

COUNCIL

JANUARY 28, 2003

#03-01

The Parrsboro Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 28th, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Doug Robinson presiding.

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith

Councillor Gleneida Canning

Councillor Lois Smith

Councillor Lyle Yorke

A.D. Brown, Town Clerk

Kevin Yorke, Secretary

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Robinson welcomed all those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith, seconded by Councillor Lyle Yorke that the agenda be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

3. PRESENTATION OF RECOGNITION AWARDS

Mayor Robinson advised that he was pleased and honoured to be presenting four Parrsboro and area residents, Eldon George, Margaret Ling, Karen Dickinson and Scott MacRae with certificates from the Town in recognition of their receiving the Queen's Jubilee Medal and for significant contributions to Parrsboro as an ambassador for our area. He noted that he would also be presenting Mrs. Ling with her Jubilee Medal as she had been unable to attend the presentation ceremonies recently held in Amherst. Mayor Robinson noted that one of the more enjoyable duties

of the Mayor and Council is to recognize those who volunteer their time and that if people realized the amount of money that is saved through volunteerism in Nova Scotia estimated as high as one billion dollars, for those involved in civic affairs who see what volunteers do, that estimate may be a very conservative figure. Prior to making the individual presentations Mayor Robinson read aloud the scroll that accompanied the Queen's Jubilee Medal:

Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal

A commemorative medal for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee was created to mark the 50th anniversary of the ascension of Her Majesty to the throne on February 6th, 1952. It is awarded to those persons who, like you, have made a significant contribution to Canada, to their community and to their fellow Canadians. The inverse side of the medal bears the current Canadian effigy of her Majesty. The reverse side the Royal Crown above a single maple leaf on which is superimposed the Royal cypher. The medal is suspended from a ribbon on which the outer stripes appear in red, followed by the broad royal blue stripes, white stripes and red stripe in the centre. This commemorative medal is part of the Jubilee year celebrations organized by the Department of Canadian Heritage.

At this point Mayor Robinson presented the individual medals beginning with Eldon George. The Mayor indicated he did not know that there was enough he could say about Eldon and the efforts he has made for Parrsboro and for Nova Scotia. He noted that Eldon is well known amongst those who know anything about rocks, dinosaurs or anything ancient and that he has done a great deal to put Parrsboro on the map which is evidenced by the fact that when Parrsboro is mentioned in a lot of places, the two things they know about are Glooscap and Eldon George.

Mr. George indicated that it was an honour and a pleasure to receive the award and that he expressed the hope that the Town would be as proud of it as he.

The next recipient of the award was Karen Dickinson. Mayor Robinson indicated that Karen demonstrates the broader scope of volunteerism because although not a resident of Parrsboro she certainly deserved to be recognized for all the contributions she has made to the various organizations within our town and the surrounding community.

Mrs. Dickinson expressed her appreciation for the award presented to her on behalf of the Town and noted that she has been involved in volunteering for many years since attending high school in Parrsboro.

Mayor Robinson presented the next award to Scott MacRae. The Mayor noted that quite often in various areas the police are not always viewed as honourably as they should, however, taking into consideration the efforts of Scott and his compatriots at the RCMP in Parrsboro and the fact that the difficulties that are experienced in other areas are not even known here, it is an indication that the RCMP are doing a very good job. Mayor Robinson indicated that since Scott arrived here he

has been a very definite part of the area, a very definite role model for the youth and has contributed a great deal.

Mr. MacRae thanked the Town and Council and advised that he was honoured to receive the award. He noted that what he and probably the other recipients believe is special about the Queen's medal is that it was not a goal that they strove for, but something that came after the fact for the work they had done and the fact that it was presented in recognition of the Queen's visit makes it especially honouring to receive. Mr. MacRae also indicated that when he became an RCMP officer he had committed to give 150 percent back to the community and that the Town and community have been very supportive during his years of policing in Parrsboro.

