



# The Brigus Vindicator

## 2014 Year in Review



### What's New

In February Council went paperless with the purchase of ipads. The cost was just over \$5,000.00 but will certainly pay for itself within two years with the reduction of paper copies.

In May Charles Percy was hired for the seasonal position as Maintenance/Public Works. Charles comes with a background in operating equipment. He is working out very well and has attended a number of training courses. Edward Roberts left this position to seek further employment and we thank Edward for his time and wish him well.

This year the Municipality of Brigus celebrated it's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on July 18 & 19. The event was well attended and we thank all those who took part. The actual date of incorporation is July 21<sup>st</sup>, 1964.

The walking track is now in place at our playground. We encourage residents to make use of this for their enjoyment. In 2015 it is planned to have landscaping done along with addition of picnic tables and benches

Council has budgeted funds to continue work on our Lighthouse Trail. We hope to see major improvements to the trail in 2015.

Phase 1 of our Capital Works Water/Sewer was completed on Farm Road this year. Thirteen homes are able to be serviced. Total cost of this project was \$548,941.80. This funding is provided on a 90% / 10% ratio with the Town having to repay 10%. Phase 2 was also started this year on Farm Road with an additional three homes being able to be serviced along with new culverts, ditching and paving. Phase 2 will be completed in the spring of 2015. The cost of phase 2 is \$249,997.72. This funding is provided on a 90% / 10% ratio with the Town having to repay 10%.

Council is in the process of having our Rec Center set up as a warming center in case of an emergency.

In the fall of this year Council launched it's New Website, [www.brigus.net](http://www.brigus.net) The look is different and it gives the staff more control on updates. The site was designed by Zircon Web Designs at a cost of \$2,800.00

**National Building Code of Canada:** It is now a requirement that smoke detectors be installed in all sleeping rooms and each corridor in a house.

### Education & Training

Council and Staff attended the following Education & Training throughout the year:

Avalon Regional Meeting (MNL) - Byron, Ralph, & Tom

Avalon Regional Meeting (PMA) - Allisha & Wayne

911 Workshop - Ralph, Wayne Broughton & Wayne Rose

Affordable Housing - Ralph, Lorne & Wayne

Clean & Safe Drinking Water Conference - Matt

Symposium - Ralph & Wayne

Spring/Summer Operator Seminars - Matt & Charles (Matt received his water quality certificate)

PMA Fall Training - Allisha

MNL Convention - Byron & Ralph

Avalon PMA Training & Meeting - Ralph, Lorne, Allisha & Wayne

Congratulations to Mayor Byron Rodway on receiving his 12 year Long Service Award

## **Capital Works**

Funding in the amount of \$277,000.00 is applied for the third phase of water/sewer on Farm Road 2015. This funding is provided on a 90% / 10% ratio with the Town having to repay 10%. We are hoping to obtain this funding for the 2015/16 year.

## **Waste Management**

In December Council awarded a three (3) year contract to Ridge G&P Services Ltd of Ferryland to pick up the towns garbage. This contract is from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2017 with an option of a two year extension. This contract came in at \$53,620.00 a year with Weekly Domestic & Bulk Garbage.

On November 30, 2013 the Harbour Grace Waste Recovery Facility opened. Residents can use this facility to bring items such as Construction/Renovation Materials, Metals, Electronics, Furniture etc free of charge during the hours of Tuesday & Thursday 12am to 4pm and Saturday 9am to 5pm. Or you may contact Otto Clowe for a price on having your materials disposed of, call 709-363-7185

Council would like to remind residents, if they contact the town office, arrangements can be made to pick up metals, such as: hot water boilers, stoves etc. Metals are not collected during the weekly household garbage collection or you can drop them off at French's in Bay Roberts.

## **Recreation**

In June Recreation took part in the Brigus Library's Teddy Bears Picnic with Terry Riley. Recreation provided the Hotdogs and Drinks. Thanks to all those who helped.

Canada Day was a huge success this year with a Canada Day Cake, Games, Bouncy Castle, Little Rays Reptiles along with Hotdogs and Drinks. Thanks to our staff and students for putting off such a wonderful event.

The Summer Recreation Program had another successful year with 60 children registered and 9 summer staff. This year we ran a full day program that will be further reviewed. We did a number of outings and special events which included 1. Mobile Laser Tag 2. Holyrood Park & Bowling 3. Axtion & Bowering Park and Local Boat Tour with Rodney. We finished the summer with an overnight stay at Camp McCarthy.

