



Volume 9 No. 4



Newsletter

December 2015

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Warden's Message

Another holiday season is already upon us. During this time, we would like to remind you to think of those in your community who might need extra help - offer a ride, shovel a walkway or even invite them over for a meal.

This past year has been a positive year for our Municipality. We have seen accomplishments in a number of municipal projects such as the completion of our tennis court retrofits, another wonderful edition of the Bay of Fundy Sea Kayak Symposium and the achievement of our UNESCO Starlight Reserve and Tourist Destination certification. Throughout these projects and many community events, our communities have come together once again to help create a place we are all proud to call home.

I would like to extend a special welcome to those who have come home to be with their families and hope that you have a wonderful time. To all who are spending Christmas away from their native community this year, but who may be reading this message, I would like to extend Christmas greetings from Municipality of Argyle.

On behalf of Council and our dedicated municipal staff, I would like to wish you Happy Holidays and best wishes for a joyful, peaceful, healthy and prosperous New Year!

We look forward with anticipation to another great year in 2016. Enjoy the newsletter,

Warden Aldric d'Entremont

The Benefits of Outdoor Play

Playing outdoors is a form of exercise that promotes well-being and wholesome physical development. Children are naturally drawn to active play outdoors: it allows them to explore their environment, develop muscle strength and coordination, and gain self-confidence. Playing actively outdoors also increases flexibility, fine and gross motor skills and is related to the development of a wide variety of physical skills, including those involved in sports.

Children have a great need for physical exercise and activity and a chance to use their muscles to run, swing, jump, skate and ride a bike, and to be out in the fresh air and sunshine (appropriately protected from the sun's rays, of course). They like to use their whole body when they play outdoors, and find such physical activities interesting and challenging.

Toys that require balance and coordination, such as skates, scooters and bikes, teach children new skills, encourage the development of self-confidence and satisfy their interest in exploration. Choose sports equipment that has a *grow-with-me* feature, going from beginner to advanced, so children have the opportunity to master skills at their own pace. The beginner mode will give children that extra boost of confidence they need when learning a new skill. As children progress to the advanced mode, they can practice their newly acquired skills and try new and exciting challenges when they're ready.

So, take the children outside to play. It's a wonderful way to spend the day!

Management Without Borders

Dalhousie University's Faculty of Management offers an innovative graduate class called Management Without Borders (MWB). Students are asked to work on group projects with host organizations across Nova Scotia. Hosting a MWB project is free. This summer the **Municipality of Argyle** submitted a proposal called "**Tidal Energy Feasibility Study**" and it was accepted in September. We have been working with six students who have been evaluating and analyzing a variety of data to determine if it is worthwhile to pursue tidal energy development in Argyle; namely in the Indian Sluice. The project ends in December, and they will share the results.

Did you know...

- ◆ Council meetings are open to the public and are held the second and last Tuesday of each month - meetings typically begin at 6:30 P.M.
- ◆ All council meetings are

- now available for viewing online: www.youtube.com/munargyle/
- ◆ All individuals or groups requesting an opportunity to make a presentation to Council must contact the CAO's office at 902-648-3293 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: <http://www.munargyle.com/en/council-agendas/> or pick-up in person) on the Friday prior to each meeting.

Aquaculture - Update

The Municipality of Argyle recently met NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture to choose seven sites to deploy temperature recording devices for our information. The sites have been chosen and the devices will be deployed in early December and remain for up to a year.

The Municipality of Argyle also requested that NS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture conduct two Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler deployments with respect to marine aquaculture in our region. They agreed to manage this and will do so in Spring 2016.

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## GARBAGE PICKUP - Schedule for Holiday Season

Please note that this year, there will be no changes to regularly scheduled garbage pickup during the Holiday Season 2015-2016.

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Municipal Office Holiday Closures

The Municipal Office and Archives will be closed on **Thursday, December 24th at noon** and will re-open **Monday, January 4th, 2016 at 8:30am.**



EMERGENCIES

EMO: 902-740-3433
Public Works: 902-648-4846
Chief Administrative Officer:
902-648-4751

Upcoming Recreation Department Activities



The Argyle Recreation Department in partnership with Yarmouth Recreation will be sponsoring three **FREE public skates** on Monday, December 21 from 2-3pm, Tuesday, December 22 from 1-2pm and Wednesday, December 23 from 2-3pm at the Mariner's Centre, Arena 1. **All are welcome to attend.**

Ladies, are you interested in some organized winter walks and hikes? The Argyle Recreation Department will be organizing both activities in the winter months. Stay tuned for exact dates and times.

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.

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

So ALL Kids Can Play!

**For more information on events or programs, contact us:
902-648-3379 or email: recreation@munargyle.com.
LIKE our Facebook pages for regular updates on what is happening in the Argyle Recreation Department.**

2015 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 **\$800.00** per year.



Application deadline is December 31st, 2015.

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

Understanding your property assessment notice

Municipalities use property assessments from Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) as part of a calculation to determine tax rates and calculate tax bills. As a property owner, it is important to review and understand your assessment notice.

You can access detailed information about your property, including preliminary 2016 assessment values, using the "My Property Report" tool on the PVSC website www.pvsc.ca. If you have questions or wish to discuss your assessment we encourage you to speak with an assessor at **1-800-380-7775**.

2016 assessment notices will be mailed on January 8, 2016. If you prefer to go paper-free, you can receive your assessment notice online through Canada Post's epost™ service. Visit www.epost.ca for details and to register.

