

Spring 2024



COMMUNITY

MURRAY HARBOUR & AREA NEWSLETTER

Community Fridge Up and Running

The Community Fridge is proving a popular service for individuals who are struggling to meet their basic needs. Located in a well-lit area on Main Street in front of the Community Centre, the Fridge is open to the public 24/7. Anyone who needs extra supplies is encouraged to visit the Fridge – no charge, no judgement!

Community members can support this initiative in various ways. Financial donations can be dropped off at the Village Office or submitted by e-transfer to office@murrayharbour.ca (be sure to state that it is for the fridge). A donation box is also available at the Grab n'Go on Mondays. Fresh fruits and vegetables, unexpired canned or packaged food can also be placed directly on the shelves. Popular items are bread, milk, cereal, cheese, pasta, yogurt, margarine, canned soup, pet supplies...really anything is appreciated!



The Community Fridge directors extend many thanks to the various local businesses and generous people in the area who keep this project going, as well as the Island Community Food Security Program and the Department of Agriculture for the initial funding to make the Community Fridge a reality. Several fundraising events are planned for the future.

Thank you so much for being such a caring community. ☐

Message from the Mayor

Terry White

Spring is a time when Murray Harbour comes alive! Whether you participate in the lobster fishery or



are an observer, you can't help but feel the energy and excitement that comes with the lead up to opening day. This year the weather has been particularly beautiful and the season has been off to a good start. The Council wishes all fishers, their families, and crew members a safe and prosperous season.

Spring is also a time when we welcome foreign workers into our community who add to our culture and provide a critical service for our main industry. We welcome you to Murray Harbour and thank you for your contribution.

Last, but not least, to all visitors, tourist operators, and residents, we wish you a picture-perfect summer.

Council meets next on June 12 at 6 pm and resumes monthly meetings again September 11 at 7 pm. All community members are welcome to join in person or online. Visit our website for more information: murrayharbour.ca □



TREENA MACLEOD
Owner/Operator



902-962-2777
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Treena.MacLeod@gmail.com
www.TREENAS.ca

Festival of Small Halls Returns on June 15

We're bringing the hootenanny back to Murray Harbour with a full islander lineup!

Up and coming fiddler Luka Hall released his debut single this year and will be delivering jigs and reels galore, accompanied by James Nelson from Lower Coverdale, NB. Award-winning trad ensemble Inn Echo have been busy touring the world with festival slots in Australia, Europe and the US, entertaining audiences with their lively brand of modern celtic-folk.



It promises to be an exciting celebration of some of the best trad PEI has to offer. Tickets available at www.smallhalls.com or contact the Village Office. □

Community School in Review

Carol Provost and Team

Hats off to another remarkable year of community school! We had 23 different classes offered and 110 students, 40 of whom participated in more than one class.



Our closing ceremony was a fun-filled evening with demonstrations from our talented students' achievements as well as delightful entertainment from the Hootenanny Group, Guitar, and the Murray Harbour Line Dancers.

We are so grateful for all the hard work and dedication from all the volunteer instructors who make this annual event a success, as well as the donations of delicious food and kitchen volunteers for our closing event.

Thank you to all! □



Fire Dept. News

With summer just around the corner, the Murray Harbour Fire Department would like to remind residents of some tips for a safe season.

We all enjoy grilled meals this time of year, but make sure your BBQ has plenty of clearance from structures, such as your house, while cooking. Because wooden surfaces below the appliance can become flammable from a buildup of grease drippings, it's a good idea to place a metal tray under the BBQ to prevent accidental fires. Always stay with cooking appliances while in use! Many folks also enjoy outdoor fire pits during the summer months. Please ensure all fires are completely extinguished after every use.

The men and women of the Murray Harbour Fire Department wish everyone a safe summer season! ☐

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Summer Fun at the Lighthouse

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events at the Cape Bear Lighthouse & Marconi Station:

- The lighthouse has been open to the public for 25 years! Celebrate **Cape Bear Day** on July 6 (rain date July 13) from 2 to 4 pm!
- **Bring & Buy** on July 20 (rain date August 3) from 2 to 4 pm
- **Open House & Cake Auction** on August 24 (rain date Aug 31) from 2 to 4 pm

Watch our social media pages for our opening date and event updates. ☐

Murray Harbour Community Centre

CANADA DAY

OPENING AND RAISING OF THE FLAG

NATIONAL ANTHEM

CUTTING OF THE CAKE

WATER BOUNCY CASTLE*

COLOUR GAME

KIDS TRAIN RIDE

CAKE AUCTION

FACE PAINTING

COTTON CANDY

Monday, July 1st, 2024

1pm-4pm

1pm: Ceremonies begin
2pm: Campbell's Train ride
3pm: Cake Auction

*Music by
Killick
Junction*



BARBEQUE

**Sausages
Hotdogs
Lobster burgers
Pop
Water**

*Water bouncy castle: Kids should wear a swim suit and bring a towel

Alyssa Chapman Wins Gold!

