

A

**Montague Town Council Meeting  
September 14th, 2009**

**Canada Tree**

I spent a lot of time on the Canada Tree House preparations this month. Andy and I met with ACI, Martina Macdonald, Amy Swallow and Steven Lewis from the Provincial Rural Development Department, and we now have more information on the steps we need to take regarding the establishment of a Foundation and the funding application process.

We had a very successful meeting regarding the best spot for the Tree house on the waterfront and we all took a drive to take a look at the turntable for a possible location. Everyone was in agreement that we build on / near the turntable because of its location and also because of its historical significance.

We had a video presentation for our committee, John and Linda Aspin, ACI, and Community and Cultural Affairs, which showed a conceptual drawing of a building on the turntable. It was fantastic, many thanks to Rodney and Jason for all their hard work. The video will be sent to CCA for Carolyn Bertram, and other Provincial Departments, and also to Lawrence MacAulay.

We plan to have a public meeting in the New Year, once we have a concrete long term vision, plans, and drawings in place.

**Recreation**

The Town of Montague supported the to the Kings County Hospital Team in the Run for the cure with a financial donation for their annual event.

Volunteered as a bartender for the Inaugural Dance at the Montague Wellness Center, it was very successful, special thanks to Kristie for all her hard work and community spirit.

Instead of a newspaper ad to thank our volunteers, I thought it might be more appropriate to handwrite Thank you' to our volunteers that helped with the Canada Games, and the Tree, so fifty cards went in the mail, with a personal note of thanks, from myself, Kathy and Kristie.

To the councilors who helped, I thank you all for your support.

**Media/Town Float**

We have decided to create a Town Map for the upcoming 2009/2010 Tourism Season, we will be selling ads for one side, and having our town and its businesses and attractions on the other. We will begin to work on that project in the New Year.

**Environment**

We had a very successful Stakeholders meeting regarding the Feasibility Study

**and we are planning another for November. We have different options to explore, and have a really knowledgeable group in place to work on this project. Sara Jane will be presenting on this topic tonight.**

#### **Additional Information**

**Tim Horton's bumps are being repaired and we decided that the best time to get this work done would be during the sidewalk work on the main street so as to not inconvenience the people in the town twice. Thanks Bernie and Andy for all your time in this project.**

(B)

Chair of Finance:

We are coming into the 4th quarter of the year and finances are pretty much on track. A budget report sheet is included in your agenda package.

Chair of Youth & Seniors:

Senior's College classes have been advertised. Thanks to Dep. Mayor Mabon for organizing the Senior's College.

Chair of Montague Water & Sewer Corp.:

As presented in last months report, the final phase to the construction of the water infrastructure has been completed and at this time, all properties affected should be re-instated and be able to be hooked up to the Town's water system. Letters have been issued along with the sewer/water billings to this effect and any questions can be addressed to the Town office. This has been a long time coming and now, every residence in the Town has access to potable water along with sewer service. For the size of our Town, we have an excellent sewer and water system and congratulations must go to previous Councils who had the foresight of the day to embark on the development of such an undertaking.

Liason to RCMP:

I have met with Staff Sgt. McCormack and addressed several issues such as littering, speeding, Town bylaws and "Jake Brake" use, just to name a few. He mentioned that the RCMP will be discussing issues in the schools such as bicycle helmet use and proper use of crosswalks as well as the safe use of the internet. Officers have been busy doing walking patrols through the Town and have set up some speeding check-stops as well.

Respectfully submitted

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C

Report for October 2009

Liaison to Heritage Rivers  
Chair for Communities in Bloom  
Liaison to Library  
Council Rep to the Council of the Disabled

Good Evening your worship, CAO Andy, fellow councillors, members of the gallery I do hope you had a good Thanksgiving.

