

May 24, 2017

To all Residents,

On behalf of myself, the Deputy Mayor, Councillors and Staff, I'd like to provide our residents with an update on town activities over the past 5 months. The past several months have been quite busy, the winter months saw snow clearing on nearly a daily basis and when it wasn't snowing our staff was busy pushing snow back while making every effort to keep the street cleared for the safety and comfort of our residents.

The Siki Bennett Memorial Stadium saw a record breaking year for use. Minor Hockey and Can Skate Programs were successful as well as adult hockey leagues and we sincerely thank the volunteers who provide their time selflessly for the children involved in Minor Hockey and Can Skate. The Family Free Skates sponsored by Emera, Rokstad, the Leading Edge Credit Union and an anonymous company was a resounding success while providing exercise and enjoyment to our families. The bowling alley was well used for general bowling and league bowling alike.

We have made every effort to engage Transportation and Works with respect to our provincially owned roads (Barachois Drive, Main Street & Steel Mountain Road) in so far as writing the Minister to ensure that these roads and road shoulders are brought up to a reasonable standard. With that being said I've invited our local MHA to our next Council Meeting to further discuss this issue.

The Town Office will be renovated this year to allow greater accessibility for our aging residents. We firmly believe that every resident should have access to this building for counter service and to attend Council Meetings if they so wish. The renovation will see a ramp installed with both the Town Office and Town Chambers being fully accessible. Once the renovation starts which is projected for early July the office staff will move to the Siki Bennett Memorial Stadium and the Library will be closed until completion. Completion of this project should take approximately 4 months.

This year is an election year for all Newfoundland and Labrador Municipalities, the election will take place on September 26th and residents will be advised of all Election information prior to that date. Nominations for election will take place between August 29th and September 5th, the specific date during that timeframe will be published on the Town Website, throughout the town and in a local newspaper. If you are interested in municipal politics now is the time to get involved. Should you have any questions regarding the process our Town Clerk and Town Manager will gladly answer any questions.

I want to remind our residents that we are here to serve the residents of this great town, we do this within municipal guidelines, regulations and applicable legislation, and we do our best to meet your needs. All Newfoundlanders have felt the pinch of excess taxation and our Municipality is no different. For 2017 taxes were not increased despite a substantial increase in overall inflation. That inflation affected every service we provide from the purchasing of gas for Town Equipment to the purchase of water & sewer supplies. Municipalities are the only sector of Government that are required to balance their budget, we cannot run a deficit. We are doing our utmost to work within our budget while providing all necessary services and we thank our residents for their understanding during times of financial constraint.

In closing, just a reminder to please subscribe to our newsletter through the town website, you'll get emails about all upcoming events, water outages, closures etc. simply go to www.townofstgeorges.com to join. We wish you a happy and safe summer.

Sincerely,

Daniel Conway
Mayor
Town of St. George's