



# TO RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN OF GAMBO

## WASTE MANAGEMENT UPDATE

February 2012

Over the past two years, our council has been trying to be proactive as we move forward with the province's New Waste Management Strategy. We are trying to ensure a smooth transition with the collection and disposal of our waste while being as cost effective as possible. Hence, that is the reason for our policy changes, over the past two years, and an increase in property tax to cover the cost as we try to take a systematic approach to the collection and disposal. Council and I have spoken publicly, held meetings with government officials, and addressed our concerns to Municipalities Newfoundland & Labrador but without success.

As of April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the existing garbage disposal site will be closed and waste will be taken to the transfer station in Terra Nova with an approximate cost per household of \$180.00 per year. The 2012 Budget includes an amount of \$84,000 to offset this increase in additional expenditures explaining the reason for the increase in the mil rate and minimum property tax.

I trust you will cooperate as we try to move forward with the implementation of this new collection and disposal method and that you will make every effort to **Reduce, Recycle, and Reuse**.

In addition to the above issues, there continues to be a lack of respect by many residents towards our council, employees, and myself. First of all, let me say that in the future we will refuse to take calls or entertain concerns if not addressed in a sensible manner. It is very easy to complain and express ones displeasure about policy or councils actions but when people call you names (Facebook comments) such as idiots, lazy, curse on you, it is wrong, totally wrong and abusive.

I would like to remind all residents about the proper protocol for calls to the Town Office. As Town Manager, Lorne Greene's biggest challenge is finding enough time in a week to deal with all the challenges the town presents. While he understands that everyone feels he/she must speak to the town manager about a concern, there isn't enough time in a day for Lorne to speak to everyone personally. Other employees are just as capable and ready as he is, to deal with residents' concerns. If Lorne isn't available to take a call, then please speak to another town employee. Give Lorne some flexibility by allowing other employees to deal with your concerns.

I have dedicated over 27 years of my time voluntarily because it is my belief that council and I can, and have, made a difference and we are honoured to do so.

We respect your comments and concerns. I invite you to politely discuss with me, councillors, or staff any concerns or complaints you have in a respectful manner. We are here to help. Sometimes we make mistakes, but who haven't?

We look forward to working on your behalf as we move forward with our new Waste Management Program and other important issues. Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns.

**Mayor Peter Lush**