

The Friendly Circle

In April, the Friendly Circle Seniors' Club will present printed copies of the book *Flora of Railhead Park* to the Murray Harbour and Murray River libraries. A copy will also be donated to Southern Kings Elementary School. Choyce Chappell, a UPEI student from Montague who was hired by the club to catalogue and photograph the flora at the park, created the book's narrative and photos. The presentation will be held on a date to be determined.

In addition, a slide show of select sections of Ms. Chappell's work will be shown at the Seniors' Club in April. Financing for this portion of the project, "A Fine Balance", was obtained through a New Horizons for Seniors grant from the PEI Seniors' Association.

The Seniors' Club meets at noon on the first Thursday of every month at the Community Centre for a potluck toonie luncheon and program. All seniors are welcome. □

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 "Winter is not a season, it's an occupation."

- Sinclair Lewis

Your 2018 Council

Garry Herring

Mayor

James Irving

Deputy Mayor and Chair of Utility and Finance Committees

Faye Fraser

Wendy Siebrands

Chair, Communications Committee

Derek Squirell

Chair, Planning and Development Committee

Paul White

Chair, Parks and Recreation Committee

Joan Young

Chair, Emergency Measures and Fire Committee

Mark Tiller

Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Contact Us

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COMMUNITY

MURRAY HARBOUR & AREA NEWSLETTER

Won't You Be My Neighbour?

Meet William (Bill) and Heather Dyck. Bill and Heather moved to the Island last summer from Saskatchewan. Before taking early retirement — Bill was a supervisor for a power company and Heather managed a newspaper company — Prince Edward Island was always in the back of their minds. They first considered buying a cottage but eventually decided on a year-round home. They now live on the Mill Road next to the Harbour Motel in a home they bought from George and Flo Madison. They love the quiet character of Murray Harbour as compared to busier areas like Cavendish.

Bill and Heather have many hobbies including kayaking, walking on the road or along the beach, collecting antiques, painting, and many craft activities. They are taking local history at Community School. Come spring, they plan to put in a garden or raised beds and possibly build an extension on their home.



Bill and Heather Dyck

Welcome to the neighbourhood, Bill and Heather!

Notice of Public Meeting

There will be a public meeting in the Community Centre on **March 28** at **7pm**. At this meeting, Council will approve the budget, and the auditors will present their report for the year 2017.

From the CAO

Mark Tiller

Watch Your Step!

This winter has been an odd one with days of snowy weather followed by rain and flash freezes. As a result, there are very icy conditions around the Community Centre. Sometimes the ice becomes quite thick and applications of salt have little effect. Unfortunately, we had no response to our fall tender for snow removal around the Centre, so volunteers have been handling it. Please be very careful when attending events at the Centre — we are doing our best to ensure safe and ice-free conditions on our walkways, but your diligence and caution is much appreciated.

New Municipal Act

The Province's new Municipal Government Act (MGA) came into effect on January 1, 2018. There are many changes in the Act that are relevant to our village. One of the first is a formal change of the name of the village; in official circles, the village is now the 'Rural Municipality of Murray Harbour'.

The new Act also requires that we address and rewrite many of our community bylaws, an exercise we are now working on. The new bylaws are on public display outside the door to the village office. Feel free to drop by to have a look!

Many other amendments on how the village is governed will unfold in the days ahead. Please check the newsletter and our website for all the important information.

CAO Training

I have been attending training sessions on the full transition and implementation of the MGA. The Province has provided a workable timeline for us (until the end of 2018) to ensure everything is in place. If you would like to know more information about the new MGA, please call the office at 902-962-3835 or drop in. My office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 8 am to noon.

November Elections

Though it is several months away, I want you to know that all councils across PEI are required to hold elections for new councillors/councils on November 5, 2018. The process actually begins in May, so the office will be busy preparing for this important event.

Summer Student

We have applied for a summer student again this year. Our application to the federal program has been sent and acknowledged by the department. Our application to the provincial program will be processed and sent when they become available. We will keep the community up to date on both programs. □

Memorial United Church Upcoming Events

Feb 25: Gospel concert in support of Lennon House at 2 pm.

