



NEWSLETTER

May 2020



Water Tank: Construction on the new water tank has started. Hopefully before long we will see a brand-new tank on the horizon. Please be mindful of traffic and construction that is ongoing in that area.



Clean up Week: No dates have been set for Cleanup week yet, but we are hoping to hear from Norpen soon with dates. In the meantime, residents can start gathering up items that need to be taken to the dump, like old furniture and appliances and bulk items that cannot go with the normal garbage. The weather is starting to get warmer and this gives us all time to start gathering and cleaning out our sheds, garages and yards. More info will be posted once the dates are announced.



Come Home Year Committee: As you may know, our Come Home Year that was planned for this summer is postponed. The new date for the Come Home Year is now **August 9th – 15th, 2021**. Fundraising will still be on going and events can still be planned. Another year will give groups or committees time to plan more events. It also gives us all extra time to do some painting around our homes and sheds etc. The fishing sheds are looking great. Hopefully, we can continue to spice up our town before our families get here next year! Let's continue to show our pride and make the next CHY the best ever!



Community Garden: We are in the process of getting our Community Garden ready for our first season. Our raised bed planters are almost built and ready to go. We will have 20 boxes (4 x 8) ready for startup. The idea is that 20 individual households will each have a box to plant whatever vegetables they like. All the planters will be placed in the same area and residents can work on their own garden beds or work together to share the crops. It will be up to you. You will be responsible for maintaining your own beds. All materials will be supplied to get you started. Except for maybe the seeds or plants. Anyone that is interested can call the office to put your name on a list. The deadline is May 15th. We will do a random draw if we have more than 20 households interested. Let us work together to make this a success!



Compost Bins: The Town has **Backyard Compost Bins** for sale for anyone who wants to start composting. Composting keeps household waste out of the landfill and gives you great mud for your plants, gardens, or lawn. The bins are at the town office for \$25.00 taxes included. Information on how to compost comes with the bins or can be found on Norpen's webpage. www.norpenservices.ca. We will also have some compost bins at our community garden site for those who would like to add materials suitable for composting such as vegetable and fruits peels, eggshells, etc. A list of what can and cannot be composted is available on the Norpen page or the town's facebook page.



Town Taxes: Reminder that taxes are due June 30th. Since the office is still closed to the public due to Covid-19 we will not be accepting any cash payments at this time. You can still make payments by mailing cheques or calling the office with your credit card info. You can also make payments with online banking through BMO, BNS or ERCU. Your account number is on your invoices or you can call the office to get it. You can also do e-transfers by sending payments to portauxchoix@nf.aibn.com.



Seniors Discount: Any property owner 65 years of age and older is entitled to a 20% discount on their **property tax only** upon receipt of proof of age. (drivers license etc.) It is up to the senior to make sure that the clerk receives proof within the year that they turn 65. There is no recto-active discount



Streetlights Out: If anyone notices any streetlights that are out or not working properly you can contact the office and we will contact Hydro to get them fixed. Also, if there are any wires hanging low or let go from poles contact the office.



Volunteers Needed: The town has many volunteer groups/committees that are always in need of extra help. No committee can operate without dedicated members. Some town groups are: The Twin Town Stadium Board, Heritage Committee, Fire Dept, Firettes, Hospitality Committee, Come Home Year Committee & Recreation Committee. Also, it would be nice to have a Canada Day Committee, Boat Lighting Committee and now a Community Garden Committee. If you or someone you know would like to join or volunteer with any of these groups, you can contact members of the committee or contact the town and your name will be passed along to the group.



Old Vehicles: If anyone has any old vehicles that need to be taken away you can contact Josh Wells @ (709)-216-7139. He will come and take it away free of charge. Or you can contact the office and we will let him know. This is a great chance to get rid of any old vehicles for free and little hazzle.



Dilapidated Buildings & Properties: The Town Council continues to receive complaints from residents regarding unsightly mess and conditions of some properties around town. Council is asking for your cooperation by taking steps to repair, clean up and remove unsightly items. Get rid of old vehicles or items located around your properties. Keep your areas neat and tidy by removing or painting old fences and garbage boxes and fixing up or tearing down buildings in distress. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to call the office, we may be able to help.



Playground closed: Due to covid-19 rules our playground will remain closed until further notice.



New dump hours: New temporary hours for the dumpsite are **Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 1 -5 pm.** Household and business garbage will continue to be collected as usual on **Wednesdays.**



Job Creation Program: The Heritage Committee has been approved funding to hire two individuals to interview seniors in our areas for the purpose of preserving their history and stories. The program is for 13 weeks. Responsibilities will include arranging and conducting interviews, writing up and editing of the interviews and follow up if needed. For more info you can contact the town office.



Student Summer Jobs: Pending approvals, the town will be hiring students again this summer for lawn maintenance, beach cleanups and roadside cleaning. If any students are interested, you can send your resume to the town office. More info will be posted once we get approvals.

Contact Information:

Town Council Office: phone# 861-3409 Fax: 861-3061
Email: portauxchoix@nf.aibn.com **Website:** www.townofportauchoix.ca
 Information is shared regularly on our Facebook page.

Council:

Mayor- Donald Spence,
Deputy Mayor- Susan White,
Councilors- Todd House, Kirby Spence, Roger Philpott, Jeannie Billard & Terry Alyward

Town Staff:

Town Manager/Clerk – Lizeta Gould

Asst. Town Clerk – Sherry Stagg (part time)

Maintenance Workers – Jim Tuff, Rick Hamlyn & Kenny Rumbolt (part time)