



Annual General Meeting

Pugwash Village Hall

124 Water Street, Pugwash

7pm

Thursday, 30th May 2024

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ELECTORS
VILLAGE OF PUGWASH
Pugwash Village Hall Board Room
7pm, Thursday May 30th 2024**

A G E N D A

- 1** **Call to Order**
- 2** *We acknowledge that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.*
- 3** **Introduction of Guests and regrets**
- 4** **Adoption of Agenda**
- 5** **Audited Financial Statements**
Lawrence Lake CPA, CA – Morse Brewster Lake - remote meeting by video conference
- 6** **MOTIONS**
 - 6.1 Adopt Financial Statement as presented
 - 6.2 Appoint auditors for financial year end 2025
 - 6.3 Exemption of taxes:
 - Camp Pagweak
 - Ground Search and Rescue
 - Northumberland Community Curling Club
 - Sunrise Development
- 7** **REPORTS**
Pugwash Village Commission - Chair's Report – Brent Wilson - attached
- 8** **Village Committee Reports**
Standing Committees
 - 8.1 Accessibility - Betts
 - 8.2 Association of Nova Scotia Villages – Duncan
 - 8.3 Audit Committee – Duncan
 - 8.4 Policy review – Wilson/MacEwan
Special Committees
 - 8.5 CN Train Station Community Hub – Houghtaling/MacEwan
Advisory Committees
 - 8.6 None

Community Committees

8.7 Physician Recruitment & Retention - Duncan

8.9 Communities in Bloom – see 9.6

9

Community Reports

9.1 RCMP Report – Shane Foster

9.2 MLA for Cumberland North, Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin

9.3 Nova Scotia Department Municipal Affairs – Jason Haughn

9.4 Municipality of Cumberland County – Councillor Jennifer Houghtaling

9.5 Pugwash Volunteer Fire Department – Chief Andy Yarrow

9.6 Communities in Bloom –Maureen Leahey

9.7 2023 Gathering of the Clans – Lisa Betts

9.8 2023 HarbourFest – Louise Haycocks

9.9 Farmers’ Market – Pat McInnis

9.10 North Cumberland Historical Society – Harvey Gullon

9.11 Sunset Community – Carrie Nix

10

Adoption of Reports

11

Information Items/Motions

12

Adjournment

PUGWASH VILLAGE COMMISSION
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9.2 MLA FOR CUMBERLAND NORTH - Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin

See attached reports – letter and Spring Legislature Update.

Only three bills were passed. There was a budget deficit. The official ribbon cutting to open the new hospital will be at 11am tomorrow. Tours for the public will be held in the afternoon. Smith-McCrossin acknowledged former Premier MacNeil for announcing this project and ensuring it came to completion.

The Pugwash storm drain system that was due to be done this year is now planned for 2025.

The Cumberland YMCA is planning a daycare in the community.

Howard's Bridge replacement is finally complete. Next may be paved approach roads to it.

Cell internet connectivity is being worked on. School violence is a concern that is being looked at. A provincial ambulance service is being worked on.

In a recent meeting with the RCMP, they ask that the community report any incidents.

There was a long discussion on recent burglaries, increased drug use, other (organized) crimes and domestic violence. There was concern over policing levels and the strained judiciary system. Again, the importance of reporting crime as being evidentiary was emphasised. There was some interest in a Neighbourhood Watch. Residents are encouraged to take all security precautions and take photographs of belongings.

**9.3 NOVA SCOTIA DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING –
Municipal Advisor Jason Haughn**

Thanked the Village for making of Association of Nova Scotia villages stronger and for hosting a wonderful conference and AGM this past year. The ANSV had some important changes made in the Financial Measures Act. The Code of Conduct for Municipal officials, including commissioners, legislation is now expected in the Fall of 2024.

9.4 MUNICIPALITY OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY – Councillor Jennifer

See attached report.

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9.5 PUGWASH AND DISTRICT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

See attached report.

