



Newsletter

December

2012

Warden's Message

2012 has been a great year for the Municipality and we are pleased to welcome three new members to our council- Danny Muise, Lucien LeBlanc and Nicole Albright. We also want to take this time to recognize the immense contributions of two councillors who chose not to reoffer in the last election; Bruce Hubbard and Charles LeBlanc. Also, I would like to express thanks to Malcolm Madden who served well as councillor for his district. Their dedication and hard work have helped make Argyle a place we are all proud to call home.

Remember to watch out for those people in your community who might need extra help at this busy time of the year- offer a ride, shovel a walkway etc. On behalf of council and staff, we wish you Merry Christmas and best wishes for a joyful, peaceful, healthy and prosperous New Year! Enjoy the newsletter, *Warden Aldric d'Entremont*

Did you know...

- ◆ Council meetings are open to the public and are held the second and last Tuesday of each month - meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ All individuals or groups requesting an opportunity to make a presentation to Council must contact the CAO's office at 648-3293 at least two weeks prior in order to be added to the Council meeting agenda
- ◆ Council meeting agendas are ready for distribution (on the Municipal website - www.munargyle.com/council or pick-up in person) on the Friday prior to each meeting.

Meet the new councillors

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ELECTRONIC VOTING WRAP UP

In 2012, the council for the Municipality of Argyle approved full electronic voting as the option available for the October election. This decision was not taken lightly as they knew that this would mean a very different way of voting for our residents. Unlike paper ballots, the success of this vote was dependent on internet access, power failures, phone issues etc. With any voting option, there are benefits and challenges. E-voting's biggest benefit was accessibility. Not only were residents able to vote for a full week, they were able to vote from anywhere in the world via telephone and internet. Also, there was voter assistance available all week and at 6 polling stations on election day. For those residents that expressed concern over the difficulty of using a computer or phone, we hope that you found your experience to be positive in the end.

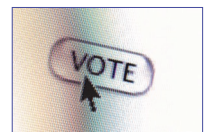
According to data collected by municipal staff, voter turnout reached 80%. In 2008 the election turnout was 72%. Argyle residents should be proud of the exceptional participation in this election. For your interest, approximately 75% of all voters chose to use the Internet over telephone.

There were very few spoiled ballots. A spoiled ballot in an electronic vote can only occur when a person logs in with their password and does not choose any candidate and submits the vote. The process carried out by staff on election day was to continue to monitor all data on an hourly basis. After 7pm, staff awaited calls from our 6 polling stations. Once all polling stations were confirmed to be closed, results are instantaneous and our independent auditor performed a check on the results prior to the release.

The 2012-2016 council is made up of:

District 1- Danny Muise
District 2- Roderick Jr. Murphy
District 3- Lucien LeBlanc
District 4- Guy Surette

District 5- Nicole Albright
District 6- Richard Donaldson
District 7- Kathy Bourque
District 8- Calvin d'Entremont (Deputy-Warden)
District 9- Aldric d'Entremont (Warden)



How was your e-voting experience? The Municipality received constructive feedback during the election, but we would like to hear more from you. Please provide feedback and suggestions through our short survey that can be found on our Municipality of Argyle's Facebook page and on our website at www.munargyle.com.

You can also send us your comments to newsletter@munargyle.com

Indian Sluice Bridge

Dexter Construction Company Ltd. has been awarded the Tender for the Indian Sluice Bridge in the amount of \$13,500,000.00 and work will commence as soon as resources can be brought to the site.

The province will also be installing a webcam so that the public can watch the demolition of the old bridge as well as the construction of the new bridge as it proceeds. This will be a great way for current and former residents to watch the exciting changes.

Details will follow soon.

Western Counties Regional Library- Pubnico Branch

- Meeting room
- C@P Site
- Wheel-chair accessible
- 4 computers with Internet access
- Printer, photocopier and scanner

Sunday & Monday Closed
Tues. 3:00 - 5:30 & 6:00 - 8:00
Wed. 10:00 - 1:00 & 3:00 - 5:30
Thurs. 3:00 - 5:30 & 6:00 - 8:00
Friday 3:00 - 5:00
Sat. 10:00 - 12:00
35 Highway 335 Pubnico

Municipal Office Holiday Closures

The Municipal Office and Archives will be closed on **Monday December 24th at noon** and re-opening on

**Wednesday
January 2nd, 2013**
at 8:30am.

EMERGENCIES

EMO 740-3433

Public Works 648-7930
Chief Administration Officer
648-4751

INTRODUCING OUR NEW COUNCILLORS



Danny Muise District 1

I live in Abram's River with my wife Janice. I have four grown children and five grandchildren. I am a retired government employee having worked for NS Dept. of Transportation and Public Works for 30 years. Since retiring 12 years ago, I have been appointed as Returning Officer for Elections NS and also worked as Field Operations Supervisor for Statistics Canada during the 2006 and 2011 census. I have always had an interest in municipal politics. I believe working towards economic development for our area is of utmost importance in order to reduce the out-migration of our population.

