

The Local Lookout



**Logy Bay
Middle Cove
Outer Cove**

Issue 1 - March 2019

During 2018, Council held public engagement sessions to provide respectful, professionally-facilitated sessions and opportunities to voice your opinion. After all, this is your Town! Council has been listening and you have provided sound and thoughtful direction for Council's consideration. One of the key initiatives coming out of the engagement sessions was improved communications and transparency between the residents and your Town Council and, as a result, we have a new Town communique: **"The Local Lookout"**, which will provide more information to residents about core Town initiatives and projects, improve transparency, demonstrate how your tax dollars are being spent and will overall improve our Town's communications with you.

Governance

The Town Council meet every three weeks on Monday evening commencing at 5:30 pm. Council has constituted the following Committees which meet, report and make recommendations to Council.

Council Committees are:

- Administration and Finance
- Communications and Public Engagement
- Planning and Development
- Public Works
- Recreation and Community Events
- Safety and Emergency Planning

Did you know?

The East Coast Trail has several spectacular trails along the coastline within our community: Cobbler Path (5.1 km), Sugarloaf Path (8.9 km) and Silver Mine Head Path (2.4 km). Cobbler Path is one of the most popular East Coast Trails with thousands of visitors each season. The East Coast Trail is known internationally as a top hiking destination and has been highlighted in National Geographic.



Mayor Bert Hickey: *"This is your Town. We want to ensure the decisions we make as a Council coincide with the interests of the majority of our residents. "The Local Lookout" is designed to ensure this occurs by keeping our residents up to date and informed on the business of your Town on a continuous basis."*

Finance and Administration

The 2019 budget deliberations were challenging because Council had less money to work with than in previous years. Property assessments were down and cost of services (e.g., snow clearing, utilities, and maintenance) have increased significantly in the last few years. It is Council's intention to alleviate the financial burden to taxpayers, so in order to maintain the same mil rates, with no reduction in services, Council could no longer continue to offer a 10% discount for early payment.

- Council has adopted a balanced budget of \$3,247,895.
- The mil rates remain the lowest on the Northeast Avalon at 4.5 mils for property tax and 11.5 mils for business tax.
- Council recognizes the importance and impact of its tax reduction program to residents. Through an analysis of the program, it was decided to simplify the calculation. All qualifying residents will now benefit from a maximum 50% tax reduction if your combined gross household income is less than \$30,000 (as indicated on your 2018 Income Tax Assessment Notice). New this year, Council has removed the condition that your total assessed property value must be \$425,000 or less and has also opened this reduction program to include vacant land.
- To ease the burden of an upfront lump-sum tax payment, property owners may avail of interest-free payments spread over eight months by submitting all post-dated cheques by March 31, 2019. The last cheque must be dated no later than October 31, 2019.
- If finances are tight for you, be assured that the Town is prepared to work with you and will accept reasonable payment schedules. Contact the Town and, rest assured, all inquiries are confidential.
- Tax payments can be made by cash, cheque or debit. Interest will be applied after March 31, 2019, where payment arrangements have not been made.
- Finance is currently working with its new banking provider to introduce online payments for its programs and pre-authorized debit payments for taxation. Once the work is complete, this will be communicated and rolled out to residents.
- All inquiries made to the Town are confidential.

For specific details on general tax information, the tax fee schedule and payments options, please refer to the Town's website www.lbmcoc.ca.

Councillor Brian Roche: *"It's truly my privilege to serve on Council for the Town in which I grew up in. Working to ensure we protect the values which are important to the residents, while also looking for opportunities to evolve. I believe it is Council's role to protect the significant investments our residents have made in their homes and businesses while also operating in a fiscally-responsible manner to ensure continuous improvement and efficiency. Our Town and its people are a gem and we all have to protect it. Should you ever need me please don't hesitate to call!"*

Did you know?

Dr. Jane Green has lived in Middle Cove for the past 51 years. She recently received the Order of Canada! Dr. Jane Green has been at the forefront of genetic research for almost 40 years. A former professor at Memorial University, she worked closely with Newfoundland families to discover the genetic mutations of inherited diseases. Her research led to a new understanding of the molecular and clinical basis of certain diseases, notably vision loss and hereditary cancers, and to the development of new screening methods. Her groundbreaking work has led to a leading-edge research facility at Memorial and to many research partnerships throughout Canada. Congratulations Dr. Green!

