

Mayor: Clayton Branton Deputy Mayor: Susan Snelgrove Councillors: Clarence Chislett Tina Chislett Richard Fletcher Barry M. Sooley Llewellyn Worthman

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2018

Mayor's Report

Even though we didn't endure a very cold and harsh winter, I'm sure we're all looking forward to the warmer months ahead.

The Municipal Assessment Agency re-evaluated our properties again last fall, as it is done every three years. This year we were able to keep our property taxes the same as last. We thank those residents, who pay their taxes on time; however, for those of you who lag behind, please ensure that you make immediate arrangements with the Town Clerk/Manager to pay the arrears. Sometimes, we have no choice but to turn off water or list the arrears with the collection agency. This is your community and to provide essential services to you, we must collect all taxes.

It is that time of the year again when construction season starts. Please be reminded that prior to the start of any work, a permit must be obtained. A stop work order will be issued to anyone that starts any construction, development, or renovations without a permit.

This year National Volunteer week is from April 16th to the 22nd. To honour Volunteers in our Town, Council will be hosting a Volunteer Social Night on April 19th starting at 7:30 PM. The public is welcomed to come along for some fun and refreshments.

With spring here and summer on the horizon, we encourage everyone to take pride in our community and make a special effort to paint and clean up their properties and surrounding areas. A "Clean up Week" is scheduled for June 11th - 15th and our next bulk garbage day is July 10th. Also, we would like to remind residents that the Waste Recovery Center in Cavendish is open on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons (noon to 4:00 pm.) and (9:00 am to 5:00 pm) on Saturday. Please note, that the burial or burning of construction or demolition waste anywhere outside an approved landfill is illegal. Complaints have been received from concerned residents about dilapidated properties, vehicle wrecks and other types of garbage around the community. While we have made some progress in dealing with these complaints, we are not finished yet. There are still some buildings that need to be torn down. Cleaning up properties is a much bigger challenge, please do your part and ensure that your property is kept neat and tidy. Council will be contacting the owners and ask that they clean up or demolish the properties.

Our Town website is still active. Please visit <u>www.townofhdi.ca</u> on a regular basis to keep up to date on newsletters and events in our community.

To summarize our functions in the Town

Water Treatment Plant

Our water treatment plant has been running well all winter with no leaks reported. We have done many upgrades in the last couple of years. Our only concern now if the capacity of our holding tank; with the increase in new homes being built, it's just not big enough and we are working with Municipal Affairs to have an additional tank installed. You should make an effort to tour our water plant any time.

<u>Library</u>

The Library continues to be an asset to the community. It is operated by a group of dedicated volunteers and is open on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm. There is a good selection of reading material for all age groups and a computer is available for public use. Council would like to thank Mrs. Ruby Warren and the volunteers for keeping our library going.

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Public Works

We are pleased to announce that we will be completing Phase 3 to finish off our War Memorial. We will also be doing some more paving of our secondary roads and have received a grant from the Department of Transportation and Works to facilitate ditching along Route 80 in the community.

Fire Dept.

Our Fire department continues to be active and dedicated group of volunteers in the community. They attend regular meetings and training sessions and are always there when called upon. We would like to thank everyone who supports our fundraising events including the weekly TV Bingo and our Annual Poker Run.

As usual, we encourage everyone to be Fire Wise, please ensure that you have smoke detectors in your home and that it is working properly. As the hot dry summer season approaches, the Fire Department wants to remind everyone to be overly cautious with outdoor fires. We'd also like to remind boaters and other water users to be safety conscious this summer.

Recreation

The Recreation Committee held their annual meeting on March 22nd and held an election of officers. All committee vacancies were filled. Thank you to the past members that have returned and welcome aboard to our new members.

The children's Easter party that was held on March 29th was a huge success, thank you to all that attended.

On April 12th, we will hold a planning session to plan our course of action for the next three years. Stay tuned for more information.

Our annual Town Days will be held on Saturday July 21st. Don't forget to mark that date on your calendar and stay tuned for more details to be announced! Our thanks goes out to all who came out and supported last year's event.

Ambulance Service

Our Ambulance Service continues to provide a vital service to our community and surrounding communities in our district. We still take pride in keeping our response time low.

During Christmas, the Ambulance Service held another "Pack the Back". Once again, it was a huge success with all items collected donated to the Salvation Army Corps in Green's Harbour. We would like to thank everyone who generously supported this charity.

We are thankful for and pleased with our Ambulance Service and support them wholeheartedly.

For ambulance service you may still call our local emergency number 588-2333 or 911.

In closing, I would to take this opportunity to thank you all for supporting and trusting your Council. We are proud of the community. Together We Grow! Have a happy and safe spring and summer.