

Town of Eastport

Newsletter



MARCH 2024

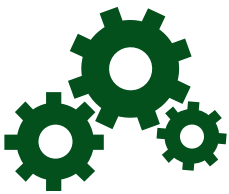


THERE'S BEEN SOME CHANGES

On January 1st, Mayor Arthur Crisby tendered his resignation as Mayor for the Town of Eastport, opting to continue fulfilling his duties for the elected term as a Councillor. We thank Councillor Crisby for his tenure as Mayor of Eastport since the General Election in 2021. Following section 19. (3) (1) (c) of the Municipalities Act, council elected a new Mayor from within. With six years experience as a Councillor and a keen interest in Municipal Governance, we are pleased to introduce to you, Mayor Kimberly Powell. With a 4-2-1 vote, Mayor Powell thanked fellow councillors for their confidence in her ability to lead the Town as she accepted her new role on council.



Approval in principal has been granted for the construction of two additional multi-unit buildings near Farwell Estates - new home construction means new residents in the Town of Eastport.



Budget 2024 has an allowance for the purchase of equipment to be used by our maintenance employees in numerous areas such as water, sewer, ground work, snow removal and general maintenance. The Town will be obtaining quotes and adhering to procurement policies, to purchase the necessary equipment. By having the equipment to do some of this work in-house, it will alleviate the need to out-source, lessening wait times and create savings all around.

FINANCIAL NEWS

If you read the fall newsletter, you may recall Council talking about the lapse in annual auditing. To give a little more clarity on this matter, after being hired in 2021, the Town Clerk Manager discovered and informed council that the audits for 2018, 2019 and 2020 had not been done. Immediate action was taken to rectify the issue. Council engaged a new Auditor, and worked to get the matter resolved. For a variety of reasons, it was a slow process. Without these previous audits complete, it meant that 2021, and subsequently 2022 were also added to the list.

Since October of 2021, the finance committee has made the auditing process a priority focus. Ensuring that all council members were aware of the situation, it's safe to say, council applied all resources available to getting our audits completed.

Our Town Clerk Manager and clerical staff have worked diligently, ensuring the auditor had all materials they requested, inputting Journal Entries as directed by the auditor, reconciling bank statements, so on and so forth. While not an ideal situation to be in, Council was fully transparent in communicating the lapse to the Minister's office, and staying in constant communication with Municipal Affairs for the duration.

We are beyond happy to now tell our residents ALL audits for the years of 2018-2022 are complete. Financial records of the Town are public records. If at anytime, a member of the public wishes to review the financial statements or audits, please make arrangements with the Clerks office. We remain, as always, accountable to our stakeholders and transparent in all business and decisions of the Town of Eastport.

WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR 2024

Council is expecting a busy and productive year ahead for the Town of Eastport, as we anxiously await the release of approved MCWP's for 2024. Work has begun on the terms for an RFP, for updating the Town of Eastport Municipal Plan and Development Regulations. The Public Works committee will be focusing on the Town's current sewer treatment facility and assessing future needs and Council looks forward to issuing a RFP in the coming months for a Wastewater study to help facilitate the project.

MUNICIPAL TAXES

2024 tax bills have been mailed out, and are payable upon receipt. The Council Office is open for counter service Tuesday - Friday from 9am -4pm, payment options include cash, debit, credit or cheque. As well, EMT payments can be made by contacting the Town Clerk Manager at 709-677-2161 or email townclerk@eastport.ca Please keep in mind, any unpaid taxes after June 30, 2024 will begin to accrue interest.

Monthly Public Council Meetings

March 13th & 27th, April 10th & 24th, May 8th & 22nd
Meetings are held at the Council office and start at 7pm.

Your Council at a Glance - Standing Committees:

Finance/Administration/Human Resources

Councilor Ben Patey (Chair)

Councilor Art Crisby, Deputy Mayor Monica Bull, Mayor Kim Powell (Alternate)

Public Works /Planning and Development

Councilor David Decker (Chair)

Councilor Shannon Powell, Councilor Roger Bull, Mayor Kim Powell (Alternate)

Communication/Public Engagement/Social & Recreation

Mayor Kim Powell (Chair)

Councilor Shannon Powell, Councilor Roger Bull

Joint Council

Mayor Kim Powell, Deputy Mayor Monica Bull, Councilor Ben Patey (Alternate)

Shared Services

Mayor Kim Powell, Councilor Roger Bull

Liaisons:

Fire Department: Councilor Ben Patey

RTTB: Councilor Roger Bull

Emergency Management: Mayor Kim Powell, Councilor David Decker

DAMNABLE TRAIL NETWORK

What began as an initiative of the Road to the Beaches Tourism Association in 2016, to create the network of trails throughout the Peninsula, has since been incorporated as a stand-alone not-for-profit organization, now formally known as the Damnable Trail Network. During a recent public meeting, a Board of Directors were elected, headed by President Karen Saunders. The Damnable Trails has something for everyone, ranging from leisurely strolls along boardwalk and beaches to the more challenging coastal trails. The Town of Eastport recognizes the opportunities that come from having a trail network such as this on the Peninsula. The Town will work with and support the Damnable Trails Network, the Board of Directors and volunteers, where possible. If you haven't already experienced the Damnable Trails, get out and do it; you won't be disappointed!



Winter's here and almost gone...

Only 20 days or so until it's officially spring. For the outdoor winter enthusiasts, now is a great time to enjoy the back country trails with snow shoes or cross-country skis! If you are out and about, regardless of the activity, please be mindful of the winter conditions and stay safe! And remember, the Town of Eastport and Holy Cross School have teamed up to have snow shoe and cross-country skis available on loan (no charge) during weekends. To reserve a set, please contact Holy Cross School a few days in advance of when you need them (709-677-3121).



Let's Talk Transportation!

We've asked, and residents have answered - What is a business or service that is not available in Eastport? Public transportation! Whether it's local-regional- provincial; whatever the reason to go, there is no public transportation service with door to door pickup and drop-off available in this area. This could be a lucrative business opportunity for someone with the means to start-up. The Town of Eastport is always open to encouraging new business ventures, especially when it's a service that our residents say is needed.



Town of Eastport

Contact Info:

Phone: 677-2161

Email: townclerk@eastport.ca

Website:

www.eastport.ca



Town Hall Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday

9am-4pm



The Eastport Peninsula Volunteer Fire Department would like to remind residents that the number to call in case of emergency is 911...

If you require the assistance of the fire department, please call 911, give the operator your name, number, physical location and nature of the emergency!



The Beaches Library

Hours of Operation:

**Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
2-4 pm**

**Saturday
1:30-3:30pm**