

TOWN OF WABANA'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

September 2023

A Statement from our Chief Administrative Officer Jordon Blackwood

The Town of Wabana is pleased to send out its first quarterly community newsletter to update our residents on what is happening in our community. We recognize we need to be more inclusive and more transparent. We also recognize the importance of community engagement and want our residents to be a part of our vision to improve the quality of life in Wabana and move our town forward. We use a quarterly community newsletter as an effective communication tool to reach each home in our town.

We want our residents to know what their local government is doing on their behalf. We want our residents to be vocal about their concerns and assist the council with their decision-making, as we genuinely value the importance of public consultation.

The time to move forward is now; the time to come together is now. A small group of people will not improve our island; the council alone is not going to improve our island. Partnerships with local businesses and community groups of volunteers will pave the road to a more vibrant, inclusive, and self-growing community. A community working together to improve our town is the only way we will achieve success and grow. Our community is exceptionally gifted with so many talented, hard-working individuals who have so much to contribute to improving the daily lives of our residents.

Water Update



The Town of Wabana has been on a Boil Order Advisory for over 22 years. That is 22 years of needing clean drinking water in your home. That's 22 years of ruining loads of laundry and 22 years of failing as a municipality to provide essential services. Councils have been unable to invest and plan towards improving water infrastructure. That approach ends here, and I want to share our plan to address the water quality concerns in our community.

Why do we have a Boil Order Advisory in Wabana?



Our water is contaminated with Iron, Manganese, and arsenic. When your water comes out black, brown, or dark and discolored, that is the product of the chemical reaction with chlorine.

#3Yard Water Treatment System (#3 Yard West Mines Road)



This project, valued at nearly \$2.1 million, will be the first project, once completed, to contribute to lifting the Boil Order Advisory for the residents of the Green and Valley and surrounding area. The project includes the construction of a new Water Treatment Building, drilling two new wells, and replacing two existing wells with many issues, including a declining aquifer. This project includes the demolition of an existing operating pumphouse with grave structural and safety problems. Two of the new wells service 15% of the town's supply. The Treatment System will filter and remove the contaminants of Iron, Manganese, and Arsenic from the water before being sent to our residents. This project has been made possible through provincial and federal Capital Works Applications. The federal portion of this project is \$892,705.88, and

the provincial portion is \$477,521.50. The Town of Wabana's contribution is \$729,773.62. This project is scheduled to be completed by October 31st, 2023.

A list of benefits this project will have on our town are:

- Service Quality - Improve the quality of water from the public water supply.
- Legislative - Compliance with legislative or regulatory requirements.
- Environmental - Mitigation of adverse environmental impacts.
- Safety - Reduction in risks to the safety of workers, users, or the public.
- Infrastructure - Improvement in the reliability, performance, or efficiency of municipal infrastructure.
- Infrastructure - Rehabilitation, restoration, or replacement of existing municipal infrastructure.
- Service Efficiency - Improvement in the functionality or reliability of services.
- Service Quality - Improvement in the quality or level of services provided.
- Safety - Reduction in risks to human health.

Phase 4 – West Dam Water Supply Treatment (Scotia Road/ Davidson Avenue)



This project is valued at nearly \$2.8 million. Once completed, this project will contribute to lifting the Boil Order Advisory for Front, Ridge, East NO.1, and surrounding areas. This project includes providing a Water Treatment system to treat Arsenic and smaller amounts of other contaminants. This project will connect two new wells and construct a new transmission main to the new Water Treatment Building.

Like the Water Treatment System in #3 Yard, this new system will filter and remove the contaminants from the water before sending it to our residents. Capital Works Applications has made this project possible with partnerships from both the federal & provincial governments. The federal support amounts to \$994,704.32, the provincial support amounts to \$1,243,380.40, and the Town of Wabana's support amounts to \$288,276.08. Once completed, this project will service approximately 60% of the town's water supply.