Safety and Emergency Planning

Safety continues to be a top priority for this Council and the following outlines our key initiatives:

- During 2018, the Town established a Road Safety Committee comprising of residents and the Safety and Emergency Planning Committee members of Council.
- Key initiatives were identified and included in the 2019 budget. Council has committed to investing in additional safety messages/signage, two additional electronic radar speed signs, additional physical traffic-calming measures in the St. Francis of Assisi School/church zone and a comprehensive review of the Town's road right-of-way infrastructure along Outer Cove Road from the school zone area to Kelly Park, in relation to improving pedestrian safety.
- During 2018, there were road shoulder improvements on the west side of Outer Cove Road near St. Francis of Assisi School/church area for pedestrian safety.
- Council has committed to allocating funds (regionally shared) for providing an additional RNC patrol vehicle that will primarily focus on traffic enforcement in the Northeast Avalon communities. As speeding and dangerous driving have been identified as one of the highest priorities raised by residents, a collaborative regional initiative has been proposed and agreed upon in principle.
- In the spring of 2019, and before the summer school break begins, the Town will be collaborating with the RNC and St. Francis of Assisi School to do a bicycle safety awareness session with children.
- The Town provided enhanced security at Middle Cove Beach during the busy capelin run last summer. This greatly enhanced the safety and security of beach users and enabled unrestricted passage of emergency vehicles through that area. This service will be repeated in 2019.
- A Fire Smart presentation for residents to learn how to better protect their property has been arranged for 7:00 pm, Tuesday, March 19, 2019, at the Justina Centre.

Councillor Ashley Politi: *“Road and fire safety is important and a priority to everyone in our Town and I look forward to working with residents, along with our Council, to bring forward new safety initiatives and communicate our current ones to all residents.”*

Rovers Search and Rescue Donation

In 2018, the Town donated \$1,000 to the Rovers Search and Rescue for their initiative to purchase a UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) equipped with an infrared camera.



Mayor Hickey and Rover Representative Fred Hollett

Did you know?

In 2018, a new offence for driving without due care and attention or without reasonable consideration for other persons causing bodily harm or death was also added to the Highway Traffic Act. The new penalties for this offence are: a minimum fine of \$2,000 and a maximum fine of \$20,000 or up to two years imprisonment, or both; licence suspension of not more than five years; and six demerit points. The amendment is designed to reduce distracted and careless driving such as driving without due care and attention causing death or bodily harm, excessive speeding, racing and stunting, for example.

Councillor Bradley Power: *“Our Town is undoubtedly one of the best places to live and raise a family on the Northeast Avalon. This has been accomplished through the hard work and determination of Council and staff, and from input from residents. Let's continue building and pushing for positive change each day. Get engaged. Get involved. Let's do it together!”*

Planning and Development

Key concerns highlighted by residents during the 2018 community engagement sessions were:

- A desire to maintain a rural community.
- Concern regarding the loss of existing walking trails due to subdivision development.
- Recreation parks/spaces not developed or identified.
- Preservation of the land off Marine Drive commonly known as Stack's Point.
- Better control, inspection and pace of new developments.
- Improved regulations and improved monitoring of adherence to regulations.
- Less through traffic volume.
- Safety and traffic in the school/church area.
- Improve trail maintenance and continued collaborative efforts with the East Coast Trail Association.
- Strong desire for intersection improvements for Snow's Lane and Logy Bay Road.
- Concerns about the water table and flooding issues.
- Improving the process and communications when considering development.

Council has heard your concerns and suggestions and took them under careful consideration for establishing 2019 initiatives and additionally aiding with the continuing development of the new Town Plan and Development Regulations. Below is a summary of the key accomplishments and upcoming initiatives:

- In 2018, the Town purchased Stack's Point (4.2 acres) and the land will be rezoned to Open Space to solidify a nature reserve corridor from Outer Cove Beach to Middle Cove Beach. This area will be a legacy for all future generations to enjoy.
- New Fence Regulations were completed and are in effect.
- Completion of the Groundwater Study for 2019.
- Completion of a Transportation Study for 2019.
- As this Town Council is committed to protecting and preserving wetlands, a community-wide identification study of wetlands, waterbodies, and sensitive areas will be completed this year.
- A comprehensive community-wide Open Space and Trail Plan to identify current and future parks, recreation facilities, open spaces, trails, etc.
- New updated base mapping data.
- Review and recommendation of the Town's current and future road connections.
- The key information gathered from various studies and updated data will be utilized in the formation of the new Town Plan and Development Regulations that will guide the development of this Town for the next 10 years and beyond.
- New Commercial Vehicle Parking Regulations are being developed.
- New Residential Accessory Building (outbuildings and garages) Development Regulations are being developed.
- Mapping civic addresses for the NL911 system for more efficient emergency response.
- Developing a Street Naming Policy.
- New Filming Policy and Regulations are being developed.
- New Town Traffic Regulations are being developed.
- Improving in-house capacity for processing and considering development/subdivision proposals.
- Improving public notification and consultation on planning and development related initiatives.

Councillor Denis Hickey: *“As Councillor, I support maintaining the rural character of our Town, in conjunction with promoting sustainable development and with open communication with residents.”*

Did you know?