Lucien LeBlanc District 3

I am a resident of Wedgeport and I am 23 years old. I am currently captain of the fishing vessel 'John Harold'. During the off season I am a navigation instructor at NSCC school of fisheries. I have always been interested in municipal politics and bettering my community in any way possible. Due to my young age, I am especially affected by the western migration of our younger generation as I see my own friends leaving. I would like to aid our economy as well as some social aspect of our communities in whichever way necessary to slow and hopefully stop this migration.



Nicole Albright District 5

I live in Belleville with my husband Harold and our three children; Kaylie, Mackenzie and Isaac. For the past 16 years, I have been a teacher at Meadowfields Community School. Becoming a Municipal Councillor has been a goal of mine for many years and I view this role as an excellent chance to become a stronger community helper. My aim is to open the lines of communication between myself and my community members. Economic growth is also important to me. We need to increase new opportunities in order to prevent people from moving to other provinces for work. I am very honoured to represent District 5.



All councillors would like to thank their supporters as well as family members

How are the Warden and Deputy Warden Chosen?

During the first official meeting called after a municipal election, the Chair shall call for nominations for Warden. The process for choosing a Deputy Warden is exactly the same and is done immediately following the vote for the Warden. All of the councillors can then nominate a candidate. All nominations and secondings shall be made publicly. When there is only one candidate, the Chair shall call for a motion to elect the Warden or Deputy Warden, and the candidate shall be elected if the motion passes by majority vote.

When there is more than one candidate to be voted upon, the Chair shall prepare ballots with each candidate's name and shall distribute the ballots, one to each Councillor. A candidate may vote for himself or herself. **During the entire term of a councillor, this is the only time that their vote will not be made public.**

The Chair announces the name of the Warden or Deputy Warden so elected. There is a process of

elimination if there are multiple candidates with no candidate reaching a majority vote. The term of office of the Warden and Deputy Warden shall be for a four year period.

What is the difference between a Mayor and a Warden?

The Municipality of Argyle, as many rural municipal districts, implements a Warden system. Many Towns use a Mayor system. Much of the duties of the Mayor are the same as the duties of a Warden. Both are asked to chair the meeting, both are asked to represent Council in public events and media relations. Furthermore, both are eligible to vote on matters and have an equal vote with their fellow councillors. The biggest difference is that a Mayor is elected "at large", which means that every citizen that wishes to vote for the Mayor, regardless of which district they reside, is able to select their Mayor. The Warden is elected the same as any Councillor, that is, by the citizens in that district. He or she is then chosen by his or her peers at the swearing-in of Council.

Business Spotlight: Tusket Motor Sports– Privateers Sou'West

Privateers Sou'West
HARLEY-DAVIDSON®

Opened since 2008, two of the best “toy stores” in the Tri-County area are found under the same roof in Tusket!

TUSKET
Motor Sports

Tusket Motor Sports features ATV sales, accessories, parts as well as a certified on-site mechanic who can service all makes and models of ATV's. Privateers Sou'West is the largest Harley-Davidson® dealership outside of Halifax. Here you will find a full line of Harley-Davidson® parts and accessories for all your needs and Motorclothes® apparel (including lines for children and pets!) to fit all lifestyles. They also carry housewares, garage items, home décor, gifts, Christmas ornaments– everything that the biker in your family will want to find under the tree. An impressive line of Harley-Davidson® motorcycles are available for sale as well as a selection of pre-owned bikes. A full-time Harley-Davidson® Technician with the most up-to-date equipment is available to service your genuine Harley-Davidson® motorcycle.

SPECIAL –ends December 24th. HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL-ME. Free access to the inner circle of Harley-Davidson®. Free gift with purchase (commemorative limited edition 110th anniversary tin with H-D Museum® Membership) with qualifying \$300 purchase. While supplies last.

Store hours Mon-Thurs 8:30AM - 5:00PM, Friday 8:30AM - 6:00PM, closed on Saturday and Sunday
4200 Highway 308 Tusket NS B0W 3M0 Phone: (902) 648-3111
www.tusketmotorsports.com



Locally owned and operated, the full time staff of five is available to answer all your questions and help you find that special something.



HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

We would like to welcome Judy Frotten as the new Heritage Development Officer. This is a new jointly funded position between the Municipality and the Argyle Municipality Historical & Genealogical Society. Judy will perform a wide range of duties including working to bring more vibrancy to the museum, organizing a variety of public events, assist with fundraising and assist with the production of both the Society's and the Municipality's newsletters.