Alyssa participated in the 2024 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games in Calgary.

On February 28, she was awarded a gold medal in figure skating, and according to Matthew MacNally with Special Olympics PEI, she "worked very hard to reach the top of her division."

This achievement is in addition to her 80+ provincial, national and international medals to date. Congratulations, Alyssa!



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Council Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Gary MacKay

The 2024-2025 operating budget was approved at Council's March 13, 2024 meeting and submitted to the PEI government for approval. The budget included a 4% increase in property tax for commercial properties and 2% for non-commercial properties. To put this in context, a home assessed at \$100,000 will see an increase of less than \$12 per year and commercial property assessed at \$250,000 will see an increase of just over \$26 per year.

Total income from all sources for the village is budgeted at \$321,442 versus expenditures of \$311,991, resulting in a surplus of \$9,451. The municipality's major budgeted revenue sources are property taxes (\$133k), grants (\$45k) and

fundraising (\$10k). The major budgeted expenses are insurance (\$35k), payroll (\$38k), auditors (\$8k), infrastructure maintenance (\$25k), and utilities (\$29k). The full budget is available on the village website and at the office. □

Planning Committee

Gary MacKay

The province has again pushed back the deadline for Municipal Planning Services (Official Plan and Bylaws) to December 31, 2025. An expression of interest to have the PEI government investigate the pros and cons of amalgamation of Murray Harbour, Murray River, and surrounding Fire Districts was not supported by the Murray River Council. The idea of annexation of the Murray Harbour Fire District into the Regional Municipality of Murray Harbour has been batted about for some time and your Council is in the very early stages of considering how and when to move forward on this.

The village is currently looking at options for development of the property owned on Cemetery Road—the 'old dump' site. The Southeast Environmental Association (SEA) has been approached to see what opportunities may exist, such as walking trails, forest management, wildlife habitat creation, etc.



Recent capital projects are the result of the Canadian Community Building Fund (CCBF), the old 'Gas Tax' program. This 5-year federal program came to an end in 2024 and we are awaiting news of a future program. Murray Harbour was given a direct allocation of \$100,000 per year in the last five-year cycle and had two bump-up years to \$200,000. Recent projects under this program include the sidewalk extension from the post office to Robertson Rd corner (\$214k), sewage lagoon generator (\$49k), outdoor recreation equipment (\$35k), heritage park (\$65k), fitness park (\$75k), community centre basement rehabilitation (\$44k), dog park access (\$4k), soccer field (\$15k), north wharf gazebo (\$12k), Community Garden (\$41k), electronic sign (\$35k), solar panels (\$60k) and fishermen's memorial (\$96k).□

Maintenance Committee

Gary MacKay

The 2024-2025 operating budget approved \$25,000 on infrastructure maintenance as much work is needed in this area. At the Community Centre we are replacing the brick chimney, installing handrails on basement stairs, updating electrical outlets, repairing the dishwasher, replacing and relocating the propane tank, painting outside and inside, and repairing shingles. We are also

replacing/updating lighting at the south wharf and fishermen's memorial and some village signage, as well as addressing a number of other items that need attention.

The village was successful with its application under the federal Two Billion Tree Program (2BT) for \$37,750 for the planting of 100 large caliper native trees species. These will include red oak, yellow birch, white pine, serviceberry, white spruce, sugar maple, and red maple. Planting locations include Railhead Park, the dog park/community garden area, fitness park, and heritage park areas. □

Fundraising and Events Committee

Paul L. White

The Fundraising Committee had a very successful 2023-24 fiscal year raising over \$15,000! This required a lot of time and donations from numerous community members and businesses, and we sincerely thank everyone for their contributions, great and small.

The weekly 50-50 draws were the largest contributor financially at \$7,800. The Canada Day event, yard sale and end of summer events raised over \$2,000 each and the Grab n'Go contributed over \$1,000. We also hosted a number of community events throughout the year

such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Senior's Christmas Dinner, spaghetti dinner, as well as dances on Halloween, St Patrick's Day and New Years Eve.

