

Town of Lockeport

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Our Mission Statement: *My Town*

Lockeport- where we partner to build a prosperous future with services that provide value and a quality of life in which we take pride.

More on Asset Management

The Town has been immersed in training workshops dealing with asset management. We are part of a cohort group of municipalities across Nova Scotia. This work is being led by Atlantic Infrastructure Management Network (AIM). Being a participant in this cohort group is saving us tens of thousands of dollars, since this work is receiving funding from the Federal Government and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Municipalities will be mandated in the future to have current data stating the conditions of their assets and plans to maintain or replace these assets if needed and have funds set aside to pay for this. Our assets include: the sewer system, streets and sidewalks, stormwater infrastructure, buildings, parks, playgrounds, trails, etc.

A Little Humour

Do you make New Year resolutions? From ZOOMER magazine Dec. 2018

The most popular "Don't": 1. Eat too much; 2. Drink too much; 3. Sit around too much; 4. Spend too much; 5. Owe too much; 6. Swear too much. "Do": 1. Travel more; 2. Read more; 3. Learn something new. **Brazil (The only country with the resolution "Fall in love")**. Only 31% of Canadians actually make resolutions, 15% of people over 55 do. Which means the older we get, the less we make resolutions, **and the less we break them.**

Looking Down the Road

Small incremental changes can make big differences.

NS Power has been doing extensive tree pruning or removal at the power lines. They have also completed some "switching" on the power grid to minimize the outage on Church Street and part of John Street. Power outage in this area critically affects our sewer plant. Hopefully this switching will solve the outage problem in this part of town but we won't know for certain until we experience an outage. NS Power has been a good corporate citizen to Lockeport. They have worked to address the above mentioned outage problem and they put the lights on our town Christmas tree last year and again this year. The tree has never looked better. We are pleased with their attention to our requests concerning outages. It is so easy to criticize.

Council continues to explore ways to make our Town Hall more accessible and better utilized over the long term. What

if we could move the Blood Clinic and Nurse Practitioner office to the Town Hall building?

What if we had more extensive discussions with the Municipality of the District of Shelburne and the Town of Shelburne regarding expanding the present practice of shared services to something more in line with modernizing the municipal structure that would be new but not the standard historical amalgamation structure? Would combining resources benefit us and all three units?

Is it possible to shift our thinking so we support our local businesses more than we are presently doing? If we don't we will lose them. What impact will that have on our community?

When Council holds public meetings to share details of the condition of our infrastructure, will you attend?

What do you see down the road?

*Merry Christmas
and
a Happy New Year*

Your Council

- *Mayor*
George R. Harding
- *Deputy Mayor*
Joann Swimm
- *Councillor*
Dayle Eshelby
- *Councillor*
Dawn DeMings-Taylor
- *Councillor*
Kent Balish



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Winter Newsletter December 2018

From the Mayor's Office



Town of Lockeport

Message from the Mayor

Your Council is half way through our mandate. It has been a very busy two years. It will continue to be busy as we begin to make decisions on the information contained in the asset management and condition assessment reports coming this month and into the new year. Council will need to have public meetings to share this information.

Presently Able Engineering has been conducting a design plan for dealing with our causeway and the impact of sea level-rise.

Engineers from Hatch Engineering have been assessing our sewer plant and system and will soon be putting cameras into the underground pipes to determine their condition.

We have submitted an application to the Provincial Government for funding to conduct a conditions assessment of the trestle and it has been approved. Hatch Engineering will do the assessment and provide us with details and costs.

We have already raised the center of Calf Island road by two feet to try to protect the underground waterlines against sea level-rise. Our island is at risk. We can all see this. Council understands the need for a second emergency access. We have spoken with Minister Chuck Porter about our vulnerability and will continue to explore our options.

There is going to be some hard decisions made by council and citizens over the next years. Not all is doom and gloom. Thoughtful decision-making will see us through our challenges. We do have good Municipal neighbours and our shared services agreements with both the Town of Shelburne and the Municipality of the District of Shelburne bodes well for future cooperation and a shared vision for working to support one another. Your Council is a very hard-working fiscally responsible group.

Mummer's Parade Saturday, December 29

Last year's Mummer's Parade was a success. It was our first so we hope that this year more people will dress as Mummers. We had 30 Mummers last year and many more people joining for the fun and music. The

Modern Grass played great music and some Mummers danced.

The event schedule: 12:30 pm Pre-event workshop. We will have some items to help you dress as a Mummer. 1:30 pm Line

up for Parade. 2:00 pm Parade starts. 2:30 pm Non-alcoholic refreshments (while supplies last). 3:00 pm Music by The Modern Grass. This is a great bluegrass band from Halifax.

This is a free event but we will pass the hat to help cover costs.

Bring the whole family for music, food and fun!



Know the 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's Disease

- 1. Memory loss that affects day-to-day abilities.** Forgetting things often or struggling to retain new information.
- 2. Difficulty performing familiar tasks.** Forgetting to do something you've been doing your whole life, such as preparing a meal or getting dressed.
- 3. Problem with language.** Forgetting words or substituting words that don't fit the context.
- 4. Disorientation in time and space.** Not knowing what day of the week it is or getting lost in a familiar place.
- 5. Impaired judgment.** Not recognizing a medical problem that needs attention or wearing light clothing on a cold day.
- 6. Problem with abstract thinking.** Having difficulty balancing a cheque book, for example, or not understanding what numbers are and how they are used.
- 7. Misplacing things.** Putting things in strange places, like a dress in the refrigerator or a wristwatch in the sugar bowl.
- 8. Changes in mood and behaviour.** Exhibiting severe mood swings from being easy-going to quick tempered.
- 9. Changes in personality.** Behaviour out of character, such as becoming confused, suspicious, or fearful.
- 10. Loss of initiative.** Losing interest in friends, family and favourite activities.

