

Gillams Gazette

December 2006

Mayor's Message

Time passes so quickly in our busy world and once again the Christmas Season is fast approaching. So, first on behalf of Council and staff, I want to wish you a blessed, happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

The past year has been busy for us, especially the last few months. As many of you are aware we have had problems with the water pipe crossing Gillams Brook. Engineering work has started and temporary repairs have been completed. New contracts for Snow clearing and Garbage Collection have been secured for another year.

I'm sure by now you have noticed the beautiful Christmas tree by the fire hall. This was a joint effort of Town Council and our Fire Department. Thanks to all who volunteered their time and effort to make this happen. As well to the many residents who attended. The children enjoyed a visit from Santa. With the interest shown this year, we are looking forward to making it an annual event.

Our Fire Department is critical to our town and we need to support them. As your Mayor I'm asking you to please give consideration to joining the department to help protect our town and keep this group active. Yes, we are all busy but many hands make lighter workloads. Happy Holidays!
Eddie Blanchard, Mayor

Budget 2007

The finance committee is currently working on the budget for the upcoming year. Like running a household, Council has experienced many increases in the cost of running the town (i.e. garbage collection has nearly doubled in the past few years). We expect to ratify and present the budget to the provincial government in early January. It looks as though our mil rate will have to increase to meet the needs of our town.

Council Happenings

1. TOWN OFFICE:

Council is a member short, so if you are interested in becoming a councilor please let our town clerk know. We meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month except for July and August.

2. SNOW CLEARING:

A new snow clearing contract has been awarded to Mr. Gordon Ellsworth commencing on January 1, 2007. Council would like to remind residents that throwing snow back onto the road is against the law under the Traffic Act. You can be held liable if there was a resulting accident.

3. GARBAGE COLLECTION:

New contract has been awarded to Murphy Bros. for another year. Garbage day will continue to be on Tuesdays.

4. BUILDING PERMITS:

Permits are required for any construction and renovation for all properties in Gillams. Building regulations and codes have to be followed as set out by the Municipalities Act.

5. WATER TESTING:

Our water supply is tested on a daily basis and we are having consistently good readings.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the town office at 783-2800.

Water Problems

On Sunday, August 27, the Town of Gillams discovered a serious water leak in our water line where it crosses Gillams Brook. On August 29 engineers visited the site and made recommendations to council for immediate temporary repairs. These repairs are completed. Since then, Council has been working with Municipal Affairs to secure funding for the Project and that funding should be secured by early winter with work starting in the spring. Council has had meetings with Mr. Dan Heinz from Municipal Affairs, Overton Colbourne, Engineer, at Hatch, and MHA Eddie Joyce, to add pressure and get our point across that Council considers this an emergency.

Council is following recommendations from Municipal Affairs to reinforce the temporary repairs and to monitor the water line over the winter. Municipal Affairs has reassured council in the event of a failure prior to the permanent repairs being made they will provide assistance and use their authority to declare it an emergency and move on an emergency basis.

Should you have any questions or would like an update as to where this project stands, please feel free to contact the town office. Thank you to all the residents for your understanding and patience in this matter.

Fire Department

The Gillams Fire Department is diligently plugging along but is very short on members. Your fire department provides not only fire protection to residents of the town but are a very community minded organization which organizes such things as a Santa Claus parade. Without sufficient numbers these things do not happen.

There are home owners insurance ramifications to not having a fire department in your town and we may all see an increase in our premiums. If you can spare time 1 evening per week the fire department really needs your help. We meet on Thursday evenings at 8 pm.

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