month. This is a very worthwhile volunteer experience.

The Department is pleased to announce that the construction of the new Fire Hall is progressing very well and the new anticipated date of completion is early April 2014 with an official opening to follow shortly thereafter.

In 2013, the Fire Department celebrated its 45th Anniversary and would like to take this opportunity to thank all the businesses and organizations for their tremendous support in making this event a great success.

For the past two years the Annual Santa Claus Parade has been held at night. The Department is pleased with the support and success of this event but would like to hear your opinion on the event. Do you prefer the parade being held at night or during the day? To voice your opinion contact any Fire Department member or visit the Gambo Fire Department Facebook page and leave a comment.

The Annual Snowmobile Run will be held on February 8th this year. For more information on this event, feel free to contact any member of the Fire Department.

All residents are reminded of the Emergency Number; 674-5050. If you happen to call this number in error in an emergency, please state that it is a wrong number to avoid any confusion for first responders. As well, all residents are encouraged to place civic numbers on their home in a conspicuous place as the 911 Emergency Service is set to be expanded throughout Newfoundland and Labrador by the end of 2014.

Once again, the Gambo Fire Department would like thank residents and the business community for your continued support.

Delinquent Tax Payers

In an effort to collect all outstanding Municipal Taxes the Town is considering hiring a Tax Collector. This appears to be an ongoing problem. It is not fair to the residents who pay their taxes on a regular basis to allow those who have outstanding taxes to receive the same services as they do. Please be advised to contact the office immediately to make arrangements to pay any outstanding taxes. Failure to do so will result in your account being passed onto the Tax Collector to disconnect where possible. If disconnection isn't possible, your name will be placed with a collection agency or the courts. We apologize for having to take these drastic measures but the Town, just like you, needs monies to operate. We are no different than the cable TV company, NFLD Light and Power or any other utility companies.

Please note that property tax is required to be paid in full by June 30th and Water/Sewer Tax is payable monthly, to be paid by years end.

Civic Addresses

In June of 2012, the Provincial Government outlined a plan to proceed with implementation of a province-wide 911 service to be completed by the end of 2014. Council is reminding all homeowners to place their civic address numbering on their homes in a conspicuous location for 911 service, ambulance service and fire department services.

People Helping People

Many times things with our infrastructure goes unnoticed by our workers, not through neglect or ignoring, but rather we have a lot of infrastructure; roads, buildings, water and sewer system etc. We would like for people to help us and advise the Town Office if you notice water line leaks, damage to Council property, unusual potholes and plugged ditches etc. This can help with a speedy repair or help alleviate further damage.

SEDCOR

SEDCOR (Smallwood Era Development Corporation) is looking for dynamic and committed volunteers to serve on the SEDCOR Board and as members of its various committees.

SEDCOR's mission is to create an environment which facilitates sustainable growth in Gambo. Its role is to help steer the economic development of Gambo and area. The SEDCOR Board acts in an advisory capacity to the Gambo Town Council. It is responsible for the operation and promotion of the Smallwood Interpretation Centre and Visitor Information Centre, the Walsh House, Joey's Lookout, the Village Green, the David Smallwood Park, the Smallwood Trail System and the Mi'Kmaq Cemetery.

In order to do this effectively we need people with creative new ideas and the ability to help carry them out. Committees needing members are: Heritage, Interpretation Centre, Parks and Trails and Economic Development. If you feel you would like to be a part of this important venture, please contact a SEDCOR Board member or the Town Office.

Smallwood Interpretation Centre

The Smallwood Interpretation Centre is pleased to announce that it will now be open year-round. The previous year has seen some great changes to the centre and the services that we are able to provide to the public are continuing to grow. We've hosted some new events over the past year; Family Movie Nights, take-out meals, music events and the increasingly popular dinner event, Let's Dine. Watch for upcoming notices about these events on bulletin boards throughout the community and on the Community Channel.

We are currently seeking individuals who wish to join our Events Committee. This committee will focus on the initiation and promotion of events and activities for the Interpretation Centre and for the community as a whole. If you wish to participate, all you require is an interest and a willingness to help.

The Interpretation Centre is also open to the public for booking of private events, parties and conferences. We offer competitive prices, kitchen services, a stocked bar and, not to mention, a phenomenal view! For rental details and pricing, please contact Amy via phone: 674-4342 or email: gamboattractions@gmail.com.