*epost is a trademark of Canada Post Corporation

*To receive your 2016 assessment notice through epost, please register before December 2, 2015.

Registrations after December 2, 2015 will be applied to your 2016 assessment notice.



Business Spotlight: Blissful Sparkle Jewelry



Jewelry for every day wear, or for a special occasion... either way, if it's a piece of *Blissful Sparkle Jewelry*, you can be sure that it has been made with love, and you will feel special wearing it!

Sharon Goodwin and her husband Gary moved to Lower West Pubnico, from Ontario, a few years ago, and absolutely love the area. About a year ago, Sharon discovered her passion for making jewelry. At first it was a hobby but then, with encouragement from family and friends who saw how wonderful the jewelry was, she turned it into a business venture, now known as **Blissful Sparkle Jewelry**.



Most jewelry pieces are one of a kind. Almost all of it is made with Swarovski Elements Crystals, various pearls or gemstones. Sharon prides herself on using the best quality wire and materials, so that each piece is of superior quality, all the while keeping prices as low and affordable as possible. There is a great deal of thought and detail that goes into each piece.



Sharon's jewelry is available for sale at *Cindy's Home Décor* in Tusket, *Hook 'n' Sea Crafts & Gift Shop* (Port Maitland), and *Musée des Acadiens des Pubnico* and *Le Village Historique Acadien* in West Pubnico, and she is often at the local



markets and craft shows. She is also happy to hold a jewelry event in your own home. These jewelry parties are a wonderful way to get together with your friends and enjoy a nice afternoon or evening, while spending time choosing jewelry pieces. Sharon also offers consultation and will customize jewelry (for example: special events, weddings, shower gifts, Christmas gifts, etc.). She makes necklaces, bracelets, earrings (available individually or in sets), as well as children's items.

Sharon is grateful for the warm reception from the local community, and she is eager to make new connections and get to know the community better. Make a point to stop and chat with this kind lady, and maybe enquire about a Jewelry Party. Treat yourself to some lovely jewelry, or keep Blissful Jewelry in mind for gifts for all occasions.

For photos and more information, check out her Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Sparkle-Bliss-Jewelry-183784038487176/> or contact Sharon at: blissfulsparklejewelry@bellaliant.net or phone: 902-762-0119.

Where do my Tax Dollars Go?

All municipalities in NS must contribute to the following provincial services/agencies- amounts are based on formulas taking into account number of dwellings and/or property values

Based on an average tax bill of \$1000, this is how your tax dollars are distributed:

The remaining tax dollars are invested in:



Education **\$200**

Police/Correctional services **\$120**

Property Assessment services **\$30**

Housing **\$10**

Roads **\$10**

Regional Library **\$10**

Total mandated costs transferred \$380

Recreation & Senior Safety **\$50**

Waste collection, disposal & recycling **\$90**

Fire protection/EMO **\$40**

Finance/Administrative services **\$60**

Water & Sewer services **\$40**

Economic & community development **\$50**

Other general gov't services **\$40**

Property inspection **\$40**

Planning/zoning **\$10**

Public transportation & airport **\$40**

Legislative/Council **\$30**

Grants to non profit orgs. & tax rebate **\$50**

Courthouse/ Historical/Pubnico library services **\$30**

Future capital commitments **\$20**

Doctor recruitment/ medical centres **\$30**

Total additional costs \$620 + mandated transfers \$380 = \$1000



Nova Scotia International Student Program

Participating in the NSISP can be a life changing experience for both students and their host families. For students it's a way to learn about the Canadian way of life. For host families, it's an opportunity to bring the world home and gain a new family member!

Eligible students come from all over the world and are carefully matched with Nova Scotian host families. Students range in age from 8-18 years old and stay anywhere from one month to one year.

For more information, please contact the Argyle Area NSISP Homestay Coordinator,
Melanie Challoner-Muise - Phone: 902-307-9737 or email: melaniecm@tcrsb.ca

HEATING ASSISTANCE REBATE PROGRAM

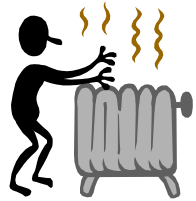
For Low Income Nova Scotians-

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

HOME WARMING PROGRAM

Clean Foundation and Efficiency Nova Scotia are working together to offer **low-income homeowners** free energy efficiency improvements that can help them feel more comfortable while reducing heating and power bills. And these upgrades are provided at no-cost to qualifying homeowners! Clean will work on the electrically heated homes while Efficiency Nova Scotia will look after non-electrically heated homes. Total Income for a single person must be below \$20,550. For a household of 2 to 4 people the total income must be below \$38,185, to qualify.

To see if you qualify for a free home energy assessment and possibly for free energy upgrades, call Toll Free: 1-877-434-2136. Or contact Charlene LeBlanc for a HomeWarming application form (Phone: 902-648-2623)

Municipality of Argyle

27 Courthouse Road
PO Box 10

Tusket, Nova Scotia B0W 3M0
Fax : 902-648-0367

Website: www.munargyle.com

Municipal Office

Hours

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

Community Development - 902-648-2623
EMO (Emergency Measures Office) - 902-648-2314
Finance & Administration - 902-648-3293
Municipal Archives - 902-648-2493
Property Inspection & Public Works - 902-648-2623
Recreation & IT - 902-648-3379
Taxation - 902-648-2311

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