Alzheimer Society www.alzheimer.ca

Waiting for a Nurse Practitioner (NP)

It has been two years since Lockeport lost the services, one day per week, of a NP at our Medical Centre. I had asked NS Health Authority on September 20th, when we could expect a nurse back in Lockeport because two years ago they told us this was their intention. Here is the response: "Thank you for your question Mayor Harding, As noted in the newsletter [September 2018], the new nurse practitioner is just starting with the family practice team and will go through a period of orientation. Once she is more settled in her position, the family practice team will look at how patients can access services most effectively. However, it is important to know that even after successfully recruiting Maria as a nurse practitioner, we are still not fully staffed in this area. We should know more in the coming weeks about how her schedule will work, and we can provide an update at that time. I hope this is helpful." Fraser Mooney NS Health Authority

The Lockeport Medical Centre,
44 Spruce Street,
provides an important convenience for blood collection services on Wednesdays from 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Tax Rate Isn't the Whole Picture

Nobody likes to pay taxes, Right? But we want services. The taxes you pay to the Town of Lockeport are all inclusive.

Based on \$100,000 property assessment:

Town of Lockeport Total of \$2,360.00

Town of Shelburne \$2,040.00 plus Sewer \$240.00 plus Garbage collection \$251.68 for a **Total of \$2,531.68**

Town of Clark's Harbour \$1,680.00 plus Sewer \$188.00 for a **Total of \$1,868.00**

There is a difference between towns and municipalities. Towns have to pay for their streets including plowing, for example, whereas the Provincial Governments looks after this for municipalities.

With rising costs, a zero percent tax increase equates a minus 4% in revenue. Crazy eh!



Let's not tug and pull but work together.



Worthy Quote

"To affect the quality of the day, that is the highest art."
-Henry D. Thoreau

Roseway Manor Board

The Roseway Manor has a Board that consists of members of council from the Town of Shelburne, Town of Lockeport, and the Municipality of the District of Shelburne.

The Board is in the process of dissolving as presently structured and will become a board of community members in the three municipal units and not a board of elected councillors.

This is a legal process and will likely take over a year to make the complete transition. The Provincial Department of Municipal Affairs will be overseeing this process.

When the call comes from the Roseway Manor for Board members in 2020-21 please consider offering to support the Manor by your participation as a Board member.

Rural Internet

As mentioned in my previous Newsletter, I wrote that the Town of Lockeport was included in the Municipality of the District of Shelburne's (MDS) project to phase in high-speed internet throughout their county.

Lockeport is an important component for an internet service provider to use our town as a hub to install fibre optics for the surrounding county communities.

Now the Provincial Government has announced a \$193 million fund to bring high-speed internet to rural Nova Scotia. It is estimated that it will cost between \$300 and \$500 million to meet this goal. This money was not available when the discussions were happening with MDS. Now we are looking to Develop NS to determine what funds may be available for this project. (Develop NS is the agency created by government to recommend projects to the Trust which makes the final decision to fund projects.) This will put implementation timelines back. High-speed internet is critical to economic development. It will come but not as soon as we had planned. We will keep you posted.

Bits and Pieces

Transparency

I hope you are able to see concrete measures that Council is becoming more transparent.

Council is considering making the Committee of the Whole (CoW) meeting a Council meeting so that we can deal with business efficiently and not have to

wait two weeks to bring recommendations from the CoW to Council for action.

Committee of the Whole meetings are held on the fourth Monday at 1:00 p.m. and are open to the public. This meeting has staff present to give Council reports on their departments.

Keep informed about events by going to the Town website. Click on "Events" and also check out www.ShelburneandLockeport.com

Shop locally as much as possible. It is what keeps our community alive.



Our minds like to wonder about things!

Council Meetings

Our Council meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. There is an Open Mic time and also you may arrange to make a presentation. The agenda is posted on our web site.

Strong Towns

Charles (Chuck) Marohn, a keynote speaker at the NS Federation of Municipalities fall conference, outlined his approach to economic development. He says the current model of development, which values short-term gains over long-term prosperity, and top-down investment from outside the municipal borders rather than bottom-up investment in our neighbours and ourselves. To strengthen our places and ensure their economic success, we must look back to the traditional ways of building communities, and return to the path that made our communities progressively stronger for generations before our current approach took hold. Active citizens, local officials and design professionals can work

together to reverse the negative trajectory in their communities and help themselves become more resilient — no matter what challenges lie ahead.

Chuck explained how "mom and pop" businesses over time bring in more tax revenue and provide a more stable community business district than big box or many franchised businesses. Most people think the opposite. Lots of food for thought.

Chuck is the lead author of Thoughts on Building Strong Towns — volumes 1, 2 and 3. He hosts the Strong Towns Podcast and in 2017 was named one of the 10 Most Influential Urbanists of all time by Planetized.