Wetlands in our community such as marshlands, bogs, rivers and ponds are important areas that enable critical well water recharge, facilitate natural water filtering, maintain the natural water table, reduce flooding and provide habitats for a variety of flora and fauna. From a services perspective, wetlands are viewed as natural infrastructure assets for a community, and with stewardship and preservation, combined with thoughtful, intentional use, can reduce the impact of long-term municipal infrastructure costs.



Ray Bonia Memorial Scholarship

Congratulations to Kate Hickey for receiving 1st place (\$1,000) and Heather Hutchens for receiving 2nd place (\$500) for the Ray Bonia Memorial Scholarship. Jeremy Bonia, family representative, and Mayor Hickey presented the award to both individuals last fall.



Mayor Hickey, Jeremy Bonia & Kate Hickey

Public Works

Council's strong allocation of tax dollars to road maintenance, such as ditching and shoulder upkeep, asphalt patchwork, and winter snow clearing/ice control has made our local Town-controlled roads the envy of the Northeast Avalon region.

It is recognized that the provincially-controlled Marine Drive is in need of repairs and the Town is working closely with the Department of Transportation and Works on this matter. In regards to the Marine Drive washout between Outer Cove Beach and the Outer Cove Lookout, the Department of Transportation and Works have advised the Town that their Engineering Department have completed a survey of the area and they are exploring the option of realigning the road. The area has been barricaded and the general public are urged to exercise caution in the area. Parents should be especially mindful of children and avoid the area.

- Additional street lights were installed in strategic areas and intersections to improve sight lines and to increase safety.
- Additional roadside white markings and a second application of yellow centre lines was executed in strategic areas. These improvements will continue and will be built upon in 2019.
- Spring road sweeping was well received by residents and the Town has committed to providing this service again in 2019. Taking the winter sand off the roads reduces the risk for vehicular and bicycle accidents and increases pedestrian safety
- The Town completed a culvert upgrade on Logy Bay Road at Druken's River.
- The Town is planning culvert replacements on several other Town roads and this will be completed as funding/budget allocations permit.

- Following consultation with the St. John's Regional Fire Department, in 2019 the Town will be developing and designating key areas in the Town as strategic water supply areas for firefighting purposes.
- Brush cutting in intersection areas was undertaken to permit adequate sight lines. This will continue to be reviewed and executed as required.
- In 2019, there are plans to develop a new trail connecting the East Coast Trail and a parking lot area off Cobbler Crescent which will be created to alleviate parking congestion and to improve emergency and service vehicle access on Red Cliff Road.
- In 2019, in response to residents' concerns, and following professional traffic engineering confirmation and public consultation, the Town will be moving forward with the project for improvements to the Snow's Lane and Logy Bay Road intersection.
- A complete list of 2018 public works projects can be found on the Town's website under "Public Notices".

Councillor Paul Ryan: *"I want to thank our residents for their confidence in electing me to Council last summer. Budget 2019 will establish our Town's planning, development, and public works foundation for the next 10 years. I am most proud of the Wetlands Delineation Study, Phase 1 of our Municipal Natural Assets Inventory (MNAI) Management project, targeting the health, well-being, and long-term sustainability of our community and its residents."*



Rick Mercer: Key to the Town Event

Recreation, Heritage and Community Events

- During 2018, the Town had close to 100 athletes participate in the Killick Coast Regional Games and won the Jack Byrne Memorial Trophy for the Town with the most overall points.
- In 2018, for the first time ever, our Town won the Girls' Under 14 Fastpitch Softball Constable William Moss Memorial Tournament championship! This is a direct result of the skill development occurring in the Kelly Park Sports Association program. Over 350 children were registered with KPSA programming last year!
- 37 summer students were employed by the Town last year, providing them valuable experience.
- Over 100 people attended the Town's "Rick Mercer Key to the Town" event and it was a heartfelt day to remember.
- During the 200th Anniversary of the Royal St. John's Regatta, the men's Outer Cove Crew took home the championship trophy.
- The Town values its special relationship with St. Francis of Assisi School. During 2018, the Town collaborated with the school for the Terry Fox Walk, the Fresh Food Drive, the recent Community Food Sharing non-perishable food donation drive, and the Town's donation package for the school auction. The Town's recycling depot (rear of Town Hall) drop-off collection, resulted in \$5,177 of recycling funds being redirected back to St. Francis of Assisi School for the school calendar year ending in 2018.
- In 2018, the Town collaborated with the Logy Bay-Middle Cove-Outer Cove Development Association in allocating land next to Kelly Park and aiding with ground preparation for a new community garden. Congratulations on the successful new community garden and happy growing for 2019! The Town will be allocating funds in 2019 for community garden enhancements.
- The Town funded the new Terry Fox Mural at Outer Cove Beach and the Logy Bay-Middle Cove-Outer Cove Development Association have plans for an additional mural which the Town will also be financially supporting. The historical significance of the mural and overall improved area aesthetics is great for the Town. Good work to all involved!
- The Town's Heritage Committee ran a very successful season in 2018 with new programming and an improved Rowing Achievement display. Come by and visit our museum this summer season!
- The replacement of the War Memorial was completed with 50% funding from the Federal Government and 50% funding from the Town Council. A big thank you to the Logy Bay-Middle Cove-Outer Cove Development Association for securing Federal funding and spearheading the replacement project.
- The Town is hosting a Rower's Appreciation Night on June 1, 2019, to acknowledge past and present rowers from our community.
- In an effort to improve communications, the Town utilized surveys, social media and flyers to promote and gain feedback on our programs and events. We have been listening.
- In 2019, the Town will plan and add more preteen/teen activities, the Festival of Friends will focus more on traditional local music, and the Family Day (a.k.a. Kid's Day) will be improved to include new fun-filled activities.
- The Town's recreation programs continue to be well received and the new series of Lunch n' Learn sessions continue to be popular and well attended.