The benefits of this project are:

- Environmental - Mitigation of adverse environmental impacts.
- ICIP - Increased access to potable water.
- ICIP - Increased structural and natural capacity to adapt to climate change impacts, disasters, and extreme weather.
- Infrastructure - Improvement in municipal infrastructure's reliability, performance, or efficiency.
- Legislative - Compliance with legislative or regulatory requirements.
- Safety - Reduction in risks to human health.
- Service Quality - Disinfection of untreated public water supply.
- Service Quality - Improve the quality of water available from public water supply.

Phase 5 – Water System Upgrade



This project is valued at nearly 2.6 million dollars. Once completed, this project will service upper and lower West Mines and Middleton Avenue. The project involves installing new infrastructure and improvements to our water system, including Water Treatment, Water Transmission, and Decommissioning. The scope includes connecting the Number 4- and #3-Yard wells to the #3 Yard Treatment Building, connecting to the Middleton Ave Distribution System, installation of required valves, elimination of cross-connections, decommissioning of redundant wells, the development of observation wells and the installation of technology tying into our existing SCADA system. This project has been made possible through Capital Works Applications with partnerships with both the federal government and provincial government. The federal support amounts to \$881,237.56, and the provincial support amounts to \$1,101,546.94. The Town of Wabana's contribution is \$260,309.00. This system will service 25% of the town's supply.

The benefits of this project are:

- Service Quality - Improve the quality of water available from public water supply.
- Infrastructure - Protection of the integrity, useful life, or serviceability of existing municipal infrastructure.
- Infrastructure - Upgrade municipal infrastructure to current capacity requirements or design standards.

- Legislative - Compliance with legislative or regulatory requirements.
- Safety - Reduction in risks to human health.
- Safety - Reduction in risks to the safety of workers, users, or the public.
- Infrastructure - Improvement in municipal infrastructure's reliability, performance, or efficiency.
- Service Efficiency - Improvement in the functionality or reliability of services.
- ICIP - Increased access to potable water.
- Service Efficiency - Reduction in service cost to the municipality or the users.

The Town is investing significant money into improving the water quality on Bell Island. The three ongoing projects combined total \$7,329,432.50. The Town's current contribution to these projects amounts to \$1,276,358.7. Water is a priority, and we are delivering this essential service.

Community Recreation

A statement from Deputy Mayor Tobin – Chair of Recreation.



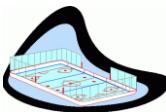
The Recreation Committee at the Town of Wabana is pleased to announce it was a great summer of events. We are very thankful for the continuous support and generosity from the community. This summer, we held two old-fashioned barn dances at our local arena, one with all local entertainment and another with a lineup of bands from all over NL featuring one of Newfoundland's favorite Shanneyganock. Our Recreation Committee made a profit of \$13,000 from both events, and all these funds will go directly back into our community towards our recreational projects. It was a massive success for our community, and it was great to see everyone get out to support and enjoy it.

This coming season, we have several plans within the community, so be sure to stay tuned. We will be continuing the fundraising in the fall with:

1. Autographed Toronto Maple Leaf's Johnny Bower #1 jersey ticket draw, donated by MR Jay Jarvis.
2. November Annual Curling Bonspiel.

The recreation committee would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support during these events.

Arena Update



We have eliminated the Recreation Manager position, which is responsible for managing the Arena, Parks, and playgrounds. The savings for our taxpayer's amount to an additional \$50,000.00 per year. Our Chief Administrative Officer, Jordon Blackwood, has added the duties and responsibilities of the Recreation Manager to his work as Chief Administrative Officer at no extra costs to taxpayers and has done a phenomenal job operating the arena. Last year, the arena had its best year financially in the last five years. We must continue to market our arena to other associations and off-island private rentals. Locally, we are looking at adding some new events this year to increase arena revenue and create partnerships with local community groups to ensure we maximize the usage of our recreational facility.

The ice at the MSGR. Bartlett Memorial Arena will go on in October. Please see the arena rates listed below.

Public Skating - \$3

Glow Skating - \$4

Shinny Hockey - \$7

Old Timers Hockey - \$8

1 hour Ice Rental - \$160

Birthday Party Rental - \$200 (1 hour ice time, 1-hour heated section)

All prices include HST.