9.6 PUGWASH COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM (CIB) – Maureen Leahey, President.
Report attached.

9.7 2022 GATHERING OF THE CLANS - Lisa Betts, Coordinator
Report attached.

9.8 HARBOURFEST – Louise Haycocks, Chair. Absent.
No report submitted.

9.9 PUGWASH FARMERS’ MARKET – President Pat McInnis. Absent.
No report submitted.

9.9 NORTH CUMBERLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY – President Harvey Gullon
No report submitted.

9.11 SUNSET COMMUNITY – Carrie Nix. Absent.
No report submitted.

10 ADOPTION OF REPORTS

10.1 MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Mundle and seconded by Commissioner Anderson that all reports presented be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

11 INFORMATION ITEMS

11.1 Introduction of Matthew Parker as new Commissioner

12 ADJORNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Mundle that the meeting be adjourned at
8:25pm **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted
Lisa Betts
Clerk Treasurer

Chair _____

Clerk Treasurer _____

PUGWASH VILLAGE COMMISSION
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30th May 2024 at 7pm
Pugwash Village Hall Board Room

Minute Number 461

1 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pugwash Commission Vice Chair Sue Duncan opened the meeting at 7:9pm

1.2 **Territorial Acknowledgment** – read by Sue Duncan
We acknowledge that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

3 INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND REGRETS

3.1 Vice Chair Duncan welcomed all present. There were 13 people in the gallery. Regrets were extended from Commissioners Wilson and MacEwan and from Lousie Haycocks (HarbourFest).
Invited guests present included:
MLA Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin
Municipal Advisor, Jason Haughn

4 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

4.1 **IT WAS MOVED** by Commissioner Mundle and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the agenda.
MOTION CARRIED

5 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT – Lawrence Lake CPA, CA – by Zoom

6 MOTIONS

6.1 **IT WAS MOVED** by Commissioner Mundle and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the financial statement as presented.
MOTION CARRIED

6.2 **IT WAS MOVED** by Commissioner Mundle and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to appoint Lawrence Brewster Lake Chartered Accountants as auditors for fiscal year ending 2025.
MOTION CARRIED

6.3 **IT WAS MOVED** by Commissioner Mundle and seconded by Commissioner Anderson that the Village Commission exempt from Village taxes: Camp Pagweak, Pugwash Ground Search and Rescue, Northumberland Community Curling Club and Sunrise Development.
MOTION CARRIED

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7 REPORTS

- 7.1 **PUGWASH VILLAGE COMMISSION – CHAIR’S REPORT** – read by Vice Chair Duncan. See report attached.

8 VILLAGE COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Standing Committees

- 8.1 **Accessibility** - Commissioner MacEwan, Clerk Treasurer Betts
See attached report
- 8.2 **Association of Nova Scotia Villages (ASNV)** - Commissioner Duncan.
See attached report
- 8.3 **Audit** - Commissioner Duncan (chair), Commissioner MacEwan and civilian member, Clara MacDonald.
See attached report
- 8.4 **Policy Review** – Commissioner Wilson and Commissioner MacEwan
No report.
- 8.5 **Special Committees**
None
- 8.6 **Advisory Committees**
None
- Community Committees**
- 8.7 **Physician Recruitment & Retention** - Commissioner Duncan.
See attached report.
- 8.8 **Communities in Bloom (CIB)**
See attached report 9.6

9 COMMUNITY REPORTS - from other levels of government and local organizations that collaborate with, fund or are funded by the Village.

- 9.1 **RCMP - PUGWASH DETATCHMENT** - Cpl Shane Foster - absent
No report

**Commission Chair's Report for
Village of Pugwash Annual General Meeting
30th May 2024**

Welcome to the Village of Pugwash Annual General Meeting and thank you all for coming here this evening.

This has been an exciting year in Pugwash with the winning of the Lieutenant Governor's Community Spirit Award; hosting representatives from most of the other Nova Scotia incorporated Villages with a conference and Annual General Meeting at Thinkers' Lodge, and tomorrow there will be an open house of the new Health Care Centre. This is a wonderful asset to the community.