She will be working with Peter Crowell, our Municipal Historian & Archivist in both the Argyle Township Court House (a museum & a National Historic Site) and the municipal Archives to ensure that these important cultural facilities continue to prosper for the future.

Judy comes to the position with 17 years of experience in the local insurance industry. She is the daughter of Gilbert & Loretta Frotten of Quinan, and the wife of Roland Frotten.



MUNICIPAL RECREATION DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

The Argyle Recreation Department will be hosting a **NCCP Part A Multi-sport Coaching Clinic** Friday February 8 from 6:00 – 10:00 pm & Saturday February 9 from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Location: Tusket Municipal Building Cost: \$40

Would you like to plan an outdoor winter family adventure but have no equipment?

The Argyle Recreation Department has Nordic Poles and Snow Shoes that you can borrow for your family adventure. Contact us for more information and to borrow the equipment.



The Argyle Recreation Department is hosting a **FREE** one hour session of “**Skating with Santa**” on Tuesday December 18, 2012 from 5:30 to 6:30pm at the Mariner's Centre, Arena 1. A **FREE** event sponsored by the Argyle Recreation Department. **All are welcome to attend.**



So **ALL** Kids Can Play!

If you know of any child who would like to participate in a sport, but can't afford it, we can help!

For more information or to register for a program, contact us at 648-3379 or by email at recreation@munargyle.com

HEATING ASSISTANCE REBATES

For Low Income Nova Scotians-

The Heating Assistance Rebate Program provides help to **low-and-moderate income** Nova Scotians with the cost of home heating. It offers a rebate of up to \$200 for eligible applicants who pay for their own heat and heat their homes with oil, electricity, wood, propane, wood pellets, natural gas or coal. Single people with an income of \$27,000 or less and households with an annual income of \$42,000 or less qualify.

If you would like additional information, please visit www.homeheatinghelp.ca or call 1-800-670-4357.



For All Nova Scotians-

Nova Scotians who purchase energy for their homes are eligible for a rebate equivalent to the provincial portion of the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST). The Energy Rebate is a program designed to help with the rising cost of home energy. For most, the rebate is automatically credited on the bill by the power company and fuel distributors (home-delivered oil, propane, firewood and natural gas). For other energy sources, such as kerosene, coal and wood pellets, you are able to apply for the rebate. If you have paid HST on your residential use energy purchase and the rebate was not deducted from your bill, you have 24 months from the date of purchase to apply for your rebate. You can apply once you have spent \$300, before taxes, on purchases of energy products (equal to a \$30 rebate). This rebate **does not depend on your income level**. Contact Access NS at 1-800-670-4357 or visit www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/access/business/your-energy-rebate/general-public.asp

Garbage pickup during the Holiday Season 2012

Regular scheduled garbage pickup for **Tuesday, December 25, 2012** has been rescheduled to **Friday, December 28, 2012**.

*For residents of East Pubnico, Argyle, Old School Road, Robert's Island, Glenwood, Lower Eel Brook, Sainte-Anne-du-Ruisseau, Rocco Point
Garbage pickup during the Holiday Season 2012*

Regular scheduled garbage pickup for **Tuesday, January 1, 2013** has been rescheduled to **Friday, January 4, 2013**.

For residents of Comeau's Hill, Little River Harbour, Melbourne, Pleasant Lake, Gavel Rd, Kemptville, Tusket and Lake Vaughan Rd.

Questions— contact Wasteco Ltd. at 742-9496 or Municipality at 648-2623

BUY LOCAL THIS YEAR!

The average Canadian spends approximately \$640 on Christmas shopping. Keeping that money closer to home means more people working here. Merry Christmas everyone!



2012 Property Tax Rebate for Seniors.

This program, administered by Access Nova Scotia on behalf of the Department of Community Services, is designed to help eligible seniors remain in their homes by providing them with an annual rebate on their municipal property taxes. The program provides eligible homeowners with a 50% rebate on the municipal property taxes paid the previous year, up to a maximum of \$600.00 per year. **Application deadline is December 31st, 2012.**

For eligibility and other information, please phone toll free at 1-800-670-4357.

Applications are available at MLA Chris d'Entremont's office, here at the Municipal office or online at www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/access/individuals/consumer-awareness/property-tax-rebate-for-seniors.asp

Municipality of Argyle

27 Courthouse Road
PO Box 10
Tusket, Nova Scotia B0W 3M0
Fax : 648-0367

Website: www.munargyle.com

Municipal Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Community Development - 648-2931
EMO - 648-2314

Finance & Administration - 648-3293

Municipal Archives - 648-2493

Property Inspection & Public Works - 648-2623

Recreation & IT - 648-3379

Taxation - 648-2311

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Email us at newsletter@munargyle.com