

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.

Climate Change and Sea Level Rise

Lockeport was part of a group of municipalities participating in the Municipal Climate Action Initiative project led by the Clean Foundation and the Ecological Action Centre. This project has wrapped up and we have learned a great deal about sea level rise and specific actions for Lockeport.

John MacDonald, Councillor for Annapolis Royal, was at a Climate Change meeting in Ottawa in February where he made a brief presentation about sea level rise issues at Lockeport and Annapolis Royal. It is important to have our town brought to the attention of those in government who deal with funding applications.

Much of what we do from now on will have to take into consideration sea level rise and storm surges. Both our Land Use and Emergency Management Response By-laws will have to be revised to deal with these issues.

Did You Know Reduce is one of the 3 Rs Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Coffee cups: 5 Billion are used and disposed of each year in Canada. Many coffee shops will give a discount if you bring your own cup.

Plastic Bags: 55 Million are used and disposed of per week in Canada. Use re-useable bags.

Plastic Bottles: 65 Million are thrown out each year. Use your own water bottle. Recycle others.

Looking Down the Road

Our Beach Centre is a beautiful asset. In my opinion it should be utilized more. During the "Future Proofing Lockeport" meeting there were many ideas for expanded use. They included some kind of limited food service, local artist and craft sales venue, musical events, and more rental opportunities, just to name a few. Certainly it was a common view that the Beach Centre should be used more.

Over the next few months and year, Council will be holding Public Meetings to inform you and seek your input on topics such as the projects listed on page one. Our first meeting will deal with the Trestle Walking Trail and will happen before June. Council will share information on the conditions assessment, costs, and our funding strategies.

At our January Council meeting we decided that the No Overnight Parking signs throughout the town reflected negatively on our community and its values. These signs will be replaced by positive signage which welcomes visitors and residents to park and visit, play, and shop. As a community we should be looking to find ways

to enhance the appeal of our community. Not just for visitors but for ourselves.

Our streets need repairs. Aside from potholes, the cracks need to be sealed to prevent further deterioration. Our asset management training tells us that whenever we do projects, we need to have a maintenance plan in place. It is no good to spend money and then not maintain the infrastructure. Maintaining infrastructure costs less over the long term.

Road's Head has great potential for expanded use. Whether this is improving the trails, extending the educational component of the landscape, improving the camping options, making sure the cliff areas are safe, or some other kind of development, it is up to the imagination of us all.

Let's keep our community litter free. Use the bins around town. Also it would help to pick up any plastic on our beaches. Many hands make light work.

What do you see down the road?

Council is always open to your input.

April 2019

Spring Newsletter 2019

From the Mayor's Office

Town of Lockeport



Your Council

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

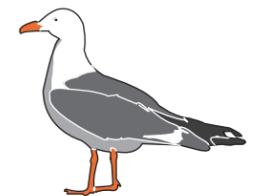


Message from the Mayor

I spoke about a vibrant community in my last newsletter and I would like to touch more on this. On February 13th there was a community meeting organized by Dayle Eshelby, who is on the Board of The Centre for Local Prosperity. The Centre for Local Prosperity presented to the group. Robert Cervelli titled his presentation, "Future Proofing Lockeport". 31 people attended and shared

many ideas as to how and what could happen in Lockeport and its sustainability into the future. 15 of those attending signed up to be a core group to meet regularly, plan future events and to research possible ventures. **This endeavor is supported by the Town Council but it is a community driven enterprise.** It is possible that The Centre for

Local Prosperity will provide research support and help make connections with people with specific expertise in areas the community group wishes to explore. More information will be shared by the Community Group.



Projects

Your Council and staff are working on funding applications for several projects.

Trestle Walkway

We have had a conditions assessment completed. The Arm Forces Core of Engineers visited Lockeport and looked at our project with the possibility of them providing equipment and labour, however, we have heard from them that they have new orders and there will be no projects in Nova Scotia this year because they will be remaining in Gagetown. Their support would have resulted in considerable savings to us.

We are now looking for other funding and will be consulting you, the public, in the next couple of months to share our results.

Securing the Causeway

We have had ABLE Engineering complete a design plan for securing the causeway from sea level rise and storm surges. We are presently looking at federal funding possibilities and we will share this information with you at a later date.

Sewer Treatment Station

New regulations require us to discharge no chlorine into the ocean. This will require

us to up-grade the station. A minimum is presently being discharged, however, we do not have a choice when new regulations are enacted. This upgrade will cost \$214,000.00 and if we acquire the funding we are applying for, our costs would be \$57,000.00.

South Street Erosion

We need to deal with this problem as well as the hill roadway at the end of John Street. South Street is our heritage Streetscape and economic link to the South Wharf.

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Health and Wellness

Communicable Disease Prevention & Control Information from Nova Scotia Public Health

Lyme Disease

Lyme disease is a bacterial infection transmitted to humans by the bite from an infected blacklegged tick. In Nova Scotia, only the blacklegged tick carries the bacteria that causes Lyme disease, and not all blacklegged ticks carry the bacteria. Shelburne County is classed as at a "higher risk" part of the province. About 3/4 of the province is classed in this category.