Mayor Robinson presented both the award of recognition from the Town and the Queen's Jubilee Medal to Margaret Ling. The Mayor noted that there are actually two letters that come with the Jubilee Medal, the first of which he had already read earlier but which he read again for Mrs. Ling's benefit as she had arrived late due to another commitment which the Mayor noted ironically had to do with her volunteerism. He also read the second letter from the Canadian Governor General as follows:

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the ascension of Her Majesty the Queen to the throne, the Golden Jubilee Medal is awarded to Margaret Ling.

The Mayor noted that from his own personal experience he knows that it is very well deserved and that he is very glad to see Margaret presented with it.

Mrs. Ling indicated that she has been volunteering for many years and that she gets a great satisfaction from helping others either in public or behind the scenes. She thanked the Town for all the support they have given her and indicated that she appreciates the award very, very much.

After pictures were taken by the press, Mayor Robinson expressed the appreciation of himself, the Council, Town Staff and the Town indicating that between the four recipients they have contributed a life time or two of good service.

4. RCMP REPORT

Cpl. Phil Oliver presented a report of activity from December 4, 2002 to today's date.

A total of 69 registered complaints broken down into the following:

- 39 General Administration (assistance to the public); 1 Assault complaint; 4 Break and Enter complaints; 2 Theft complaints; 2 Damage to Property complaints; 3 Disturbance in Public complaints; 1 Breach of the Peace complaint; 2 Loud Party or Noise complaints; 5 False Alarms; and 10 Speeders caught within the Town. Cpl. Oliver also noted that it was very quiet over the

Christmas season.

Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith asked Cpl. Oliver if there was any difference in the time spent in town under the new detachment system compared to the old system.

Cpl. Oliver noted that he personally spends a minimum of between 65 and 70 percent of his time within the town limits especially during the winter months and that he would say since his arrival the overall time spent in town is increasing.

Mayor Robinson indicated that he would like to meet with Cpl. Oliver to discuss the white paper on the draft Police Act and he noted that one of the requirements is a police advisory council.

Cpl. Oliver indicated that he would call the Mayor to arrange a time to meet.

5. BYLAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Skidmore not in attendance. No report.

6. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Jeremy Dunphy presented the following report for December 2002/January 2003:

EMERGENCY CALLS

4 Chimney Fires

1 Equipment Fire

1 Vehicle Accident

4 Fire Alarms

1 False Alarm

TRAINING/PREVENTION

Ice rescue training was held on January 2nd. This session was an orientation for new members and also a practice for Ice Rescue Squad members. Techniques for rescuing a victim from medium ice conditions were reviewed.

On January 16th firefighters did self-contained breathing apparatus training. A review of the

equipment and its required maintenance was done. Simulated heavy smoke conditions were used to practice a number of scenarios. New members were also orientated to the equipment and basic use.

The South Cumberland High Angle Rescue Team met on December 10th to plan winter training and to work on public education and communications. A review session was held on January 21st in Joggins. Basic rope rescue skills were reviewed and checked.

Firefighters will be participating in driver training on February 8th and 9th. Gerald Kane of the Halifax Regional Municipality's Fire Training Division will be the instructor. This is a continuation of our Truck Driver/Pump Operator program.

BLOOD DONOR CLINIC

A Canadian Blood Services Blood Donor Clinic will be held at the Firehall on June 18th, 2003. Mark this on your calendar early.

CHANGE OF OFFICERS

Due to the departing of current Fire Chief Jeremy Dunphy to the RCMP, Deputy Fire Chief Arnold Wood will take over this role as of January 31st, 2003. Jim Atkinson will become Deputy Fire Chief, Gregg Matthews moves to Captain #1 and John A. Henwood will become Driver #2. All other officers will stay the same as shown on the full list that is attached. We hope to make this change as seamless as possible and look forward to working effectively with the Town into the future.

With regard to the change of officers, the Fire Chief noted that the new officers are experienced, long time members of the department and he expressed his confidence in their ability to fill the roles they are assuming. The Fire Chief also thanked the Mayor, Council, Clerk and Town Staff for their support and assistance over the past 4 ½ years which helped to make his experience that much more fulfilling.

Mayor Robinson advised Jeremy that he will be sorely missed. He expressed the appreciation of the Town for the service that Jeremy had given over the last 4 ½ years and wished him well in his new endeavours with the RCMP. He also indicated that he has no question on the upcoming changes in the volunteer fire department.