As you have just heard from the auditor, the Village is in stable financial standing.

After several years of financial constraint, with the Harbourfront Centre and tractor now paid off, the Village is in a position to start looking at new capital projects.

The Village is obliged to build up reserves for capital spending. These reserves are generally used for unbudgeted, or unexpected, capital expenses.

Just like our residents and businesses, our operational costs have increased, forcing our staff to continue to look at every cost saving measure during these tough times.

Tax relief is given to the Pugwash Area Ground Search and Rescue, Camp Pagweak, Sunrise Developments and Northumberland Community Curling Club.

We have received funding for accessible washrooms. We will renovate the ones we have at the Village Hall and, with funds from a possible sale of the current Public Works building (the old fire hall), add another accessible washroom. If our plans go ahead, this would be available to the public 24/7 as part of a purpose-built public work/parks and recreation building on our vacant lot on Prince Albert Street.

Preparations for Canada Day and the Gathering of the Clans are proceeding. The theme of the day is "Celebrate the Sea". The Gathering of the Clans and Canada Day celebrations have changed and evolved over the years. This year, we have been able to attract a small Midway with rides, games and concession stands. We are always open to new idea and welcome assistance from old and new volunteers.

Many thanks to one volunteer in particular – Andy Jamieson has recently worked very hard on a bike rodeo project. He first picked up and returned borrowed bike rodeo equipment and then, with donated materials from Harrison's, built new ramps and other bike equipment to stay here in Pugwash. These are free to use in the Village tennis/basketball courts where kids young and old can learn and practice bicycling skills. The equipment is portable enough to move out of the way for tennis, basketball, pickleball or other activities. Thank you Andy!

This is not to take away from all the other volunteers who help make Pugwash such a spectacular place to live. There are over 60 volunteer organization in the area working to make Pugwash and area safe, fun and attractive.

The Village has financially and in kind supported projects such as the Farmers Market's Community Hub project at the Train Station property, and another electric vehicle charging station. The Village has cost shared with Communities in Bloom on new planters through the downtown areas of the Village.

The Village has also been in communication with different levels of government to add its support in projects working towards sidewalks in the Village and extended services, primarily sewer, to areas not yet served. We believe that these developments will be of great benefit to the Village residents and help the development of housing and businesses outside the core of the Village. Other projects supported by the Village include the community Christmas dinner and the TEDx Pugwash event to be held next weekend.

The Village is working in collaboration with the Municipality and the YMCA to bring some recreational programming to the Village including soccer and swimming programs.

We will all miss the services of Scotiabank, closing on June 18th. We look forward to seeing the local Credit Union open in Pugwash soon.

On behalf of my fellow Commissioners and the residents of Pugwash and the surrounding community, I say thank you to our staff – full time and part time, seasonal and year-round, for all they do to keep the village running smoothly and looking beautiful, tidy, clean, and safe.

We invite you to attend our regular meetings on the second Monday of each month to observe and witness how a Commission operates. I truly feel that an informed community is a united community. Knowing how decisions are reached is often more important than simply knowing the decision.

I encourage any village resident to consider joining us as volunteers on the Commission. There is always much to learn about governance and the job brings great satisfaction.

Finally, we would like to thank Commissioner Roger Mundle for his many years of service as a Commissioner for the Village of Pugwash and wish him well. We welcome Matt Parker as our newest Commissioner for the Village.

Respectfully submitted
Vice Chair Sue Duncan, for Brent Wilson, Chair
30th May 2024

Cumberland County Joint Accessibility Committee

After a two year break, this committee was reactivated in March. This is primarily to review the current Joint Accessibility Plan and to work towards an updated version that is due next year.

This committee meets monthly and is led by the Municipality of Cumberland County. There are also representatives from Cumberland County Transportation Services, the Sunset Community and members of the community.

Accessibility does not just mean the physical ability to access a building or facility. It can also include the ability to access information by making documents or websites easier to understand. This may include changing font size and type used, audio description of images for the sight impaired and immediate and accurate subtitles for those who have hearing impairment. There is an ever widening of aspects of modern life that can be challenging for many people to access and understand and a bewildering array of solutions that are being developed.