How can you protect yourself from Lyme disease?

- There are several ways to prevent or reduce contact when in areas with long grass, shrubs or woods.
- Apply insect repellents containing DEET or Icaridin to exposed skin and clothes. Follow directions on the package.
- Wear light clothing, long sleeved shirts and pants, closed shoes, and tuck pant legs into socks.
- Walk on well-traveled paths, avoiding high grass and vegetation.
- Check yourself, children, and pets. Check clothing and inspect skin, including in and around ears, arm pits, inside belly button, groin, around waist, and especially in hair and scalp area. When possible take a bath or shower, within two hours of being outside. This makes it easier to find ticks and washes away loose ones.
- Remove ticks. Carefully grasp ticks with tweezers as close to the skin as possible and pull tick straight out. Clean and disinfect the area.
- Keep lawns mowed short.

To learn to identify the blacklegged tick and others go to http://www.lickencounter.org/lick_identification_nonflash

Also go to <https://novascotia.ca> and search Communicable Diseases—Lyme Disease.

The Lockeport Medical Centre,

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

Let's not tug and pull but work together.



Our Sewer System

The Town's sewer system is over 40 years old and part of a project we partnered with the Town of Shelburne dealt with the inspection of our systems. In February you saw a company flushing out the underground pipes and inspecting the condition of the pipes with cameras. The good news is that our system is in great shape.

There are a few areas which need to be addressed but these are minimum. Municipal governments are always dealing with new provincial and federal regulations. One is the chlorine regulation mentioned on page one. Another one is that a municipal unit must have a certified Sewer Operator (ODRC) to oversee a sewer system. Their job is

to make sure the system is meeting the standards and keeping data that insures proper operation. We contract the services of Peggy Ruiz. She also looks after the Town of Shelburne's system. We are fortunate to be able to buy her services

Internet Fiber Optics

Lockeport has been included in the Municipality of the District of Shelburne (MDS) plan to provide high-speed internet to more of its citizens in 2019. Since the Provincial Government's announcement of funds through Develop NS directed specifically to high-speed internet, the project is in a holding pattern as MDS applies for funding to support their project. Therefore the timelines for installation will be moved back and no definite date can be projected at this time. We will keep you informed.

Civic Address Numbers

It is important that all our homes and businesses display the blue and white number plates. The order forms can be picked up at the Town Office or on the foyer window sill at the Post Office. Seconds can count for our First Responders, Ambulance, and Fire Department. The request for a By-Law came from these services. We think that with GPS our properties can be found,

even in the dark. This is not true. Council will work with you if you need help. Ask us. See our website for the By-Law details.

Dangerous and Unightly Property (D&U)

Council continues to receive complaints about unsightly properties. Council thanks those who received letters last year and made corrections. We do appreciate the vast majority of our citizens who keep their property well maintained. We are such a small community and one that is very walkable. Our citizens and visitors, therefore, notice unsightly properties.

Spring is arriving and citizens will be working on their properties. Please look at your property with the eyes of a stranger walking by and see if you have a different perspective. Council hopes that you care and will encourage your neighbours to take pride in your street.

Lockeport is a beautiful seaside community. Let's do what we can for our community. It's doable.

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

Reducing Energy Costs

The Town has installed heat pumps in the Town Office building, including the Recreation Centre. Not surprising, this has resulted in significant cost savings. Kilowatt Usage at Town Hall:
Dec.-Feb. 2017 down 10%
Feb.-Apr. 2018 down 21%

Apr.-Jun 2018 down 35%
Jun.-Aug 2018 down 3% Construction happening
Aug.-Oct 2018 up 10% Construction happening
Oct.-Dec 2018 up 2% Construction happening
Four significant drops at the Rec Centre were:
down 35%, down 52%, down 30% and during construction up 21%, up 11% and then down again by 24%.



Our minds like to wonder about things!

Financial Conditions Index

Each year the Provincial Government reviews all municipalities' financial status based on a number of assessments. The index codes the indicators as Green, Yellow and Red. The FCI indicators/dimensions are: Revenue, Budget, Debt and Capital.

Simply stated, the FCI is a useful tool for the Town to look at how we manage our finances, our debt load, and if we are putting sufficient funds aside in capital reserves to deal with future replacement of assets or to fund infrastructure projects.

It is not good enough to just balance your budget—what comes in, is spent, and nothing is left over. Just as your household budget

should be putting money aside in savings for re-shingling your roof, replacing windows, etc., it is the same with the Town. The index tells us if we are not putting enough into reserves.

If our FCI indicators fall short in a number of areas we are required to submit a plan to move forward. Our FCIs indicators have improved over the past two years, however, we were requested to submit a plan this year, as has been the case in prior years.

You can find our FCI report on our website as well as our plan to improve in the areas the index scored us in the RED. I am pleased with our progress and the diligence in which Council and staff examines our budget and works to fulfill its financial responsibilities.

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