Splash Pad Update



Through donations and fundraising efforts, the town has raised \$27,000 to date for the Splash Pad project. Anyone who wishes to donate can do so by visiting the Town Hall or by e-transfer @ wabanarec@townofwabana.net

Playground Update



The Town of Wabana has experienced a significant increase in vandalism this summer at the playground, with damages exceeding \$4000.00. We are asking anyone with any information regarding the vandalism at the park to please get in touch with the Town and or the RCMP. Dugouts at the ball field have been burnt out, smashed glass everywhere, and the roof beat off. Bus shelters have been seeing some vandalism as well.

A statement from Councillor Henry Crane – Economic Development Chair



The EDC (Economic Development Committee of Council) continues to work hard on behalf of the residents of the Town. Several projects are on the go. The council undertakes some while others are part of a collaboration. The Legion Banners are now flying thanks to the cooperation of numerous groups and individuals. More banners are on their way. The Municipal Park is slow moving, but it is moving, and hopefully, our citizens will see results very soon. Our vision is to create a safe green space where residents can spend time with family and friends. Developing this project includes the installation of BBQ Pits, Washroom Facilities, Boardwalk Walking Trails, Landscaping, and creating a sandy swimming area. The Town has just received a \$43,000 JCP grant to kickstart this project. The repairs to Dominion Pier are ongoing, and boaters are seeing the results. The CLB Committee will be meeting with ACOA to discuss plans for the building, and we are hopeful that by next summer, the building could re-open. Plans for the airfield are on hold as we await the government's decision. Agriculture is becoming a significant project for the council as we maintain and forge partnerships in this area.

Road Work Update



This coming Fall, the Town of Wabana will complete some necessary road work on our Town-owned roads in poor disrepair.

While many think the Town of Wabana is responsible for all the roads on Bell Island, that is untrue. The Town of Wabana does not own the following main roads.

- No.2 Road
- Main Street
- Davidson Avenue
- Ten Commandments
- Steve Neary BLVD
- Memorial Street
- Quigley's Line
- Bennett Street
- Petrie's Hill
- Compressor Hill
- Fitzgerald's Lane
- Beach Hill
- Middleton Avenue

All these roads are provincial roads and are the responsibility of the provincial government to maintain. The Town of Wabana is legally prohibited from working on these roads, we have tried. 95% of the deplorable roads in our community are not Town of Wabana-owned. The Town of Wabana has outlined 3.447km of provincial roads and

sent it to the Department of Transportation for review. We marked these locations and provided details of the poor road conditions.

Emergency Services



The Wabana Volunteer Fire Department is growing. The WVFD has just accepted four new members to join our department. Pump inspections have been completed for the year. We have four new members trained for air brakes. All our members are equipped with new firefighting equipment costing nearly \$75,000.00. We are investing in our department to ensure we can offer our residents the best possible fire and emergency services. The Wabana Volunteer Fire Department has seen a significant drop in fire fees paid by Lance Cove Residents. The Town of Wabana will take the necessary action, with potential notice sent to insurance companies advising them. We would like to send out a big thank you to all our Volunteer Firefighters for their continuous commitment to keeping our community safe. The WVFD will be organizing this year's Santa Clause Parade. Please visit the Wabana Volunteer Fire Department Facebook page for more news and updates.

Business & Finance



The Town of Wabana has just completed its 2022 Financial Audit. The Town of Wabana has accumulated a \$398,034.00 operating surplus for 2022. This is the highest recorded operating surplus the Town of Wabana has ever accumulated. In an extremely tough year, with the operating cost increasing and inflation reaching a 40-year high, we delivered on being financially responsible. Residents can be assured that Wabana is committed to strong financial management with their tax dollars. As we move into the Fall Season. The Town of Wabana will be preparing its 2024 Budget. In a challenging economic time with significant increases in products and services, the Town of Wabana is showing solid financial leadership and being fiscally responsible. We want to hear from our residents. The Town of Wabana will host a Public Budget Consultation meeting to hear from our residents and discuss our vision to move forward. Stay tuned for a tentative date in the coming weeks.

