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New Glasgow Now

Spring 2017

Message from the Mayor

Dear Residents:

We are pleased to present the first of our quarterly newsletters to the residents of the Town of New Glasgow. This is part of our commitment to increase engagement, communication and transparency with our citizens.

Recently we hosted a series of community engagement sessions throughout the winter months and were very pleased with the interest, ideas and support received. The opportunity to welcome Pam Mood, Mayor of Yarmouth, allowed us to better understand the role each of us plays in building our communities.

New Glasgow is committed to a positive and respectful approach that is welcoming, inclusive, and forward thinking.

Our call out to residents to join Town committees was well received. We



thank all who put their names forward and are very excited to work together with community volunteers on many initiatives and projects.

Plans are underway within our town as we celebrate Canada 150. We encourage you to follow and participate in events as they are shared through numerous media platforms.

We support and are very proud of the many individu-

als, groups, and organizations within our community who make such a positive difference. We celebrate your successes and are here to help with challenges.

My colleagues on Council and I want residents, businesses and community groups to feel comfortable in approaching us with their concerns, ideas, and questions. We welcome and encourage you to attend Council meetings, to call, or message us.

We recognize there are both challenges and opportunities ahead and are confident that by working together collaboratively, New Glasgow will be able to grow and flourish.

Sincerely,

Nancy Dicks
Mayor



Watch for Canada 150 Tulip Blooms

As part of its celebrations to mark Canada 150 and to welcome spring, the Town of New Glasgow will look very patriotic this season with plenty of red and white colours in its plantings throughout the town.

Approximately 200 of the Canada 150 tulips, the official tulip of the Canada 150 anniversary, have been planted by Town Horticulturalist Shannon MacIntosh in addition to hundreds of other red and

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Community Input Sessions

Engage and Empower

A series of community engagement and input sessions have taken place over the past few weeks with residents, businesses, youth and seniors. This provided an incredible opportunity for the Mayor, Town Council and staff to have conversations with residents and businesses on what they would like to see the Town focus on for the next number of years.

The feedback received will be the foundation for a new Integrated Development Plan with a more inclusive approach for the focus of Town departments. Elements of the plan will include community development, tourism, recreation, business development, facili-



A large turnout of youth from North Nova Education Centre were engaged and gave great ideas during the Community Input Sessions.

ties/outdoor infrastructure, festivals/events, arts, culture, heritage as well as marketing and communications.

The sessions kicked off on January 25 with an evening event titled “Engage and Empower” that featured Yarmouth Mayor Pam Mood who told the story of the “All Hands on Deck” initiative in her community as they prepared for the return of the CAT ferry to Nova Scotia via Yarmouth.

Round table discussions were held during each community session with several hundred citizens taking part. New Glasgow Town Council has had a long history of having a Strategic Plan with major priorities such as infrastructure investment, business development, environmental stewardship, strategic partnerships, supporting the creative economy, respecting and celebrating diversity and health and safety.

Over the past number of years, the Town developed and implemented a Community Development Plan, a 20-year Infrastructure Plan and an Asset Management Plan.



Deputy Mayor Clyde Fraser and Mayor Nancy Dicks presented Yarmouth Mayor Pam Mood with a thank you gift.

There is another “Engage and Empower” session scheduled with former New Glasgow Mayor Ann MacLean as a special guest on May 17 at Glasgow Square Theatre at 7 p.m. Ms. MacLean is the longest serving mayor in New Glasgow’s history, first female mayor and is a Past President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. We invite everyone to attend this session.

Some of the insights coming from the community input

sessions included appreciation for assets such as the generosity of our people, a strong sense of community and the spirit of volunteerism. Also noted was the emergence of the next generation of entrepreneurs, the uniqueness of having a river run through our town, strong educational, recreational and health care facilities as well as the growth of the New Glasgow Farmers Market.

Suggestions included the continued revitalization of the Downtown core, promotion of the East River Business Park, the need to grow the population, assist in the facilitation of more employment opportunities and to have more cultural events for youth. The untapped potential and economic and social benefits from the “Silver Economy” that is generated from citizens 55 years and older seeking encore career opportunities was also mentioned.

An online community survey will be presented on the Town’s web site in the coming weeks to continue to gather further input from the community and gather feedback from as many as possible.

... Canada 150 tulip blooms

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white tulips that will also serve as a symbol of national pride.

The fiery streaks of red-on-white tulip flower bears resemblance to the maple leaf design of the Canadian flag. Ottawa’s National Capital Commission teamed up with the Netherlands to select the flower, which has been named the Canada 150 tulip.

Approximately 300,000 of the tulips have already been planted on federal properties in Ottawa and Gatineau, which are expected to bloom in May. Home Hardware, the national supplier of the tulips, has been selling them since September 2016 so expect to see them popping up in gardens everywhere.

Tulips mark the special bond between Canada and the Netherlands. The first tulip

beds in Ottawa were planted in 1945, when Holland sent 100,000 bulbs to thank Canadian soldiers for the significant part they played in liberating the Netherlands.

Locations to watch include Carmichael Park, the three flower beds near the George Street Bridge, the Glasgow Square sign, the historic water trough at the MacDonald Street/East River Road Downtown entry point and near the Riverfront Gazebo.

We hope that citizens and businesses will also support

Canada 150 with a red and white planting theme.