General hours of operation are Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm.

Recreation Commission

Our Recreation Commission is kept very busy throughout the year. Summer is generally our busiest time as we offer a fantastic summer program with low costs and great participation. Although our summer program attracts mostly young children, we do offer activities for all youth. We have partnered with Smallwood Academy to offer a variety of lunch-time activities including, but not limited to; fitness sessions, mountain biking and orienteering. Along with our lunch-time programs, we have activities running 3 nights a week at the school gym; Mondays we have ball hockey, Tuesdays we have sports night for grades 4-7 and Thursdays we have sports night for grades K-3. In addition to the school activities, we host a senior's fitness class twice a week, Wednesdays and Fridays, at the GCYC.

Recreation Director, Jerry Knee, is also kept busy applying for various grants and fundraising opportunities as they become available. The Recreation Commission plays an important role within the community. Our summer staff is involved in organizing and running Canada Day celebrations and also play an important role in the Smallwood Days Festival.

This past June we realized a dream come true with the building of a new playground; a project that took a great deal of time and effort by all involved to accomplish. We have now moved our efforts to assist with the fundraising for a splash pad that, we know, will bring a great deal of interest into the community. This project will see the full potential of the Fun-N-Sun Park utilized. Already boasting an outdoor pool, a playground, a volleyball and a basketball court, the addition of a splash pad will see this site as the benchmark for recreational activities.

BizPal

BizPal is a unique collaboration of federal, provincial/territorial and municipal governments working together to improve access to information on permits and licences required to start or operate a business. It provides a single point of contact for entrepreneurs, enabling them to quickly attain this vital information. For more information, please visit www.bizpal.gov.nl.ca.

Festivals & Events

The 2013 Smallwood Days Festival and the Loggers Competition were both a great success and we are hoping the 2014 events will be even better.

Preparations for the 2014 SWD Festival have already begun and time slots are filling up quickly. Preparations for the Loggers Competition are set to begin in the near future. What we need this year is an abundance of community involvement, starting with the planning. We need your ideas and feedback about last year's events. Part of what makes the weekend a great success is getting the whole community out there enjoying and participating in the events.

Another key part of the success is getting enough volunteers to help make the days and events run smoothly. We need you!

If you would like to volunteer during either festival or if you have any ideas about what you would like to see at the festivals, please contact Sonja Denobrega (sonja.denobrega@townofgambo.com).

A sincere thank you from the Smallwood Days & Loggers Competition Committees for all of your continued support!

Gambo Winter Carnival 2014

Amy Tiller (SIC/VIC Coordinator) and Jerry Knee (Recreation Director) are busy planning and preparing for the 2014 Winter Carnival.

Think you've got what it takes to be the 'Bernini' or 'Michelangelo' of the Snow Sculpture world? We want to see! Do you have a chili recipe that you think will rival that of Mario Batali or Gordon Ramsay? Prove it! Contact Amy to reserve your entry spot today!

For information on events, volunteering or reserving a spot for a booth or concession, please contact Amy Tiller: Phone: 674-4342

Email: gamboattractions@gmail.com

Or visit the "Gambo Winter Carnival" Facebook page

Friday, February 21st

Snow Sculpture Competition

Sculptures need to be completed by 2pm on Friday. Judges will choose the Top 3 and photos will be posted to the "Gambo Winter Carnival" Facebook page for voting.

Winter Carnival Dance

Trailway Pub (19 years and older). Proceeds benefit the new Splash Pad!

Saturday, February 22nd

8:30-10:30am - Community breakfast at the Gambo Community Youth Centre (GCYC). \$5 for adults and \$3 for youth 12 years and under.

1-4pm - Village Green - Games and activities for all age groups. These include a Snowshoe Competition, Snow Throw, Obstacle Course, Face Painting and a fire to roast wieners and marshmallows. Booths and concessions will also be available.

5pm - Village Green - We will be flooding a section of the Village Green to provide a community skating rink. Admission is free! ***Please note that this event is dependent on weather conditions.*



Sunday, February 23rd

1-4pm - David Smallwood Park - Chili Cook-Off
\$2 admission. Who will be the "2014 Chili Cook-Off Champion"?

Bake Sale -Go ahead, your taste buds will thank you.

Games and Activities in the Park: Toboggan Race, Pie Throwing, Scavenger Hunt and finishing off with a Community Boil-up!

See You There!