Excavator Purchase



The Town of Wabana had just purchased a 2012 210 John Deer Excavator for \$101,200 HST included. This piece of equipment will allow the Town of Wabana to expand beyond its former capabilities and enhance our residents' services while increasing efficiency and enduring significant cost savings.

- This excavator will allow us to consistently ensure #2 Cove and the Greebe's Nest are safe and fully accessible for our residents and tourists in the summer.
- This excavator will allow us to dredge the Dominion Pier and Lance Cove Beach so that local fisherman can get their boats out every summer for the recreational fishery at no cost to locals.
- This excavator will allow our men to complete necessary water & sewer work that we would typically have to contract out off-island and spend thousands of dollars on. With the Town owning this powerful resource, we can reduce our budget envelope for our ongoing water projects, which are nearly 7 million dollars.
- This excavator will allow us to be more efficient and lessen the wear and tear on existing equipment. Building demolition times will now be cut in half.
- This excavator will allow us to clean up local illegal dumpsites and keep our Town clean.
- This excavator will help us do work and support local community groups like the St. Augustine's Elementary Playground, like the Royal Canadian Legion Veterans Memorial Park and any other community project, makes Bell Island a better place to live.

Cost savings Efficiency Supporting local groups Improving service to residents Safety

Union Business



The Town of Wabana and the Local 855 Teamsters Union have landed one of the best deals the Town of Wabana has ever had for its Taxpayers and employees. This deal focused on the Town's future financial position, the Town's workforce efficiency, and a fair wage for our employees. The Town of Wabana has eliminated 1 part-time position and 1 full-time position, lowering our workforce from 11 to 9 employees. This reduction in our workforce will save the taxpayers close to \$500,000 over five years. We genuinely value our hardworking, reliable employees and appreciate all their expertise and the level of service they provide to our residents. We have some of the most skilled Heavy Equipment Operators and knowledgeable Water techs.

ADWS Hours of Operation



Tuesday & Thursday 12 pm-8 pm

Every other day, 8 am-3 pm

Many residents ask why the ADWS is only open for 8 hours and not 12 or not 24 hours. To answer that question, the ADWS has two 1000 liters tanks, the only ADWS in the province to have two tanks. This supply, on an average daily usage, only lasts 5-7 hours and, in some cases, with a demand increase of 3-4 hours. The system takes anywhere from 6-9 hours to replenish; if empty, it could take up to 12 hours. Each time the tanks are empty, the Town of Wabana receives an alarm; we must respond once this alarm is received. Responding after hours for each visit will cost the taxpayers \$125.00 each time. Seven days a week, 52 weeks a year, equates to \$45,500.00 in overtime costs. Each time a technician responds, the system resets and starts to replenish. The system will be replenished in the time frames listed above. So why would the Town of Wabana pay \$45,500 in overtime costs to visit the ADWS every day after hours once alarmed due to no water just to reset and start the replenishing, when the outcome will remain the same with no water available? The Town of Wabana would love to have the ADWS operational 24/7, but the existing infrastructure does not support that. The demand exceeds the supply very quickly in some cases. Imagine paying \$45,500 a year in overtime and still not being able to have access to water. It doesn't make sense. We can't make the water appear any quicker, and why would we keep wasting money to have this building open when it can't be used for its intended purpose? We understand this is frustrating for our residents, but the solution is not extending the hours; the solution is growing our supply and improving replenishing times, which we are actively working towards.

Waste Recovery Facility (Dumpsite)

Current Hours of Operation



Tuesday & Thursday 12:00 pm-4:00 pm

Saturday 8:00 am – 11:30 am & 12:30 pm-4:00 pm

The Town of Wabana is currently in discussions with the Eastern Regional Service Board on improving this service to our residents and eliminating illegal dumping. The Town of Wabana wants to control this facility as the Eastern Regional Service Board operates it.