An important aspect of the committee is that there is representation from those in the community that have accessibility challenges - physical, perceptive or cognitive. If you feel that improvements or suggestions can be made to make Village or any other service or business more accessible, please contact the Village office.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Betts
Village of Pugwash staff
30 May 2024

Village of Pugwash Commission representative on the
Association of Nova Scotia Villages (ANSV)

Representatives of the incorporated villages throughout Nova Scotia met 4 times over the last year to share ideas and discuss ways to increase awareness of the needs of all villages and therefore be given a larger voice and a greater share of the funding for municipalities. We have found over the last year that a united voice has helped us in these areas.

The Commission had the pleasure of hosting the Association's 2023 Annual General Meeting. We met at Thinker's Lodge and the Lobster Factory last fall where we able to meet, get to know and share ideas with people from other Nova Scotia Villages.

Respectfully yours,

Sue Duncan
Pugwash representative for the ANSV

Audit Committee Annual Report for the Village of Pugwash

The members of the Audit Committee met 3 times over the last year. Our independent auditor, Clara McDonald, reported that she had found nothing of concern and that all rules for cheque signing and bank statement reconciliation are being followed. We were also informed of the results of the audit by our external auditor. Budget matters are also discussed at these meetings.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Duncan

Chair of the Audit Committee

May 30th, 2024

Physician Recruitment Annual Report Committee for the Village of Pugwash

Over the years , this committee monitored the progress of the village committee who assisted Nova Scotia Health with the recruitment of physicians who came to Pugwash for site visits and locums and a possible interest in settling in the area by providing village tours, lunches and dinners and help with locating real estate matters.

The village committee's duties in this area have been taken over by Nov Scotia Health alone so the Commission voted to dissolve our committee as of May 2024.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Duncan

Commission Representative of this committee

Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin
MLA Cumberland North



Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin
Députée Cumberland North

Nova Scotia Legislature

May 30th, 2024

Village Commission Annual General Meeting MLA Update Cumberland North

It has been an honour to represent the people of Cumberland North in the Nova Scotia Legislature. In the recent spring legislative session I tabled twelve new bills that will make improvements for the residents living our area including the residents in the Village of Pugwash. Please see document outlining these bills attached. Since August 2021, forty-nine bills have been tabled. You can see these bills listed by visiting my website at www.elizabethsmithmccrossin.ca

There is a great deal of optimism in the Village of Pugwash and surrounding area from both provincial and municipal investment as well as investment from the private sector. The new hospital has the ribbon cutting tomorrow and is expected to open on June 10th, 2024. Recruitment of physicians will continue for our area until there is a full complement. A new daycare is being funded by the provincial government as well and expected to open in the new year. The province is aware that new storm drains are needed in the Village and I am hopeful they will be in the capital plan for 2025/2026. I am pleased that Howards Bridge was replaced after years of advocating for this. Private investment into buildings on Water Street is so encouraging. The opening of a new restaurant as well as the private investment into the growth and expansion of the Bill Mundle Marina and Pugwash Yacht Club. This is also going to be a catalyst for future economic growth in the area. Sunset Adult Residential Centre has a large housing project planned and a new Tennis and Pickleball Court has opened nearby that will be a great addition to the health and wellness of the community.

I will continue to work for the people on issues that matter to you all including but not limited to; cell and internet coverage, agriculture, a provincial museum, trail connectivity for OHV, forestry markets for low grade wood, education and reducing the violence in schools, reducing crime and illicit drugs in our communities, improving healthcare system access and emergency ambulance wait times. For more details on the work I am doing please visit my website and also listen to my weekly MLA updates on CFTA 107.9 every Monday at 1230pm.