Already this year we have had a couple of dances and our Easter Egg Hunt. Coming up is our Canada Day celebrations, car show, yard sale, end of summer event and the seniors' Christmas dinner. We are now accepting donations for our tables at the 70 Mile Yard Sale in September. If you have any items you would like to donate from now until then, drop them off at the Village Office on Tuesday through Friday or call Paul White for pick up (902-969-7434).

Once again this year our fishermen were asked to donate lobster for our upcoming events. Thank you to these generous fishermen! We will be having a lobster shelling gathering at the Community Centre on June 8 at 10 am. Contact me if you would like to lend a hand.

Again, thank you so much to everyone who volunteers, donates and participates in our events! It helps raise money and community spirit. ☐

Emergency Management

Pam Oickle

Great news! We have received our capacity certificate from the Fire



Marshal's office after doing some needed work to meet the fire requirements for the centre. A huge shout out to Anne Harnesk, Victor Legacy, and Rob Oickle for making this happen!

Additionally, because of this work, we have also received our designation as a Certified Reception Centre which means that we are able to apply for funding to potentially do repairs and enhancements that will allow us to better serve the community in the event of an emergency. We have had a contractor evaluate what work can be done to improve our facility and will soon submit a grant application for funding available through the provincial government for Certified Reception Centres.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to contribute to the creation of our wish list for an upgraded Reception Centre! Your contribution was invaluable as we continue this journey. ☐

Active Mind, Active Body

Card Play: All are welcome to play cards at the Community Centre on Tuesdays and Fridays at 1:30pm. Cost is \$2. For more information, call Ida MacKenzie at 902-962-2798.

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Murray Harbour Ball Hockey: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30-7:30 pm at the outdoor rink Murray Harbour Community Centre. Drop-ins welcome.

To Absent Friends



With the recent passing of Roy W. Penny, the coffee crew at Butler's Clover Farm are missing a great friend and storyteller. Condolences are extended to his many friends and family.

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See solution on page 16



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Farmers Market Gears Up for 2024 Season

Jackie MacNeil Doiron

Greetings on behalf of the Murray Harbour Farmers Market! To say we look forward to beginning our 2024 journey with all of you would be an understatement. You have remained so loyal to us over the past 10 years, especially through the trying days of COVID when so many little markets like ours closed their doors. BUT “Murray Harbour and Area Proud” did it, stronger and more determined to become an important part of this place we call home! By working and collaborating with individuals and organizations with a positive and upbeat attitude, we make great things happen.

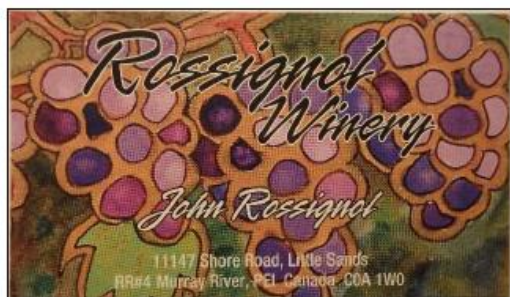
We are proud to say we are an entity onto our own with no government funding or subsidies. We operate on a coffee fund, donations from our customers, and sales from raffles and draws. Through our revenues, we pay rent to the Rural Municipality of Murray Harbour, host our events, co-sponsor some of the children’s programming at the Murray Harbour Public Library, and donate to such worthy causes as the SKC Breakfast Program.



So what’s in store for the 2024 season? New collaborations, new partnerships, new events, new vendors, and new adventures! We will once again be holding the annual Photo Contest in August, our Pumpkin Carving Contest in October, and the “infamous” FRYDAY in September, just to name a few.

Until we meet again on July 6 at 9 am, stay safe, be kind, take the time to say hello to your neighbour, BUY LOCAL, and keep those oars in the water! ☐





Community Garden to be Expanded

The Southeast Environmental Association (SEA)—in collaboration with the Friendly Circle Seniors Club and with United Way funding support—is planning to expand the current footprint of the community garden to the north under Project Nectar.

The project hopes to double the size and number of above ground planters. SEA's media release describes it as "...a community food garden expansion and pollinator habitat enhancement project to support social connections, physical activity, and environmental engagement for seniors living in rural PEI." □





At the Library

Audiobooks

Do you pay for a subscription to Audible or some other streaming book service instead of using your local library? Stop that right now! The PEI library service has a great selection of free-to-you digital and audio books. To get started, all you need is your library card and to download the Libby App. Feel free to contact Sue at the library if you need a hand setting it up.

