

Gambo Newsletter

DECEMBER 2015

Mayor's Message - Mayor Peter Lush

May I take this opportunity, on behalf of my fellow Councillors, staff and myself, to wish you and your families a joyous Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year. I trust the spirit of Christmas will remain with you throughout the year.

As 2015 comes to a close, I want to express our thanks and appreciation to our many volunteers for the contribution you are making every day in making our community a better place to live. We are so blessed to have such dedicated and committed people.

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

At the regular meeting held on December 14th, 2015, the 2016 Budget was approved. As with any budget, there were many challenges trying to keep expenses at a level where we can provide the same services to our residents, and yet trying to promote a progressive town.

New Government requirements continue to put pressure on us, for example, this year a requirement of the Federal Government for compliance with the Waste Water Effluent Regulation, resulted in an additional \$34,600.00 expense. In addition, the Provincial Government requires training for the staff and Councillors in order to qualify for our Gas Tax Fund, and to ensure we meet the requirements of the various regulatory bodies. Not to mention the costs involved. The Finance Committee was able to cut \$50,000 from last year's expenses, but with the rising costs of everything, new equipment, fuel increases, and inflation, it was not possible without a modest increase in taxes, about 7% across the board.

The Finance Committee worked tirelessly on your behalf, bringing down this year's Budget. Budget preparations began early in the year, after much analysis, projections and adjustments, a balanced budget was approved.

As we all know, the property assessments throughout the province had an increase of over 20%, which means, if we were to maintain the same mil rate, some of our residents would have seen \$400-\$500 tax increases. Some residents will see a modest increase in taxes and some a reduction.

I am pleased to provide the Budget Highlights:

Budget Highlights

- 7.1 Mil Rate
- \$375 Minimum Property Tax
- \$400 Minimum Business Tax
- \$350 Poll Tax

OHS (working alone) issue	\$ 2,000.00
Travel for Council	\$ 6,600.00
David Smallwood Park (electrical upgrade 9 sites)	\$ 15,000.00
Wastewater Effluent Compliance	\$ 34,600.00
Payments for Pick-up	\$ 4,500.00
Advertising for Trails, Interpretation Centre	\$ 4,000.00
Full-time Position for 2016 Interpretation Centre	\$ 30,200.00
Solar Panel Speed Limit Sign	\$ 4,500.00
2017 Plow Truck	\$ 24,000.00
Cat Loader	\$ 38,400.00
Entrance Signage	\$ 6,000.00
Roads (Gas tax)	\$ 100,000.00
Rink (Gas tax)	\$ 40,000.00

Increase waste disposal fees
Increase in Wages (3%)

The good news is that we will have some extra cash in 2017 to work with in balancing our next budget because of our waste water effluent water monitoring, and some long term payments will be paid out in the coming year.

I am quite pleased with the effort put forward by our staff and Council members in maintaining expenses and a balanced budget.

Delinquent Tax Payers

In 2014, Council hired a Tax Collector to recover any and all outstanding monies owing to the Town of Gambo. In 2014, our audit stated that we had a 92% tax collection rate. In 2016 the Tax Collector will continue to aggressively collect all outstanding poll, property and business taxes owing to the Town of Gambo. There will be disconnection notices sent out every two weeks to delinquent tax payers. Failure to contact the office and make suitable arrangements for payment will result in disconnection of services. If disconnection is not possible, your name will be placed with a collection agency or the courts.

We apologize for taking this drastic measure, but the Town needs monies to operate. We are no different than Cable TV, NL Power or any other utility companies. Council would like to thank all residents who pay their taxes on a regular basis.

Please note that all Property Tax is required to be paid in full by June 30th and Water/Sewer Tax is payable monthly, to be paid by the end of the year.

Gambo Fire Department

The Gambo Fire Department currently has thirty-one members with another three applications 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.

In 2015, the Fire Department celebrated its 47th 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. The Department would like to acknowledge and congratulate Duane Paul and Rod Hayter for receiving their twenty year Provincial and Federal Service Medals.

The Department would like to thank all the individuals, businesses and organizations for their support and involvement in the success of the annual Santa Clause Parade this year.

The Annual Snowmobile run will be held in February again this year. The date has yet to be determined. 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 currently into effect.

At this time, the Department would like to take the opportunity to thank Tom Burry for his time that he served as Fire Chief (2012-2015). As well, the Department would like to congratulate and offer well wishes to Richard Harvey on accepting the position of Fire Chief effective January 1, 2016.

Once again, the Gambo Fire Department would like to thank residents and the business community for your continued support. As well, all members of the Department would like to wish all residents a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Fire Safe New Year.