The Blueberry Festival was a great success with the Recreation staff overseeing the camper parking at the Playground and running the Nevada Booth.

The Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony had a good turn out with close to 200 in attendance. Thank you to all the businesses who donated for our draws.

This year has been another eventful one for our seniors group. They attended a number of information sessions that included, CNIB, Canadian Hard of Hearing and the Seniors Resource Center as well as a number of entertainers. They also went on a number of outings that included trips to Bell Island and a boat tour in Bay Bulls. They participated in several fitness sessions which included bowling, therabands and chair exercises. Another highlight for our group this year was that we were the recipients of a New Horizons Grant for \$25,000.00 which helped us develop a paved walking track around our playground area. This track is accessible to all and was put there to promote walking and physical activity within our town especially during peak summer months when our narrow street are usually so congested. We invite you all to get out and check out our new track. We look forward to lots of activities in the new year that will continue to focus on wellness. Wishing all our seniors a wonderful Christmas and health and happiness in the new year.

## **Town Staff**

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

Matt & Charles also had a very busy year with a variety of maintenance tasks that they are responsible for. Thanks to all staff for a great job!

## **Development Permits**

Seventy Two (72) General Repair, Thirty Two (32) Shed and Extension, Twelve (12) House development & Three (3) Business permits were issued throughout 2014.

Avoiding unnecessary delays in obtaining your permit. Check with the Town Office if a permit is required before starting any work. Applications for development permits should be forwarded to the Town Council Office well in advance of Council meetings. This will give the Public Work's Committee ample time to review the development application and site.

## **Budget**

December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 Council approved their 2015 balanced budget in the amount of \$762,520.00. There are no changes in tax rates or permit fees..

## **Provincial 911**

This was due to come into affect In December 2014 but is now extended to early 2015, It will be necessary for everyone to have their civic address number on their house if you haven't already done so. Contact the Town Office if you need assistance.

## **Fire Department**

The Brigus Volunteer Fire Department had another great year. We thank the members for their dedication and hard work, during fire calls, training and fund raising activities. Our Fire Brigade answered 12 calls which included two house fires. 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. Council would also like to thank our Fire Brigade & Recreation for the Community Bonfire held in November.

## **Blueberry Festival**

The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Brigus Blueberry Festival, once again had a successful year with attendance down over previous years due to weather conditions with approximately 9,500 visitors. The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual will be held on August 07<sup>th</sup>, 08<sup>th</sup> & 09<sup>th</sup> 2015.

## **Gas Tax**

In September Council approved the Federal/Municipal Five (5) year Gas Tax Agreement allocation from 2014-2019 in the amount of \$196,141. To date Council has allocated \$9,266.40 to BioMaxx Wastewater solutions to report quarterly on the flows & readings to the Federal Government Waste Effluent Regulations. Council is also seeking quotes on replacing our street signs.

## Take Note

**Backwater Valves:** Council recommends that all sewer installations should have “Backwater Valves” installed. Also check your Insurance Policy or with your Insurance Company to insure that you are carrying sewer backup on your policy.

**Tax Payments:** As a reminder, you can pay your taxes by Debit, Visa, MasterCard and postdated cheques.

**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](http://www.brigus.net) or e-mail [brigus@eastlink.ca](mailto:brigus@eastlink.ca)

**Fire Hydrants:** Even though Council workers will try and keep Fire Hydrants free of snow it is much appreciated if you or a group of neighbors when clearing their driveways would keep in mind to clear the hydrant next to them. These hydrants are there for your safety. For those who are already doing this, THANK YOU.

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**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.

**Open Fires:** Residents take note that open fires are only permitted between September to April weather permitting and are under the control of the Dept. of Natural Resources (Not Council). Residents must take into consideration, weather conditions i.e. wind and how dry the area is adjacent to the open fire, caution must be taken before starting any fire.

**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:** In June 2014 The Ride for Dad visited Brigus with approximately 500 motor cycles. This group of riders were on a fund-raising campaign in aid of Prostate Cancer. Also in June 2014 The Tom Furey Classic Car Club visited Brigus. Proceeds from this activity were forwarded to the Heart & Stroke Foundation. September 2014 Brigus once again played host for the popular Targa.

***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!**