7. APPROVAL OF CHEQUE SHEET

Moved by Councillor Gleneida Canning, seconded by Councillor Lois Smith that the General Cheque Sheet in the amount of \$323,236.19 be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Robinson asked if there were any errors or omissions noted in the minutes of December 3rd, 2002 - #02-12.

Hearing none he declared the minutes approved as circulated.

9. 1ST READING OF AMENDMENTS TO MPS/LUB AND SUBDIVISION BYLAW

Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith moved First Reading of the amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy, Subdivision Bylaw and Land Use Bylaw to remove the ability to create Private Streets in the Town and limit the number of flag lots that can be created from any one property as contained in the attached document. The motion was seconded by Councillor Lois Smith and carried.

Mayor Robinson noted that there will be a future public participation meeting and an open meeting on this issue. He also advised that the bylaw will be available for viewing as of tomorrow.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(10.1) Finance - Report given by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith:

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

DECEMBER 2002/JANUARY 2003

(a) Lapel Pins - At the request of the Committee, the Clerk reported on the cost of ordering a supply of lapel pins indicating that of the companies he contacted the lowest prices were from Treasure House Imports. After reviewing the price list the Committee recommended purchasing 1000 lapel pins with the tri-colour Town seal design at a cost of \$402 plus HST.

(b) Tax Exemptions - The income level and monetary value of last year's tax exemption have been reviewed and compared with tax exemptions offered by other municipalities in Cumberland County. After a discussion the Committee recommended increasing the maximum income level to \$12,000 and maintaining the tax exemption at \$90.00.

(c) Agreement with Amherst RE: Planner - The agreement with Amherst to contract the services of a planner was before the Committee for a recommendation as to whether the agreement should be renewed. After a discussion the Committee agreed that it would be appropriate to renew the contract for the next fiscal year.

(d) Mount Saint Vincent University - Correspondence has been received from Janice Keefe and Katherine Side, Professors in the Dept. of Family Studies requesting Council to support their Research on Population Loss and its effects on Rural Communities in Atlantic Canada and using the Town of Parrsboro as a community profile/case study of a single community in the Atlantic Region that has experienced a loss of population. This is a follow-up to a meeting on January 13th in the Town Hall attended by the Professors, Mayor Robinson, Dora Fuller and several others from the community. The Committee supports this proposal and recommends Council approval.

(e) New Committees - Following is the list of Committees recommended for 2003:

DEPUTY MAYOR - GLENEIDA CANNING

FINANCE

Full Council

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mayor Doug Robinson

Councillor Gleneida Canning

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Gleneida Canning

Councillor Lois Smith

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Councillor Lloyd Smith

**Councillor Gleneida Canning
Yorke**

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING

YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Councillor Lois Smith

HERITAGE

Councillor Lois Smith

NORTHERN REGION SOLID WASTE

Mayor Doug Robinson

CREDA

Councillor Gleneida Canning

JOINT SERVICES MGMT AUTHORITY

Councillor Lyle

Councillor Lloyd Smith

Alternates -

Councillor Lyle Yorke

Councillor Gleneida Canning

Councillor Lois Smith

Councillor Lois Smith

PUBLIC WORKS

LIBRARY

Councillor Lloyd Smith

Councillor Lloyd Smith

Councillor Lyle Yorke

PERSONNEL

PROV. CHIGNECTO PARK

Councillor Lois Smith

Councillor Lyle Yorke

Councillor Lyle Yorke

CNTA

TOURISM/PARK

Councillor Lyle Yorke

Councillor Lois Smith

WHARF COMM. LIAISON

Councillor Gleneida Canning

Councillor Lois Smith

RECREATION

AMHERST HOSP. LIAISON

Councillor Gleneida Canning

Councillor Lois Smith

Councillor Lloyd Smith

(f) Nova Scotia Community College - All members received a copy of promotional materials from the Community College regarding options for higher education. Anyone interested in exploring such options is encouraged to contact the Cumberland Campus of the Nova Scotia Community College in Springhill or the local Community College in their area.