Deputy Mayor James Cadigan: *"In planning the Festival of Friends 2019, our goal is to host a celebration of our community that all of our residents can participate in and enjoy, with new and traditional events. We appreciate the input we have received in the recent survey to help us along the way!"*



Community Food Sharing Donation

A big thank you to residents, community groups and the St. Francis of Assisi School community who donated food and money for the Community Food Sharing Association initiative. Food donations were delivered soon after collection for immediate use. The Town Council donation, combined with resident/community group cash donations, resulted in a cheque for \$1,500 being presented to Eg Walters of the Community Food Sharing Association by Mayor Hickey on Tuesday, February 19, 2019.

Fire Smart Presentation

Concerned about forest fires and your property? As this Town is a rural community with heavily forested areas and a lot of vegetation, the risk for forest fires is higher than an urban setting. You can protect your home from wildfires with simple actions. Whether you are doing regular yard maintenance or making large-scale changes during renovations or landscaping, you can make choices that will help protect your home from wildfire. There is a nationally-developed program called Fire Smart that educates residents to reduce their property risks. The Town, in conjunction with the Provincial Government, and the St. John's Regional Fire Department, have arranged a Fire Smart presentation for residents on **Tuesday, March 19, 2019, at 7:00 pm at the Justina Centre**. Residents are strongly encouraged to attend. For more information see www.firesmartcanada.ca.

Volunteering Opportunities

Looking for a great way to get involved in your community? The Town offers a variety of special events such as Festival of Friends, Memorial Day Ceremony, Remembrance Day Ceremony, and Lunch n' Learns, just to mention a few. Enthusiastic volunteers are needed on the day of the event as greeters, to assist with refreshments, help with set-up, etc. We also offer volunteering for our Museum, heritage and local community groups.

If you are interested in volunteering with Town events, museum, heritage or community groups, please send your name, email and phone number to office@lbmccoc.ca.



Volunteers gathered for the St. Francis of Assisi School Fresh Food Drive initiative

Local Tidbits

Throughout the year, the Town will be asking you a question on a variety of topics about the local community. Sometimes we will ask via social media and other times we will ask in mailed correspondence such as “The Local Lookout”. We want to see how good your local knowledge is and, at the same time, share interesting facts about the community. Submit your answer to the Town by the designated date and we will draw a name from the pool of correct answers. If you know the answer (civic address) to our first Local Tidbit question below, please email office@lrmcoc.ca or drop your answer in the Town Council mailbox by March 29, 2019, and be sure to include your name and phone number. We will announce the answer and prize winner over social media on April 1, 2019.

Local Tidbit Question #1

What house in the Town is well over 120 years old and won a Southcott Award for preserving the built heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador?

SAVE THE DATES

March 19	Fire Smart Community Presentation
March 21	Lunch n' Learn - Fall Prevention
March 29	Student Job Applications Due
April 18	Lunch n' Learn - Frauds and Scams
May 8	Killick Coast Regional Games Registration
May 15	Summer Camp Registration
May 23	Lunch n' Learn - Healthy Aging
May 31	Killick Coast Regional Games Registration Ends <u>(Registration will NOT be accepted after this date)</u>
June 1	Rower's Appreciation Event
July 1	Memorial Day Ceremony
July 21-26	Killick Coast Regional Games (PCSP)
August 15-18	Festival of Friends

If you wish any further information on these accomplishments or initiatives, please feel free to contact Town staff at 726-7930 or office@lrmcoc.ca. Also, please continue to check the Town's website/social media for upcoming events and contact the Town via email (office@lrmcoc.ca) if you wish to be added to the Town's electronic notifications for alerts and events.