First I want to apologize to Mayor McGowan for the way I was so rude to her at the last council meeting. Now I want to report on some things from Communities in Bloom. We scored "five blooms" again this year. We have some real hard work to win this competition next year. But I believe we can do it if we all work hard and together. We need to study the judge's suggestions and implement them in our preparations for next year. The judges were impressed that we are a small town of 1900 residents yet we are a service region to nearly 20,000. They stated that the town maintenance crew does a tremendous job of keeping the municipal properties neat and tidy. Councillor Taylor was commended for promoting the use of bicycles as "green" transportation and the construction of bike racks. They liked the museum and gave congratulations to council and staff for constructing the shed at the waterfront to reflect the original architecture. They also had suggestions for the businesses to partner with the museum to display some artifacts in their store fronts.

They have suggestions for children's contests, for example find and identify the largest tree in town and win a prize.

We need to have the town signs updated and add the Communities in Bloom logo and proudly announce our "five blooms" status.

They would also like to see more gardening contests and a unified planting theme like lots of the same colours for the down town area for next year. And to promote the use of rain barrels. They also had suggestions for the bridge, the same as we talked about when the bridge was opened, to hang window boxes on the bridge railings. Another suggestion was to establish a wildflower meadow at the municipal water field instead of mowing. There were more suggestions and we will call a meeting to plan for next year. Most of the suggestions are not difficult or cost much extra in the way of finances

It's great to report that we won a prize in the PEI Rural Beautification competition again this year. The awards will be given out Wednesday October 21, 2009.

I don't have anything to report on Heritage Rivers as I did not attend the last meeting because of other commitments the same day.

We are still waiting to hear from our application for funding for an automatic lock on the front door here at town hall.

The library will soon be moving into the new space in the Wellness Center. The space looks great and will be a great place for staff and library members and visitors.

I extend congratulations to Councillor Crawford and staff for the successful Oktoberfest on Saturday. The chilli cook off was interesting and congratulations to the winners, sorry you didn't win Andy. We are all winners when things work as well as it did on Saturday despite the rain. And everyone had a good time carving the pumpkins. The demonstrations were great and I learned a lot about carving pumpkins as I am sure others did too.

I also attended the meeting with the REACH people this month.

All the best to all in the election coming up on November 2, 2009.

And that's my report.



**Montague Town Council Meeting,  
Tuesday, October 13, 2009  
Report, Councillor Peter Doucette**

**Council Representative to the Wellness Centre Committee  
Council Representative to the FPEIM  
Council Liaison to the Montague Volunteer Fire Department  
Councillor Responsible for Animal Control  
Councillor Responsible for Unsightly Premises**

- I hope all the residents had a meaningful and tranquil Thanksgiving celebration with family and friends, and enjoyed the holiday weekend

**Wellness Centre**

- The Board of Directors has recommended the occasion of the largest hockey tournament in Montague, the annual Norsemen Hockey Tournament, be the date of the Official Grand Opening of the Montague and Area Wellness Centre. Scheduling of the availability of our Federal and Provincial partners will determine the official date as either January 14<sup>th</sup> 2010 or 15<sup>th</sup>, during the regular tournament opening. Therefore *I move Montague town council accept the recommendation of the board for the date of the proposed Official Grand Opening be either January 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> 2010* and would ask for a second to my motion.
- Congratulations to the Summerfest Committee and the board of the Montague and Area Wellness Centre for hosting a Summerfest dance at the facility featuring MacBeth and generating funds for the support of both groups

**FPEIM**

- The date of the next FPEIM meeting is expected to be Thursday October 29, 2010 at 6:30 PM, and will be my last meeting before the election of November 2<sup>nd</sup>. I have enjoyed my association with the Federation and believe the work being done to support regionalization will pave the way for a stronger Island community and create a more important and necessary role for the Federation

**Council Liaison to the Montague Volunteer Fire Department**

- There will be an Annual Atlantic Firefighters competition sponsored by suppliers of the Jaws of Life Code 4 Fire and Safety distributor for approximately sixteen teams of firefighters from throughout the Atlantic to be held at our Fire Department location and the town hall parking lot on this coming Friday and Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. The public is invited to attend the Saturday competition which pits our department team against the clock to see which

department can free mock trapped passengers using the Jaws of Life, in the fastest time possible.