Public Works/ Capital Works

Council has applied for and is awaiting approval on the following Capital Works Projects for the fiscal year 2016/2017:

1.	Town Hall	\$737,000.00
2.	Street paving Centennial Road	\$180,487.22
3.	Street paving:	
	· Holland's Road and O'Reilly Street	\$367,740.50
	· Freshwater Road	\$118,143.60
	· Marine Drive	\$143,846.85
4.	Pine Tree Drainage Assessment	\$278,919.26

In the spring, Council will be upgrading some of the town streets with the placement of Class A material and the replacement of culverts. The Gas Tax monies will be utilized for the upgrading of the streets in town.

Council is in the process of purchasing a new Plow Truck for our Public Works Department, to replace the current machine that is approximately eleven years old.

Council is pleased that in the 2015 Construction season we issued ten residential house permits and three commercial permits as well as three home-based business permits.

Council has engaged the services of BioMaxx to monitor our outfalls for compliance with the Federal Waste Water Regulations that came into effect in 2013. The Regulations include requirements for monitoring effluent quality and quantity, record keeping and reporting that came into force on January 1, 2013.

In 2015, our office received approximately 400 resident complaints and concerns. These include approximately 50 water line breakages, 60 concerns regarding road maintenance and over 20 animal control issues. Our staff worked diligently to promptly and effectively deal with all of our resident's issues.

SEDCOR

Smallwood Era Development Corporation

SEDCOR continues in its role to advise the Town of Gambo as to economic development, parks and trails and heritage projects. The chairperson of this committee is Councillor Fred Jeans.

We are presently trying to re-establish our Loggers Memorial Park with some static displays and to improve the area. An antique grader has been placed on display and other items are being planned. David Smallwood Park is being extended by nine new electrically serviced lots.

The Smallwood Interpretation Center has been hosting a number of social events and

will be open year round in 2016 with many new events planned. Please get out and support the center as it is an important link in promoting our town and providing services to our community.

The most recent activity at the Smallwood Interpretation Center is a Chase the Ace Lottery in partnership with the Gambo RC parish. Every Tuesday night at 7 PM you are invited to purchase tickets for the 8:30 PM draw. If your number is drawn you get a chance to pick the ace of spades from a deck of cards. The winner gets a cash prize for the night and if you pick the ace you get the accumulated jackpot. Your chances improve each week as the deck decreases. Please support this fundraiser and enjoy some entertainment at the same time.

Waste Management

Waste management continues to be a significant portion of our annual budget. Central Newfoundland Waste Management reports that the town of Gambo has reduced its household waste by 22 percent. This is better than the 20 percent reported by the other communities and shows that we are leading the way in reducing our waste. Reduction of waste equals reduction of the cost. We ask that you all continue to do your best to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Annual cleanups and drop offs for tires and hazardous waste will continue and notices will be posted as to the dates. The Green depot is open Monday, Thursday and Saturday and accepts electronic items as well as your recyclables. Metal items may be dropped off at the metals bin at Auto Plus Towing.

There is still a problem with illegal dumping in side roads and pit areas. The town has purchased cameras to monitor problem areas and we will prosecute anyone caught illegal dumping. Please respect our environment and do your best to keep it clean.

Recreation Commission

From Zombie Walks, Mummer Walks, Haunted Houses and Raffles we've had an absolute blast in 2015. Through the course of our events and programs we've had 7 paid high school summer staff, over 90 student volunteers (60 with the Haunted House alone!), 20 parent volunteers, and most children in the community have been involved in one or more of our programs. We've exercised with the 50+ club and turned your junk into treasure at our Community Yard sales. We run Sports Nights 3 nights a week, free of charge, at Smallwood Academy and are looking to expand this even further in the New Year. The Recreation Commission works very hard to provide cross-demographic opportunity for the folks in our community and hope that through our programs and events we can create a social and dynamic community that residents are proud to be a part of.

In 2016 we've set a major goal - the introduction of an Outdoor Rink into our community. The rink will sit parallel to the playground at the Fun 'n' Sun complex and will have access to indoor washrooms and night time lighting. In addition to an outdoor skating surface it will double as a ball hockey and basketball surface in the spring and summer months, ensuring that this multifaceted surface gets year round

usage by the folks in our community. We've already broken ground and are working tirelessly to fundraise for this project. We kindly invite and encourage you to support our upcoming fundraising events -they're always great fun, we promise! Lastly, we cannot thank our supporters and volunteers enough. These folks are the backbone of our programs and the heart of our community. We send you the most sincere and most well deserved Thank You. See you all next year!