(g) L.A. Animal Shelter - Correspondence from Jean Henley, President of the L.A. Animal Shelter requests an opportunity to meet with Council to discuss policies of canine control and annual budget requirements for 2003. The Committee recommends that the Animal Shelter be invited to make a presentation to Council in February or March.

(h) Letter RE: Doctors - The Doctor Recruiting and Retention Committee met recently to discuss concerns from within the community that with the departure of Dr. Howe to Advocate and Springhill many people are left without a family doctor. Mayor Robinson has written a letter to

Dr. Bruce Quigley, CEO of the Cumberland District Health Authority indicating the problem and requesting that the Health Authority investigate acquiring a third contract position. Any citizens with similar concerns are encouraged to write directly to the Cumberland Health Authority or to Town Council and the letter will be forwarded to the appropriate authorities.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith, seconded by Councillor Lois Smith that the Finance Report and recommendations contained therein be accepted. Motion carried.

(10.2) Public Works - Report given by Councillor Gleneida Canning:

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

DECEMBER 2002/JANUARY 2003

(a) Superintendent's Report - The Superintendent reports the following activity in the Public Works Department:

- Routine snow plowing, sanding and salting of streets and sidewalks**
- snow cleared from hydrants and hauled away from Main Street, intersections, etc.**
- installation of siding on the salt storage shed as weather permits, also some work being done on the inside of the building.**
- garbage bins and benches repaired and stained**
- water service turned on or shut off at the request of property owners**
- the used truck recently purchased has been repainted and regreased and has been working very well. The new truck that is on order will be shipped in the near future.**

Moved by Councillor Gleneida Canning, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith that the Public Works report be accepted. Motion carried.

(10.3) Water Field Area Protection - Report given by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith:

WATERSHED AREA PROTECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

DECEMBER 2002/JANUARY 2003

(a) Watershed Protection Plan - The Watershed Area Protection Committee was established in December with Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith as Chair and members Councillor Gleneida Canning, Mr. Ron Smith, County Councillor Ratchford Merriam, County Councillor Eddie Gilbert, Superintendent John Henwood and Town Clerk Ashley Brown. The primary objective of this committee is to meet the requirements of the Provincial Government for each municipality to develop a plan to protect its drinking water supply. A set of policies and regulations have already been established to protect all well fields within Cumberland County and the Committee has been working with planners Jason MacDonald and Tim LeFurgey to apply these policies and regulations to our individual water supply area. The final plan will require both Town and County Council approval as the majority of the recharge area is located within the County and the plan will include amendments to the County's Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw and establishment of protective zones within the recharge area to regulate land uses. Part of the adoption process will involve a public meeting to review the plan and receive input and this meeting will be appropriately advertised.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith, seconded by Councillor Lois Smith that the Watershed Area Protection Committee report be accepted. Motion carried.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

(11.1) Parrsboro Volunteer Fire Department - Correspondence from Fire Chief Jeremy Dunphy advised that the Parrsboro Volunteer Fire Department wishes to bring forward Arnold Wood to take over the role of Fire Chief as of January 31st, 2003. This was decided by the membership at its monthly meeting on January 23rd, 2003.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Lloyd Smith, seconded by Councillor Gleneida Canning that Arnold Wood be appointed Fire Chief for the remainder of the year. Motion carried.

(11.2) Nova Scotia Power - Correspondence addressed to the Mayor outlined the Nova Scotia Power Good Neighbour Energy Fund which has helped over 1,300 families since its inception in 1997. Those interested in applying for this one-time assistance should contact the nearest Salvation Army office.

(11.3) Nova Scotia Power - Another letter addressed to Mayor Robinson advised that an information sheet that should have been included with the letter dated December 19th regarding outages had been inadvertently omitted and that the same was enclosed.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Councillor Lois Smith the meeting adjourned.

Summary of Approved Expenditures:

Lapel Pins - At the request of the Committee, the Clerk reported on the cost of ordering a supply of lapel pins indicating that of the companies he contacted the lowest prices were from Treasure

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