Please contact me anytime. I am here to serve you,


Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin

SPRING 2024 PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE UPDATE

MLA Elizabeth Smith McCrossin- Cumberland North



Prepared by
Alex Wilson- Legislative Assistant MLA Smith McCrossin

Government Business:

In the spring session of the Nova Scotia Legislature the government sat a total of 19 days. And passed Three bills, though they tabled five. The Two bills tabled were:

- ❖ Bill 407-Antigonish consolidation.
 - This bill laid out the provincial legislation for the amalgamation of the Town and County of Antigonish, due to push back from the community, the province directed the UARB to conduct an independent analysis of the move¹²
- ❖ Bill 455- Emergency Management, An Act to establish a department of, and Authorize the Establishment of a Nova Scotia Guard.
 - This was introduced near the end of the session with intent to pass this fall after consultation with stakeholders and has not yet been debated in the legislature. ³

The Bills the government did pass this session, along side the 2024-25 Provincial budget include:

- ❖ Bill 404- Energy Reform (2023) Act
 - The bill reorganizes the energy regulatory framework in Nova Scotia, establishing the Nova Scotia Regulatory and Appeals Board and the Nova Scotia Energy Board, transferring and redefining responsibilities previously held by the Utility and Review Board. It mandates the Independent Energy System Operator (IESO) to maintain grid interconnection standards and manage open access transmission tariffs, ensuring non-discriminatory access to electricity markets. The bill also requires public utilities to procure renewable energy and energy storage and allows the Minister to mandate agreements for energy storage services. It introduces hybrid peaking resources and nuclear energy considerations, updates regulatory references, and provides new enforcement tools and responsibilities for the newly established boards. Additionally, the bill outlines the processes for tariff approvals, procurement practices, rate base determinations, performance standards, and reporting requirements for utilities, emphasizing the integration of renewable energy and regulatory oversight.
 - One thing to note with potential impact to Cumberland County is that the curtailment clauses in the bill, specifically Clause 21, provide compensation mechanisms for new generation facilities when instructed by the system operator to reduce or stop their output. This can negatively impact existing infrastructure by causing financial losses due to unpaid generated energy, operational stress on equipment, and deterring future investments due to increased financial uncertainty. Additionally, curtailment can lead to inefficiencies in the power grid and complicate existing power purchase agreements

¹ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/n-s-hits-pause-on-antigonish-consolidation-1.7154855>

² <https://www.1015thehawk.com/2024/04/04/70896/#>

³ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/nova-scotia-guard-consultation-search-and-rescue-volunteer-fire-fighters-town-hall-1.7172022>

(PPAs). Notably, the bill does not extend compensation for curtailment to existing infrastructure, such as the wind farm in Amherst, which would not qualify for these new provisions, exacerbating the financial and operational challenges for current power producers.

❖ Bill 419- Financial Measures (2024) Act

- Bill 419, is a comprehensive piece of legislation focused on financial measures and amendments to various acts, including the Pension Benefits Act (PBA). Key highlights include provisions for unlocking pension funds for those with shortened life expectancies and new rules for non-resident unlocking, allowing former members who have lived outside Canada for at least two years to access their pension funds. Additionally, the bill indexes provincial income tax rates to inflation and includes significant allocations for health spending, homelessness, and school lunch programs, opposition has referred to this bill as an ominous bill because of the 104 Clauses that are included. There are 15 Bills and 2 new acts in this one bill.⁴
- Bill 419 includes provisions that have raised significant concerns regarding health privacy. One particularly contentious aspect is Clause 110, which allows the health minister access to patient health information. Critics, including Doctors Nova Scotia, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia, and sexual assault survivor Carrie Smith, argue that the legislative change is too broad and could lead to a lack of trust between patients and healthcare providers. They fear that this broad access to sensitive health information could be misused or lead to unintended consequences, undermining patient confidentiality and trust in the healthcare system.⁵
- One Portion of this bill is the western alignment act, that will take leftover revenue collected by the tolls on the Cobequid pass, and distribute across other 100 series highways around the province.
- The bill is comprehensive and contains multiple clauses addressing various issues. Specific concerns have been highlighted about the lack of transparency in how some provisions were introduced, as they were embedded within a larger, sweeping bill. This has led to criticism that important changes, like those affecting health privacy, were not adequately highlighted or debated
- Bill 419 comprises a total of 104 clauses. These cover a wide range of topics, from financial measures to specific amendments in different acts, including those impacting the healthcare sector and patient privacy protections