Administration Committee

This committee is chaired by Councillor Scott Pritchett. The members of this committee meet on a regular basis to deal with administrative and staff issues and concerns, ie. contract negotiations for our inside and outside staff, and currently we are working on a policy to govern how we will appoint interested youth in our town to join our Council as a Youth Representative. We are expecting to have this in place within the next month. This will allow our youth to have some input into the discussions of Council, and to educate them in the role of the Municipal Government.

Occupational Health and Safety

This committee is chaired by Councillor Sonja Denobrega and is comprised of representatives from our inside and outside staff. The committee meets on a quarterly basis. The purpose of this committee is to ensure we run our operation in a safe and healthy environment and that we are adhering to the various regulations. Failure to do this could result in increase in worker's compensation fees and legal charges should a member of our staff or public be injured due to a lack of Council's due diligence.

Councilor Contact information:

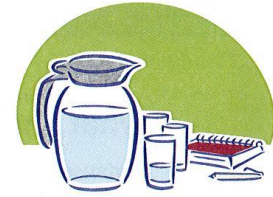
Darren Dyke (Deputy Mayor)	674-4680	darren.dyke@townofgambo.com
Scott Pritchett	674-5188	scott.pritchett@townofgambo.com
Craig Lush	674-4359	craig.lush@townofgambo.com
Sonja Denobrega	674-4277	sonja.denobrega@townofgambo.com
Fred Jeans	674-4722	fred.jeans@townofgambo.com
Minnie Osmond	524-2089	minnie.osmond@townofgambo.com

The Councillors and staff of the Town of Gambo would like to extend congratulations to John Haggie and Judy Foote, our newly elected Government Representatives. We look forward to working with them in 2016.

John Haggie, Minister
Health and Community Services
 Telephone: (709) 729-3124
 Email: hcsminister@gov.nl.ca

The Honorable Judy Foote
Member of Parliament
 Telephone: (613)992-8655
 Email: judy.foote@parl.gc.ca

Boil Water Advisories



Why are boil water advisories issued?

- inadequate disinfection of the community supply
- unsatisfactory bacteriological water quality
- reports of illness associated with drinking water
- repairs to the water system
- unusual occurrences, such as flooding

How long should the water be boiled?

All drinking water must be brought to a rigorous rolling boil for one (1) minute. Boiling for one minute will kill any disease-causing organisms in your water.

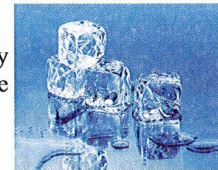
Should water used for additional purposes be boiled?



Boil water used for any activity where you might ingest the water, such as:

- drinking
- brushing teeth
- cooking
- washing fruits and vegetables
- making ice
- making coffee/tea
- making infant formula and cereal
- making juices and other drinks from concentrate or powders

Existing beverages and ice cubes made from water of questionable quality should be discarded. Ice cube trays and beverage containers should be sanitized before using again.



CAUTION !

Exercise caution when handling boiled water. To avoid scalding place the pot on the inside burner out of the reach of children. As well, do not put more water in the pot than you can comfortably lift.

Drinking Water Awareness

What should I do if I don't wish to boil tap water?

Commercially pre-packaged bottled water can be used in place of boiled water. This may be expensive.

WARNING !

Water that looks safe may contain harmful disease causing micro-organisms. Don't drink water from roadside springs, ponds, brooks, etc. without boiling the water or treating the water in another effective way.

Can I shower if there is a boil water advisory in place?

Yes, you can shower but do not drink shower water. The ingestion of water may result in illness, if the water is contaminated. Care should be taken while bathing young children to ensure they do not accidentally consume the water.

Can the water be used for hand washing?

Yes, tap water can be used for hand washing. Use hot water and soap.



Can the water be used for washing dishes and clothes?

Yes, dishes and clothes can be washed in tap water.

Important!

If you use a water treatment unit, please follow the manufacturer's instructions.

What should I do in the event of a waterborne illness outbreak?

In the event of a waterborne illness outbreak, follow additional precautions that may be recommended by the Medical Officer of Health. Anyone with health concerns or experiencing symptoms such as diarrhea, nausea, cramps, or vomiting should seek the advice of their doctor.

Where can I find out more?

If you have any questions about drinking water safety, please do not hesitate to contact the Government Service Centre or Regional Health Authority nearest you.



Department of Health and Community Services
 Department of Environment and Conservation
 Department of Government Services
 Regional Health Authorities

Revised March 2009

Drinking Water Awareness