

Gillams Gazette

January 2008

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Happy New Year!

Members of the Town Council and our support staff would like to take this opportunity to wish all residents of Gillams a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Repairs to Aerial Waterline Bridge

Construction of a new waterline bridge crossing the Gillams Brook began in November 2007. The onset of cold weather has made it necessary to suspend construction until the onset of warmer weather next spring.

Town Web-site

In October 2007, our town launched its own website. The internet address is <http://gillams.net>. Residents are invited to check out the site for public announcements, a town calendar, town history, photo gallery and much more. If you have an event or a point of public interest that you want to advertize on the internet, why not place it on the town web calendar - it's for your use and it's absolutely free. Simply contact the Town Clerk or Spencer House to get your item on the Town Web Calendar.

Budget 2008

Our budget for 2008 was passed on January 9, 2008. There are no increases to the tax rates in Gillams for 2008. A summary of the Budget will be available on the Town's web site.

Council Members

Your council consists of five members; Mayor Eddie Blanchard, Deputy Mayor Colleen Fiander, Councillors, Marvin Lambert, Calvin Layden and Spencer House. Our Town clerk is Shelley Fillier. If you have any concerns or questions

please don't hesitate to contact one of the councillors or the clerk.

Council Office Hours

Regular business hours for the Town Office are; Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 12 noon to 5:00p.m., Thursday from 1:00p.m. to 6:00p.m. and Friday from 9:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.

Residents may leave a voice message on the town's answering machine at any time the office is not open, or when the clerk is unable to take the call. Calls will be returned as soon as possible.

Phone: 783-2800.

Volunteer Fire Department

Our volunteer fire department provides a crucial service to our community. Current membership includes: James Park (Chief), Carson Brake (Assist.Chief), Jason House (Secretary), Cecil Kerr, Marvin Lambert, Douglas Hussey, Michael Brake, Ryan House, Colin Brake, Peter Compton, Dana March, Joe Newman, Mark Newman, Peter Weaton, Jeffrey Brake, Lucretia Brake and Berdina March.

All property owners in Town have been provided a copy of the Gillams Fire Department emergency phone list. If you do not have a copy of this list, you can obtain one at the town office.

The Fire Department is accepting applications for new members at all times. Anyone wishing to join is asked to contact any of the members listed above, or simply attend a meeting. The fire department meets every Thursday evening at 8:00 p.m. Please consider getting involved in this very important organization in our community.

Recreation Committee

Our Town's recreation committee is dedicated to the continued operation and development of recreational resources in our community. Members of the committee include Rich Park, Ethel Park, Laverne Blanchard, Lisa Blanchard, Kenneth Park, Ruth-Ann Blanchard and Joy Burt. People who are interested in joining the recreation committee should contact Rich Park at 783-2404. Anyone wishing to book reservations for use of the community hall should contact Rich or Ethel at the above number.

This fall the committee was successful in obtaining a grant of approximately \$10,000 from the provincial government. This money will be used to complete maintenance and repairs to the septic system and the washrooms in our community hall, replace the door at the main entrance, replace the wheelchair ramp, replace windows in the kitchen and washroom, and to replace the heaters in the entrance. In addition, a portion of the grant will be used to upgrade the Town's Heritage Walking Trail - building a lookout platform at the falls, adding boardwalk in wet sections of the trail and extending the trail to the Old Mill.

Last spring and fall, vandals cut several of the large birch trees in the Town's Park. Steps have been taken to limit vehicular access to the park in hope of eliminating such damage to the park.

Snow Clearing

Now that the snow clearing season is here, residents are reminded of the following local regulation:

1. Pushing snow into the roadways is not permitted.
2. Parking in the roadways hampers snow clearing efforts. Residents are asked not to park on roadways between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. daily.

Residents having concerns about snow clearing should direct their comments to the Town office at 783-2800.

Regular Council Meetings

Our Town Council meets regularly at 7:30 p.m. every second Wednesday from January to June, and once a month in July and August.

All regular meetings are open to the public. Residents who wish to make submissions to council must notify the town clerk at least three days prior to the meeting date.

Minutes of Meetings

The proceedings of regular council meetings are recorded by the town clerk and minutes of these meetings are available to members of the public. Residents who wish to see the minutes may do so by contacting the town clerk during office hours.

Building Permits:

1. Building permits for all new structures and additions to existing structures will be charged at the rate of \$1.50 per square metre. Property owners may be required to provide blueprints of a proposed new building or additions to an existing structure.
2. Building permits for renovations to existing structures will be charged at the rate of 0.5% of the cost of the renovations. Property owners are required to provide the Town Clerk with a copy of cost estimates from the building suppliers at the time of requesting a building permit.

Permits are available at the Town office during regular hours of operation.

BUILDING PERMITS ARE REQUIRED BEFORE ANY CONSTRUCTION IS TO BEGIN. STOP WORK ORDERS MAY BE ISSUED WHERE CONSTRUCTION HAS BEGUN WITHOUT A PERMIT.

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