Town of Witless Bay

May Newsletter

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SOUTH SIDE TRACK UPGRADE – PHASE II:

Great news - the Town of Witless Bay's application for upgrading the second half of the South Side Track has been accepted by the Province under the Municipal Capital Works program! Ninety percent (90%) of the total project cost ($770,000.00) will be paid by the Province. Engineering will begin shortly, and roadwork is set to begin early to mid-summer.

COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM: Witless Bay is one of only two towns in the province invited to participate in the 2015 National Communities in Bloom competition! Aiming to foster civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification through community involvement, the program focuses on enhancing green spaces. To pitch in:

- Plant more flowers in your yard!
- Share cuttings & seedlings with your neighbours!
- Adopt a town-owned spot & plant flowers!
- Plant a flowering garden this season!

MAYOR'S HIKE FOR HEART & STROKE

The Witless Bay Mayor's Hike for Heart & Stroke will take place on **JULY 22nd** this year. Everyone is welcome to join in on the hike, but even if you can't make it on the trail, please consider supporting this worthwhile cause by pledging another participant to help with life-saving research. A minimum donation of $25 is required to receive a t-shirt, but any donation helps with the fight against NL's #1 cause of death. ***To donate or to obtain fundraising materials, please contact Mayor Sébastien Després (334-1166).*** A receipt will be issued for any amount donated.

ADOPT-A-SPOT

Witless Bay's residents, associations and businesses are invited to adopt a spot in our community! Participants in our Adopt-A-Spot program help maintain our Town's natural beauty by "adopting" and caring for an area of their choice (a strech of coastline, a trail, the banks of a river, a public space, or a street). Check out the map at the back of this Newsletter to see which spots are still available! *For more info, please contact Mayor Sébastien Després (334-1166).*

MUNICIPAL TAXES

The due date for taxes is May 31st. A monthly interest fee of 1.5% will accrue on unpaid account if suitable arrangements are not made to have the account paid in full by October 31st. Accounts in arrears after this date will be prepared for collection.

JUNE 23RD: HELP MUN STUDENTS TIDY UP OUR OLD CEMETERY!

A group of Memorial University undergraduate students are coming to Witless Bay as volunteers! Participating in MUN'S "Make Mid-Term Matter" program, these students will be learning about our community's history while helping to restore the grounds where many of the founding families of the community are buried. Designated a Municipal Heritage Site in 2006, some of the stone markers in the old cemetery are from the late 1700s, when permanent settlement in the area first began. Many of the Irish names on the headstones are still common in Witless Bay. On **TUESDAY, JUNE 23rd**, please join these MUN students, Witless Bay's Heritage Committee, and our Community Enhancement Committee in the effort! Read about last year's *Make Midterm Matter* cemetery cleanup at: tinyurl.com/CemeteryCleanup

CAR WRECKS

Tidy Towns & *Communities in Bloom* judges and residents generally consider car wrecks a detriment to a town's attractiveness. Since winning these contests can attract significant monies to our town (in terms of tourism dollars, property values, grants, etc.), it makes sense to address the issue! *Call **OK Towing** this month & they'll PAY $60 for your wreck! **728-9898***

COMPOSTING & COMPOSTERS - FREE TRAINING WORKSHOP: JUNE 2ND!

The Town of Witless Bay has partnered with MMSB again this year, and has purchased 50 more plastic composters that will be sold to residents at the subsidized cost price of $25. Bins will be sold on a first come, first serve basis - call the Town Office to reserve one! *A FREE "Learn to Compost" workshop will be offered at the Town Office on **Tuesday, June 2nd at 7pm**.*

A GREAT COMMUNITY CLEANUP

The Town of Witless Bay thanks the 64 volunteers who joined the Kinsmen, the Witless Bay Town Council, & our Community Enhancement Committee to make our 2015 Kinsmen Community Cleanup a FANTASTIC success again this year, with 170 bags collected! This event was sponsored by the Witless Bay Kinsmen, Tim Horton's, the Witless Bay Home Hardware, the Knights of Columbus, & the Town of Witless Bay. Great job, everyone!!!

BULK GARBAGE

Eastern Waste Management is holding the last bulk garbage collection of the Spring on **May 27th**.

The Puffin Centre – Delays in Opening

The opening of the Town's Recreation Centre (our Puffin Centre) has been delayed by a long list of issues. While waiting on the approval of Service NL last September, Council discovered that the town's contractor had neglected to have the septic system inspected & approved prior to its begin covered over. When the system was dug up, it failed the inspection. Once these problems were addressed, Service NL informed the Town that they would need a set of plans formally approved by an architect. Unfortunately, no architect had been hired to draw the building, and no architect was willing to approve the plans drawn by the town's engineer. A firm was therefore hired to draw the existing building. There was unfortunately a long list of problems with the building as it had been constructed. It failed the inspection. After addressing the issues identified, the Town's application for approval was halted once again because a recent survey of the land was required. When the Town sought to obtain this survey, Council was informed that the Town does not own the land on which the building sits. The Town had applied for this land a number of years ago, but this application was never processed by the Province. The Town has now renewed this Crown Land application, and we are hopeful that this is the last of the challenges.

Civic Addresses / Street Numbers

Displaying your civic number on your house or at the end of your driveway ensures fast emergency response for the AMBULANCE, FIRE and POLICE Services. Street numbers ensure that emergency responders can find you or your neighbor easily to save lives & property. They also help first responders calculate when to start slowing down for the number they are looking for.

To encourage residents & businesses to post their civic numbers, the town's Community Enhancement Committee is launching a contest for the best/most original civic numbers! To participate, simply submit a picture of your original civic number to the Town (email your picture to townofwitlessbay@nl.rogers.com or drop it off at the Town Office, with your contact information). ***The deadline for the contest is July 16th.***

Forest Fire Season has begun

The Province requires that a permit be obtained to light outdoor fires to clear land or burn brush within 300 metres of a forest. Permits are free, and can be obtained from Forestry Services' District Office (220 Paddy's Pond Road, St. John's; 729-4180; www.nr.gov.nl.ca/nr/forestry). Please exercise great caution every time you light a fire!

Happy Spring Cleanup Month from the Town Council & Staff!

Mayor Sébastien Després, **Deputy-Mayor** Dena Wiseman
Councillors Kevin Smart, Albert Murphy, René Estrada, Ralph Carey, & Ken Brinston
Town Clerk-Manager Geraldine Caul, **Assistant Clerk** Barb Harrigan, **Grounds/Maintenance** Aiden Carey.