March 6, 13, and 20: A 3-session Lenten Study from the Prayer Bench: Being in Community starting 10 am. Each session will be held at the manse. All are welcome. Please call 962-2421 if you wish to attend.

March 16: Baked beans and fish cake meal will be delivered to about 80 seniors in our area.

March 24: Brown Bread and Baked Bean public supper from 4 - 6 pm. \$10 adults and \$6 children.



Fire Department

At the January Council meeting, Deputy Chief Allan Glover discussed the Department's call-outs in 2017. There were 23 calls in total: 11 medical; 1 motor vehicle; 1 grass fire; and 10 mutual aid.

The Department is still on the lookout for a new rescue truck. At present they have 12 first responders in the Department, which comprises two-thirds of the force. New volunteers are always welcome. Anyone interested in this type of volunteerism can contact the Fire Department. One must be 19 years of age or older to be considered. □



Recipe Corner

We have some terrific cooks and bakers in our rural community. At the request of one of our residents, we are starting a recipe corner to share some of our tasty treats. The first recipe comes from Paul White, a wonderful baker. Thanks Paul!

Ginger Sparkles

- 1c. brown sugar
- ¾ c. butter or shortening
- ¼ c. molasses
- 1 egg
- 2-¾ c. flour
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. ginger
- ½ tsp. cloves

Method

Cream butter and sugar; add molasses and egg. Add dry ingredients and mix well. Make into 1" balls (about the size of an egg yolk) and roll in some white sugar. Bake at 350°F for 12 minutes or until done. Makes approximately 4 dozen cookies.

If you have a recipe that you would like to share, please send it along to office@murrayharbour.ca and reference 'The Recipe Corner'.



Church Notices

Lenten Week Services

The following is the schedule for the ecumenical Lenten week of services in March. *All services will be held at 7 pm.*

Sunday, March 11

Murray Harbour Church of Christ

Speaker: Aaron Tardiff, Glad Tidings Pentecostal

Monday, March 12

Glad Tidings Pentecostal

Speaker: Phil Scott, Murray River Baptist Church

Tuesday, March 13

Murray River Baptist Church

Speaker: Scott Herring, Murray Harbour Baptist Church

Wednesday, March 14

Memorial United Church

Speaker: Lonnie Atkinson, Wellspring Presbyterian Church

Thursday, March 15

Wellspring Presbyterian Church

Speaker: Victor McCullough, Murray Harbour Church of Christ

There will be a time of fellowship after the Thursday evening service. Please bring a snack (e.g., finger foods) to share.

Murray Harbour Baptist Church

Minister: Scott Herring

Community Worship Service

Sundays at 11 am

Fishing for Friends Pre-school Drop-in Program

Tuesdays at 9:30 - 11:30 am

Bible Study

Tuesdays at 7 pm

Kids Klub

Wednesdays at 6 pm

Wellspring Presbyterian Church

Minister: Rev. Dr. Lonnie Atkinson

8291 Commercial Rd.

"Drink at the Well. Thirst No More."

Serving Southern Kings and beyond.

Church of Christ

Minister: Victor McCullough

Memorial United Church

Minister: Rev. Keith MacPherson

Services

Sunday at 10:30 am

Choir

Thursdays at 1 pm



Community Centre

Two council members, along with a former caretaker, have done a walk-through of the Community Centre to assess what needs to be done to keep the Centre in good shape.

Clean Floors, Dry Feet

Winter poses unique challenges for all of us. While winter boots help us navigate the season's ice, snow, and rain, they wreak havoc on clean floors! To make it easier to remove outer footwear before entering the building, a chair and mats have been placed at each entrance.

Building Use: Keep It Clean!

For many years now, in an attempt to keep the cleaning costs down, individuals who use the building have been asked to clean up after each event. What exactly does that mean? Basically it means to clean off the kitchen counters and sweep the floor.

Unfortunately, we currently have a problem with mice in the Community Centre. Although Pest Control comes in regularly, any crumbs or open boxes of cookies or crackers left around are a major attraction for these rodents. They are also attracted to garbage that is not promptly removed.

A complete description of expectations for keeping the facility clean is available outside the village office door. Rental rates also now include a damage deposit to cover any damages, required cleaning, etc.