Lots to Loan!

Along with books, audiobooks, DVDs (gotta love those British murder mystery series!), and music CDs, the PEI library service offers a growing "collection of things" to borrow. This collection includes things like musical instruments, radon detectors, energy meters, CO² monitors, thermal cameras, white noise machines, light therapy lamps, disk golf sets, fitness and yoga kits, technology kits, mental health book kits, walking poles, and telescopes to name a few. Your library card also gives you access to a free TCAP pass in Montague, which is available to borrow at the front desk in Montague library.

Saltwire publications are also available to read on library computers and the **CBC Corner**—which contains all of CBC and Radio-Canada's digital content—has been added to the PEI Library website in the online resources section. The library computers also offer free access to **Ancestry.com** for those interested in researching their family history.

Library Programming

Story Time is offered every Friday morning at 10:30 am.

TD Summer Reading Program will take place on Saturday mornings during the farmers market throughout the summer. Includes crafts and activities.

Library Hours

Tuesday: 10 am – 1:30 pm

Wednesday: 2:30 – 6 pm

Friday: 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

Saturday: 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

The library is located at the Murray Harbour Community Centre. For more information, please contact the library at (902) 962-3875, by email at murray_harbour@gov.pe.ca, or check out the PEI Public Library Service Facebook page for additional events and information that may be happening at local libraries. □



Church Notices

Murray Harbour Baptist Church

Colby Stewart, 902-962-3347

Sunday School for All Ages: 9:45 am

Sunday Worship: 11am

Adult Bible Study: Tuesdays at 7 pm
(until June 18)

Vacation Bible School: July 1-5, 9 - 11:30 am. VBS is free to children age 4 to end of grade 6; youth too old to participate are invited to join in the fun as volunteer helpers. This year is ocean themed with games, snacks, experiments, music, Bible stories and more.

To pre-register, text Rebecca at 902-846-0475 or email rebherring@gmail.com. Pre-registration is not required but helpful.

Murray River Baptist Church

Pastor Marie Kenny

Sunday School: 9:45 am

Sunday Worship: 11 am

Bible Study: Wednesdays, 7:30 pm

Memorial United Church

Sunday School: 10:30 am

Sunday Worship: 10:30 am

WellSpring Presbyterian Church

Minister: Dr. Lonnie Atkinson

Sunday Worship: 10:30 am

Bake, Craft & Plate Sale: June 8, 9 am – 12 pm

Free Seniors' Community Meal: June 15 at 4 pm. Must sign up by June 5. Please contact Michele Irving (902-969-1357) or Cindy MacMillan (902-393-2993).

Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church

Pastor Aaron Tardif, 902-962-2200

Sunday Worship: 10:30 am

Free Community Family Fun Day: July 28, 10 am - 2pm. BBQ, bounce houses, face painting, games, and more!

What is Your Hope for the Future?

August 2-4. Live music and guest speakers under a big top tent. Service times to be announced on the church reader board.

Murray Harbour Church of Christ

Minister Jason McVicar, 902-962-2714

Sunday Worship: 11 am

Sunday School: 10 am

Bible Study: Tuesdays at 7 pm

Kids Club: Wednesdays at Murray Harbour Baptist, 6 -7:15 pm (Gr. K-6)

Youth Group: Thursdays 6:30-8 pm (Gr. 7-12) □



This & That

The Friendly Circle

The Friendly Circle Senior's Club meets monthly at noon at the Murray Harbour Community Centre for a free meal and program. All seniors 50 and over are invited to join for a toonie entry fee.

On June 6, our meeting will feature Kate MacQuarrie, professional biologist and trapper, recreational hunter, and angler. Furthermore, she's an old school natural historian!

Call Club President Larry Siebrands at 902-213-5275 for more information. Please note that the Friendly Circle will not meet during July or August but will reconvene September 5.

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8	7	4	3	6	5	9	1	2
2	5	9	8	1	4	7	6	3
1	6	3	9	7	2	5	8	4

Sudoku Solution

Murray Harbour Community Council

Terry White

Mayor

Marlene Chapman

Councillor, Newsletter Committee

Gary MacKay

Deputy Mayor, Planning & Finance; Maintenance

Kelly Matheson

Councillor, Newsletter Committee

Pam Fielding Oickle

Councillor, EMO Committee

John Robertson

Councillor

Paul White

Councillor, Fundraising & Events

Anne Harnesk

Chief Administrative Officer

Village Administration Office

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