⁴ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/government-legislation-child-and-youth-firefighters-taxes-1.7134098>

⁵ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/personal-health-information-minister-financial-measures-act-law-1.7150879>

- ❖ Bill 453- Appropriations Act (2024)
 - The appropriations act was essentially a passing of the budget.
<https://novascotia.ca/budget/>

Despite only sitting for 19 days MLA Smith McCrossin was able to table 12 bills They include:

- ❖ Bill 449- Free Heat Pump act
 - This would provide for households within an income under \$100,000 to be eligible for a free heat pump
- ❖ Bill 448 Education Act
 - Provides school principals with the exclusive authority to make weather-related school closure decisions.
- ❖ Bill 446 Community Use of public school facilities
 - The Act mandates the Minister to develop a policy governing public school facility use, standardizing procedures, minimizing fees for community groups, and designating community members for facility maintenance.
- ❖ Bill 443 Local School Boards Act -
 - The Minister shall commission a School Board Reintroduction Report to determine an effective system of county-level school board oversight, addressing the number and locations of school boards, their composition including representation of under-represented groups, and their powers, duties, and responsibilities.
- ❖ Bill 441 Maritime Coalition Act
 - The purpose of this Act is to mandate the creation of a coalition with New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island to enhance regional strength, boost economic activity, collaborate on healthcare, align transportation laws, remove trade barriers, address environmental issues, and plan energy development collectively.
- ❖ Bill 438 Free Well water testing Act
 - The Free Well-water Testing Act would mandate free annual testing of well water for residents of Nova Scotia, covering a comprehensive list of potential contaminants, to ensure safe drinking and bathing water.
- ❖ Bill 436 Educational Assistants and Substitute teachers remuneration act
 - The purpose of this Act is to ensure that the remuneration of educational assistants and substitute teachers in the Province is on par with the highest levels of remuneration for those positions in the Maritime provinces.
- ❖ Bill 431 Police Act
 - This Bill would require the Minister of Justice to provide sufficient funding to municipalities or police agencies such that on-duty policing is provided 24 hours per day in every area of Nova Scotia.
- ❖ Bill 429 Justice System Improvement Act
 - The Justice System Improvement Act would mandate increased funding for appointing more judges and hiring additional Crown attorneys to expedite case processing in the Provincial Court of Nova Scotia.
- ❖ Bill 426 Addictions Services Access Act

- The Addictions Services Access Act Would mandate 24/7 operation of Outpatient Withdrawal Management clinics, adding counseling and holistic treatments, with an assessment of clinic needs due by September 1, 2024.
- ❖ Bill 425 Securing Family physicians for Nova Scotia Act
 - The Minister will assign medical school seats to students committing to four years of family medicine practice in their home region, based on projected needs and regional population. The Minister shall cover tuition and provide an annual wage of \$30,000 to students fulfilling this commitment; failure to comply results in repayment of tuition, wages, plus 10% interest.-
- ❖ Bill 418 Finance Act
 - Force the Minister of Finance and Treasury Board to table a report on supplementary warrants and appropriations made in a fiscal year.

To view any legislation in full form visit <https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/bills-statutes/bills/assembly-64-session-1>

For any Questions about the bills presented or ideas for future bills please contact:



Alexander Wilson
Legislative Assistant
Office of Elizabeth Smith- McCrossin, MLA for Cumberland North
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Amherst, NS B4H 1X2
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alexander.wilson@novascotia.ca

Municipality of the County of Cumberland
District 3 Councilor
Jennifer Houghtaling

Annual Report for the Village of Pugwash

The Municipality of Cumberland 2023/24 Priorities:

- Fire Services
- Asset Management
- Rural Recreation
- Renewable Energy / Climate Change
- Bylaw/Policy Review

Over the past year, the municipality has been determined to find more efficient ways of providing services. Due to increases in development, there has been a focus on Land Use Planning changes and soon staff will begin a review of the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw. Fire services are a critical service that is becoming more necessary with wildfires through the warmer seasons. The County is investing 1.5M each year in equipment and working towards a new Hub model of service, as well as replacing the Springhill Fire Department this year with others to follow as needed.