**Councillor Responsible for Animal Control**

- An excellent Animal Control report has been submitted by our animal control officer Mark Oliver, and is included in our council package.

**Councillor Responsible for Unsightly Premises**

All correspondence has been sent to property owners whose property has been identified as violating the Unsightly Premises By-Law soliciting compliance or further action will be taken.

**Other items to be considered:**

1. Council consideration of the Corpus Sanchez Report on Health care

The current term which is about to come to a close has offered an opportunity to learn a great many things, and reflecting on them has given me new perspective on the value of previous councils, immortalized by the pictures hanging on these chamber walls, of what the fundamental assumption of every person who was or has been given the confidence of the residents of our town to become part of the Montague town council.....to serve in the best interest of our community.

I believe everyone who has passed through this chamber, or will pass this way in the future, did so or will do so with this fundamental assumption in mind. No greater compliment can be paid to any member called to this chamber, than to be given the privilege of serving the residents, their friends and neighbours.....to the best of their ability. It is fundamental to the operation of municipal governance and primary to all fields of endeavour that there be guidelines and procedures to make that endeavour

function fairly and to meet the best interests of all. Whether it be posting a speed limit on a road or playing a game of hockey, the guidelines are applicable to all who choose to drive a car or lace up a pair of skates. Individuals choose to adhere to the guidelines, complain about the application but adhere, debate about having to adhere, or deny the guidelines exist and that they don't apply to their situation in any case. History and time will judge the appropriateness of the application and the effects it has on the endeavour. We are all cradled in the hands of democracy which is based on the application of rights and not on values.

Much media attention has been focused on this council and the endeavours it has been involved in over the past term.

Elected public life does not come with a warranty based on measured outcomes like buying a car. I have read and reread the governing legislation contained in the Municipalities Act and all Municipal By-laws, and in no case does it suggest all members of

**council must agree on every issue, quite the contrary discussion and debate is what makes democracy the envy of all who are not privileged to be part of it..... but what it does say is the purpose of a municipality is to provide leadership with regards to providing peace, order and good government, services and any other matters within the jurisdiction of the municipality. (Municipal Legislation Section 2.2, page 4, Local Governance Resource Handbook) The role of elected people is to provide the best decisions in the interest of the community to the best of their collective ability.**

**Perhaps some consideration of what has been accomplished might shed some light on the matter in contrast to recent opinion to the contrary as recently expressed, and I realize a long list of positive developments occurring in the town isn't as newsworthy as name calling or derogatory letters to the editor, but much many and major developments and improvements have been made.**

**It is my sincere hope that each member of this council here tonight will be returned to serve the people of our community to the best of their ability as evidenced by the unanimous efforts of all in a cooperative combined team effort to see Montague progress. Examples of infrastructure investment supported by our funding partners, both federal and provincial, provides further evidence of this council's responsibility, fiscal stewardship and credibility to see approximately 38.7 million dollars invested in our community for the benefit of Montague and the region. These results would not be possible if those opinions I previously mentioned were remotely plausible.**

**My comments this evening are not to be misunderstood.....my comments are only concerned with the opinions expressed by those individuals who expressed them, rather than at those whose responsibility it is to report them. The Charter of Rights and Freedoms, another set of guidelines, suggests**

**our freedom of speech shall not be hindered, and in a society such as ours, we all must defend that right regardless of our like or dislike of the opinions expressed.**

**I have only best wishes for those in this chamber tonight, and with divine providence as our guide I believe the people of our community will return all members of council who are seeking election or re-election to council to continue the effort that has generated such vibrant municipal progress and improvement to date.**