Risk Report

A risk examination has been conducted for all property, including the Community Centre. We received a report that identifies risks for injury or damage and offers suggestions to alleviate those risks.

One identified risk was the amount of 'stuff' in our basement, specifically in the furnace room which is congested with stock and equipment. Therefore, we will have a 'clean up and out day' when the weather improves. We will be asking for volunteers to help us with this project and sincerely ask for your cooperation in helping to keep our Community Centre a place of pride. Thank you. □

Spring Ahead!

Daylight saving time begins at 3 am on **Sunday, March 11.**



News From Your Council

Community Bylaws

Wendy Siebrands

Much has been happening with the governance of our community. First of all, our name has changed. We are now officially the 'Rural Municipality of Murray Harbour'. Our Chairperson is now called our 'Mayor' and our Vice Chairperson is now our 'Deputy Mayor'. When the Council goes into a non-public meeting, it is now called a 'closed meeting of Council' rather than an 'in camera' meeting.

The community is now required to have a number of bylaws, and our CAO and Council have been working on the wording of these bylaws. Each bylaw requires two readings by the full Council and then Council votes on them. So far, the Council has passed three bylaws:

- Procedural Bylaw #111 regulates the proceedings of Council including such things as how meetings are run, how notices of meetings are carried out, electronic participation in meetings, agenda preparation, presentation and delegations to Council, and committees of Council.
- Bylaw #112 provides a code of conduct for members of Council. It guides members' general conduct, handling of confidential information, dealing with gifts and benefits, the use of municipal

property, equipment and services, the proper method to claim reimbursement for expenses, election campaign procedures, and more.

- Bylaw #113 addresses rules governing conflict of interest procedures for members of Council.

Council members receive a copy of the proposed bylaws before the first meeting and have an opportunity to respond if they have questions. These bylaws are also made available to the public at the administrative office before they are voted on. At the February Council meeting, three new bylaws received their first reading:

- Bylaw #114, to establish municipal grants;
- Bylaw #115, to establish fees for various municipal services; and
- Bylaw #116 which guides the establishment of tax rate groups.

These bylaws will be voted on at the public Council meeting on March 7. The public can view these documents at the village office in the Community Centre.

Deputy Mayor's Report

James Irving

Deadline Extended for Sewer Extension

Our application to extend the deadline for completing the sewer extension project has been approved by the provincial government. The new deadline is March 2020.

Wanted: Pictures for the Website

We're currently updating our website and looking for any pictures, past or present, to add to the website. If you have any pictures, such as local scenery or events, that you'd like to share, please send them to the village office. Thank you!

2018 Budget

The entire Council sits on the Budget Committee. We've had several meetings and will have one more to finish the final details of the budget. The budget will be presented to Council for a vote on March 28 at 7 pm.

EMO & Fire Committee

Joan Young

During an Extended Power Outage

We've been lucky to avoid any power outages during storms so far this winter. While citizens are expected to be able to sustain themselves for 72 hours during an outage, we will do our best to open the Community Centre on the morning following an overnight power outage. People will be asked to bring food to share during these times. I've requested that all Council members, along with a Fire Department member, be on the EMO Committee.

Walker Safety

Several residents have expressed concern about people wearing dark clothing when out on the road in the early morning or in the evening. We would like to urge all

residents to please make sure you have something reflective on your clothing when walking at these times. If you are walking a dog, it is also encouraged that they wear a reflective collar. Thank you.

Parks and Recreation Committee

Paul White

Playground Opening

The playground area is fully erected but not much used due to the winter weather. I would like to have an opening of the new playground this spring with prizes, hotdogs, and drinks. A day will be announced in a later newsletter.

Sponsor a Village Flower Basket

I have been working on some additional ideas including putting up flower baskets around the village again — tourists and locals always commented on them. A price on the baskets will be available in the next newsletter. Anyone wishing to sponsor a basket, in memory of someone or just to contribute, is asked to get in touch.

Summer Music Concerts

I would also like to have an afternoon musical time to be held in the village, perhaps once a month on a Sunday afternoon during the summer months.

Volunteers Wanted

I am looking for two or three volunteers to join the Parks and Recreation Committee and help with these positive community projects. Please contact me at home or through the village office if you can help.