As a municipal councilor I sit on the Geothermal Energy committee with members from the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables and NSCC, working towards a geothermal greenhouse project to address food insecurity in Cumberland County.

The County also recently received an asset management plan, an important piece of work that shows aging assets and a roadmap to keeping up with maintenance and updates throughout Cumberland.

Recreation programming has been growing in the more rural areas including Pugwash, within the next week our recreation programs for youth in Pugwash will be open for registration.

The Northern Region Solid Waste Committee has been focused on Extended Producer Responsibility which puts the responsibility of recycling single use plastics and other items back on the producer, this will result in large savings for municipalities in the collection of the blue bags recyclables, and there are some items being implemented this summer such as small appliances, batteries, lighting and more electronics. You can find more information at our local Envirodepot as well I post many of these announcements on my facebook page @Jennifer Houghtaling District 3

As a councilor I am engaged with several organizations and boards as a way to keep up with all the wonderful things happening in our community, such as:

- Sunset Community
- East Cumberland Lodge
- Northern Region Solid Waste Committee
- Regional Chairs Committee
- Cumberland Geothermal Committee
- Pugwash Harbourfest
- Pugwash Farmers Market
- TedXPugwash Committee
- Cumberland Food Security Planning Committee
- Eat Local Cumberland

Along with these, are many sub-committees that do very important work to further projects.

I would just like to acknowledge all of the great community groups and residents who participate in local activities that make our village thrive. Thank you for all that you do!

Jennifer Houghtaling

CIB WRITEUP FOR VILLAGE NEWS JUNE /24

Spring has Sprung! Here comes Summer!

Pugwash Communities in Bloom has become a 'can-do' force in our community due to the enthusiastic support of a host of volunteers. THANK YOU ALL!

This Spring:

- The April Pugwash & Area Great Pick Me Up exceeded expectations. In 2023, 200 volunteer picked up litter over 30 km = 100 bags/510 lbs. This year, 369 volunteers covered 30 km filling 170 bags of litter = 1730 lbs! Big thanks to the PEACE society for their work on Irishtown Road.
- The **CIB fundraiser** dinner was a huge success thanks to the good folks at Inn the Elms.
- Our **May Plant Sale** received more donations of perennials than ever before, resulting in more funds raised to support our 2024 projects.
- The Environmental Education group delivered an informative and fun **Trash to Zero Waste** event at the Pugwash Library that opened participants' eyes to how we can make a difference to our environment.

This Summer:

- New **Window Boxes** and **Street Planters** built by Sunset Industries and filled with glorious flowers and plants from Coastal Gardens and Sunrise Greenhouses.
- Watch for the **CIB's Float in the Gathering of the Clans Parade**, a celebration of gardening by the sea and how hard our volunteers work to raise our community up!
- Watch for a new **Art Installation**, created by the Pugwash Open Air Gallery at the triangle intersection entering Pugwash.
- **Art on the Line!** is back at Harbourfest July 27. **MAKE OCEAN ART** in the POAG Tent, bursting with art supplies to fuel your imaginations.

This September: Watch the CIB Facebook page for information about **Pugwash Walks**. The Pugwash Walks wellness initiative will promote safe, accessible, free, all-year round village walking trail for residents and visitors. Individuals and groups will use the Pugwash Walks signage, in conjunction with a customized All Trails Map, to support their fitness goals, improve mental and physical health and gain better mobility. This program will enhance the walking experience in our village, highlighting areas of interest including native trees, heritage and wellness information and support services.

