

## Mayor's Year-End Report 2022

Delivered on December 15, 2022, by Mayor Bryan King

Since 2019, I have provided an annual report to Council during the last public meeting of the year, outlining the Town's work over the previous 12 months. I believe reflecting on what was achieved in the context of the strategic and operational plans established for the year is important. These reports also support our goal to be more transparent and accountable to residents. Having said this, it is my pleasure to present the 2022 year-end report. I will begin with the capital works projects and conclude with the Departments' operational plans.

### Capital Works Projects

We concluded four capital works projects in 2022, and they are as follows:

- Trestleview Park:
  - The Riverside Drive kayak/canoe site, the final component of phase one of the *Exploits River Development Strategy*, was completed this past summer! The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador funded this project (approx. 67%), and Council used its gas tax for its share (no borrowing was required).
  - On September 23, 2022, Council and guests declared all the assets along Riverside Drive as the Trestleview Park! It was a great moment that was many years in the making. We used our gas tax funding (\$29,007) along with contributions from Marathon Gold (\$4,000) and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador (Active NL fund - \$7,500) to extend the boardwalk, construct a bridge, and landscape. These final touches completed the Park, and it looks beautiful!
- Main Street Linear Park: As I'm sure we all noticed, the lamp posts were recently installed in the Main Street Linear Park, bringing this project to a conclusion. Without question, this will be a beautiful location for residents to engage in leisure activities, and we look forward to seeing it next summer when the grass is green, and the shrubs are in bloom. The Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) funded this project at approximately 40%, and Council is using its gas tax for the balance. No borrowing is required.
- Beaumont Heights Brook Infrastructure Improvements: This project, which focused on flood mitigation measures, was recently completed. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is funding this project by 80%, and Council's share is covered through general revenue.

- Main Street Road Upgrade: This year, we replaced another 750 meters of asphalt on Main Street in the west end. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador funded this project by 67%, and Council used the gas tax program and general revenue for its portion.

Now I'll discuss the operational plans.

### **Public Works**

The Public Works Department was tasked with 13 initiatives in its 2022 Operational Plan. I am pleased to report that it completed the following:

- Implemented the 2022 curbside residential Spring clean-up program. Over the three weeks (May – June), the Department collected approximately 130 tonnes of debris and waste.
- Repaired, through a contract, 803 square meters of asphalt, including sections on Lingard Place, Adams Avenue, Greenridge Road, Station Road, Newtown Road, Lower Avenue, and Main Street. Council invested roughly \$50,000 in regular asphalt repair in 2022. The Department directly distributed around 68 tonnes of asphalt to fix potholes.
- Reconstructed apx. 1 km of road shoulder on Main Street.
- Repaired 13 waterline breaks as of December 14, 2022.
- Reconstructed 1,285 meters of ditches throughout town through a contract.
- Sealed cracks that developed in our road network.
- Reconstructed Vokey's Lane using asphalt millings.
- Addressed a water drainage issue behind Adams Avenue by replacing 24 meters of culvert.
- Since the Town implemented a task management system in August 2022, the Department has responded to and addressed over 40 formal work orders/residential issues.

I must emphasize this list is not exhaustive, and the Department completed many other works and delivered important services such as snow clearing, line painting, chlorine sampling, etc.

### **Recreation**

The COVID-19 pandemic again impacted the Recreation Department, albeit for a shorter period. We had to close the stadium on January 4, 2022, when the province moved to alert level 4; however, it reopened on January 26, 2022, subject to public health measures. There were no other pandemic impacts throughout the year; therefore, regular operations resumed, and the Department achieved the following:

- Operated the Pat O'Reilly Memorial Stadium.

- Four (4) summer students were hired through the Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) program, and they focused exclusively on maintaining grass and cleaning ditches throughout the town.
- The summer recreation program took place over seven weeks in July and August. 63 participants registered (40 for day camp and 23 for sports/other), an increase of 12.5% over 2021.
- With funding under the New Horizons for Seniors Program, we hosted a 12-week quilting program and six Christmas Craft workshops for seniors. In all cases, demand exceeded capacity, and we had to conduct a random draw for the available seats.
- We celebrated Canada Day on July 1, 2022, at the west-end playground with our usual activities. The seniors/war veteran banquet was also held that day.
- In May 2022, with funding from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, we facilitated a community clean-up project. 112 volunteers participated and collected 286 bags of garbage.
- We assisted the RiverFest Committee with our annual festival and Come Home Year celebrations!
- The community garden was enhanced this year by adding two raised planter boxes.
- With funding under the Community Healthy Living Fund, we implemented the Community Garden Harvest Program, which involved a series of workshops on growing and preserving fruits/vegetables.
- We upgraded the Diamond Pond walking trail through a partnership with the Bishop's Falls Lions Club and a \$9,500 grant from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador under the Active NL program.
- Harvest on the Exploits, as an enhanced Fall festival, occurred on September 24-25, 2022. While the venue changed due to Hurricane Fiona, the event was a great success, with hundreds of people coming out to enjoy the games, activities, entertainment, and vendor goods during the weekend.
- The pumpkin people/scarecrow contest generated 7 participants this year, with 1,116 people voting in the online poll.
- Christmas on the Boardwalk began on December 2, 2022, with a fantastic opening that attracted hundreds of people. The lights will remain on until January 6, 2023.

Again, the above list does not represent all the Department's responsibilities or accomplishments, but it provides a good summary relative to the operational plan for 2022.

### **Other**

In addition to the activities carried out by the Public Works and Recreation Departments, the Town also;

- completed the Asset Management Plan using funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.
- completed the Town's 2023-2027 strategic plan.
- replaced the Town's entrance signs using funding from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador under the Come Home Year Grant.
- implement the activities attached to the Marathon Gold Community Grant. With the \$10,000, we helped RiverFest with Come Home Year activities, added outdoor hammocks to the boardwalk, and delivered Christmas on the Boardwalk.
- obtained funding for the 2023 youth healthy cooking workshop (\$2,250). A \$25,000 application was recently submitted to the New Horizons for Seniors Program to deliver *Seniors Connections and Wellbeing*, a project for seniors that includes a 15-week wellness program, Beautification Committee, and Christmas craft workshops.
- applied for funding under the Federal Government's Active Transportation Fund to install new lights on the Trestle.
- responded and addressed the forest fire state of emergency in August 2022. On that note, I want to extend a sincere appreciation to the Town's Emergency Management Committee, which was very dedicated and committed to keeping the community safe during that period.
- finalized the TCH land sale.
- organized the Memorial Day Service, Remembrance Day Service, and "*Lookout! Here comes Christmas*", which takes place on December 20, 2022.
- since August 2022, when the Town implemented a task management system, 15 residential complaints have been registered. Six have been addressed/closed, with the remainder being worked on in the context of municipal regulations and policies.
- processed the following permits and licences:
  - 8 new dwellings (down by 1 compared to 2021).
  - 1 demolition (the same as 2021).
  - 6 extensions (down by 1 compared to 2021).
  - 7 accessory buildings (down by 8 compared to 2021).
  - 1 business licence (2 applications are currently being assessed).

In conclusion, I want to thank Council and our employees for their work and dedication this past year.

Without question, the scope of the municipality's work has expanded over the past years, and the

community has responded positively. I appreciate everything you do to make Bishop's Falls a better place.

I wish everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.