Permits and Fees



You must get a permit from the Town of Wabana for general repairs, maintenance, accessory buildings, and home builds. Failure to do so can result in a Stop Work Order and a minimum \$1000.00 fine. The same applies to Lance Cove. The Town of Wabana, under the Development Regulations Act, is the governing body that approves all new builds and developments in Lance Cove and surrounding areas.

Official Town Plan



Official Town Plan

The Town of Wabana is renewing our 20-year outdated Official Town Plan. We have engaged TRACT Consulting to complete this project for us. A community survey will be made available for residents to complete, as well as public consultations to discuss our future and where we want to position ourselves. Our Official Municipal Town Plan will focus on our community's vision and goals for the future. It will ensure that new development and growth are given a comprehensive overview to make sure land use planning and development decisions align with local beliefs and values.

Hospital Update



Human Resources challenges and recruitment efforts are ongoing. There has been a new RN added to our site. A NP comes for an entire weekend each month. This has helped with timely access to health care. There will also be a full-time NP who will be starting in October. Nursing staff have been given priority on the Ferry; this is a welcomed gesture to the nursing staff that travels to Bell Island.

Town Hall



We are in the process of developing a new Town Hall. Our existing building is costing taxpayers way too much money to operate annually; it's just not feasible. The building is ancient, in poor disrepair, and way too big. The current Town Hall does not align with reducing carbon footprint and protecting the environment. We are spending way too much on fuel and maintenance in this building. We need a much smaller, much cheaper building to operate annually and one that supports achieving net zero. The Town has dumped over \$750,000 into the Town Hall in just eight years. Enough is enough. It's time to be more cost-efficient. The Town of Wabana has applied for Provincial Funding to complete a Feasibility Study. Once this is completed, we can apply for Federal Funding. The funding for new Town Halls is 60/40. The Town would pay 40% of the cost, with the other 60% being funded. Over ten years in a smaller, more efficient town hall that uses clean energy, the Town will have this building paid off, continue to be more efficient, and save our taxpayers more money each year on overhead costs. We need to be fiscally responsible; our investments need returns. We are committed to delivering on this cost-effective, environmentally friendly initiative.

Volunteer Appreciation Awards Gala



In June, the Town of Wabana hosted our Annual Town Awards. Please see the list of recipients below.

Citizen of the Year - Marilee White

Female Volunteer of the Year- Jennifer Stone & Samantha Pitts

Male Volunteer of the Year- Philip Tobin

Business of the Year - Murphy's Garage

Non-Profit of the Year - Tourism Bell Island

Committee of the Year - Dominion Pier Committee

Male Athlete of the Year - Riley Bickford

Female Athlete of the Year - Brianna Tremblett

Youth Ambassador – Brooklyn Kitchen

Johnny Whalen Memorial Award- Jim Pendergast

Kay Coxworthy Memorial Award - Henry Crane

Musical Ambassadors -

- Jerome Warren
- Gary Crane
- Bill Ford

- **Community Hero's**
- Wabana Volunteer Fire Department
- Bell Island Paramedics

Employee of the Year- Brian Tulk - Easy save

Outstanding Business Achievement Award -Douglas Butler

Good Deeds

- Jenna Vokey
- Pauline Rees
- Ron Reid
- Lois Vokey

Most Determined

Nicole Lahey

Volunteers are the backbone of our community. Thank you to everyone who continues to volunteer in our community and help make our home a better place to live. Congratulations to all recipients on their recognition.

Tourism (Bell Island)

Thanks to multiple levels of government: municipal, provincial, and federal government, other agencies, sponsors and individuals, Tourism had a great year, and we are hoping for even better next year. These are the events we were able to hold. Town Square Days, Belle-Fest Days, Belle-Fest on the Beach, The Ghosts of Bell Island held at the Theater of the Mine, WW11 Comes to Bell Island held at the deck at the café, Jive dancing all over the Town, Open Mic on Fridays at the Café, and a super dinner theater. Then there was the ever-popular walking trail. Next year, things will be even bigger and better. Now we are concentrating on our "Music and Friends" event. Look for notices as it happens.

**Thank you for taking the time to read our first
Community Newsletter!!!!!!**