Norene Smiley
Pugwash Communities in Bloom

Subject: CIB writeup for June Village News
From: Norene Smiley <norene48@gmail.com>
Date: 2024-05-30, 12:13 p.m.
To: Lisa Betts <lisabetts@pugwashvillage.com>

—IMG_7064.jpg



Photo: Pugwash Farmers' Market Manager, Marsha Amanova, uses the new *Pugwash Walks* Crosswalk Safety flags to cross Durham St. on busy market days.

Norene
norene48@gmail.com

Gathering of the Clans (GOC) and Canada Day report 2023

The 72nd anniversary Pugwash Gathering of the Clans and Canada Day dodged the rain clouds for the day.

The day started with the Highland Dance competitions on the Harbourfront stage and ended with Ashley MacIsaac playing the Harbourfront Centre and fabulous fireworks at 10pm.

The theme for the Parade was "Proud to Call this Home – welcoming residents and visitors new and old. Greg Nix, community volunteer extraordinaire, was the Parade Marshall. The parade winners were:

Commercial

- 1st Cunningham Construction
- 2nd By the Bay Farm AND Fort Equipment
- 3rd Wallace Fire Department 50th anniversary

Non-commercial

- 1st George Lockhart
- 2nd Pugwash Communities in Bloom
- 3rd West Pugwash Women's Institute

Most Original/Humourous:

Glenn Pettigrew

There were 80 Highland Dancers competing on the Pugwash Harbourfront Centre stage through the morning. The winner of the much-prized Bonny Gael Memorial Trophy was Grace Porter of Rusagonis, NB. The judge was Barbe Yorke from Kensington, PE.

There were three pipe and drum bands this year, two from Cape Breton Island Pipe Band and the Corrections Canada band Grade 5 band competed for the first time in several years. Cape Breton Island Pipe Band won the Grade 4 and Grade 5 There were 9 pipers and 1 drummers who registered for a total of 28 solo competition events. Updated numbers from field entries are pending.

After several years of warning that they could no longer afford to come to Pugwash, the midway games and rides are no longer available for July 1st. They were replaced by inflatable activity area, an expansion (so-to-speak) of last year's "bouncies" which was very popular. Entry was by wristband or one-time ride tickets. Advance tickets were sold at the Visitor Information Centre (VIC) and local merchants.

With the addition of beach toys and bubbles, the volleyball court became a very popular sand pit, entertaining youngsters for free all day.

26 vendors registered for the day. Four didn't show. Most of the vendors were new to the festival, COVID having taken its toll on many others.

The heavyweight games were held again at the Cyrus Eaton Elementary school playgrounds.

The Opening Ceremony was held on the Pugwash Harbourfront Centre. Competition and parade winners were announced from the stage and those present were awarded their prizes.

The entertainment at the PHC were Drew Polegato, SheNova, the Mark MacMillan Trio and Ashley MacIsaac, accompanied by Kyle Waymouth. By the time the fireworks were set off around 10pm by the fire department, the park was packed. Conservative estimates were that there were at least 3,000 people in the park.

Preliminary numbers for wristband sales. Advance sales and the six gates took in \$26,442 (up from \$19,403 last year) representing 3,830 wristbands sold. This was down 10% from last year's wristband numbers. Revenues were up due to a long overdue gate ticket price change.

Thank you to the 150 or more volunteers that helped the day go. All the various events, parade security, the gates and bankers are all run by volunteers and all deserve big thanks! Other paid help also helped make the day run smoothly and professionally: Hub City Sound (sound and lights), Ron MacNutt (stage manager and MC), the competition judges and HRM Inflatables.

Thanks also go to the many sponsors whose generosity help make this historic event a success. There were fewer Bronze sponsors this year but more Silver and Gold level sponsors. Sponsorship showed a significant increase from last year. Sponsors make a tremendous difference in keeping this festival going.

Advance sales at the VIC/Clerk's Office improved again this year. We used e-transfers for many sales. Not having an assistant help with event organization and registration, made for a much busier day than last year.

A final report and financial report will be ready for the September 11th meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Betts, Coordinator

August 2023