“The tulip represents gratitude and the long-standing friendship between Canada and the Netherlands. Blooming in the colours of Canada’s flag, Canada 150 tulips will bring both pride and joy to gardens and communities from coast to coast to coast,” commented His Excellency Cees Kole, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, during the official unveiling of the tulip by the National Capital Commission last spring.

Syrian Family Marks First Anniversary in their New Hometown

It has now been a year and a few weeks since Rania and Basem AlMethyb and their four children came to New Glasgow, but in many ways it feels as if they have been part of our community for much longer.

Many friendships have been made and the AlMethybs have helped to enrich our town and region with their courageous spirit, kindness and strength as well as sharing their traditions and culture. Ghada and Abdulkarim AlMetheb and their seven children, who are relatives of the AlMethybs, have also settled quickly into life here in our town while Lema and Abdul Kadir Casim and their two children have been warmly welcomed to Pictou. Lema is a well known food vendor at the New Glasgow Farmers Market while Rania and Ghada are also establishing a food business.

"It has been such a journey since we got here," say the two New Glasgow families collectively.

"We got to meet so many lovely people and built life-lasting friendships. From day one we felt the warmth of Pictonian hearts and enjoyed their kindness. It hasn't been anything but blessings of God ... we lost our homes and everything we had to come all the way here



Mayor Nancy Dicks and Deputy Mayor Clyde Fraser were pleased to present, on behalf of the Council and citizens, framed prints and a certificate of recognition to the families.



and feel home again. Thank you Safe Harbour and thank you Pictou County for having us!"

"When we started Pictou County Safe Harbour in the summer of 2015, we were a small group of congregation members at Trinity United Church with the goal of wanting to provide a safe home for a Syrian family in need," says Sarah MacIntosh-Wiseman.

"Almost two years later, with the support of local schools, churches, businesses and individuals from all backgrounds, religions and corners of our community,

our accomplishments have evolved into so much more than we expected."

"In 2016, we welcomed two Syrian families to New Glasgow. Those families who arrived as strangers have now become friends, neighbours and contributing members of our community. The children are engaged students, speaking English fluently in their schools. The parents and teenagers have sought out opportunities to give back to our community through volunteering their time and finding employment. We have built stronger relationships with other

newcomers to our community, as well as strengthened the bonds with our growing Arabic-speaking and Muslim community. Safe Harbour started with the simple goal of providing a "safe harbour" for refugee families at a time of need. We are thrilled to now be working hand-in-hand with those same families and other newcomers who are proud to call New Glasgow "home" and who share our collective commitment to growing New Glasgow's identity as a diverse/inclusive town with welcoming attitudes and opportunities."

Recently, Newcomers Centres were launched at the New Glasgow and Antigonish libraries, a joint project of the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library, the Pictou County Chamber of Commerce, the Antigonish Chamber of Commerce, the Pictou County Multicultural Association and corporate sponsors, Michelin and Northern Pulp. These centres offer many resources to help newcomers including information on health care, housing, education, banking, recreation, licenses, transportation and many more topics. There are also online language programs that offer not only instruction in English but many other languages as well.

Tennis, Anyone?

The 2017 summer tennis season is only a swing away and we are excited for another successful year at the New Glasgow Tennis Courts on 181 Lavinia Street, near

the West Side Community Centre. Watch out for our early bird 50 per cent off membership on all regular priced memberships, April 10 to May 8. Your membership will include unlimited use of the tennis courts as well

as free lessons for all ages, beginning in July.

If you are new to the area and looking for a tennis buddy, make sure to indicate your desire to be matched with a partner at the time of registering. We will do our

best to help you meet your tennis match!!

Rates are unchanged from the 2016 rates.

- ▶ Family - \$250
- ▶ Adult - \$100
- ▶ Youth - \$75
- ▶ Senior - \$75

Town Council and CAO contact info



Pictured seated are CAO Lisa MacDonald, left, and Mayor Nancy Dicks. Standing, from left to right: Councillor Frank Proudfoot (Ward 3), Councillor Joe MacDonald (Ward 3), Councillor John Guthro (Ward 1), Councillor Jack Lewis (Ward 2), Councillor Troy MacCulloch (Ward 1) and Deputy Mayor Clyde Fraser (Ward 2).

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Upcoming Festivals and Events

MARCH

- ▶ March 21: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- ▶ March 25: Earth Hour

APRIL

- ▶ April 3: Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation, Glasgow Square Theatre
- ▶ April 6: Tartan Day
- ▶ April 19: MORE Proclamation Signing, AG Baillie School

- ▶ April 21-23: Saltscapes of Mourning, Trenton Park

- ▶ April 21-23: Saltscapes Trade Show: Halifax Exhibition Centre, Friday, April 21, 12 noon-9 pm; Saturday, April 22, 10 am-6 pm; Sunday, April 23, 10 am-5 pm

- ▶ April 21-22: Pictou County Go Clean Get Green Community Litter Pick-up

- ▶ April 22: Earth Day

- ▶ April 26: MORE Kick-off Social, New Glasgow Academy

- ▶ April 28: International Day

MAY

- ▶ May 4: Marathon of Respect and Equality (MORE), sites throughout Pictou County

- ▶ May 4: End of MORE Run Social, NNEC

- ▶ May 6: Art at Night, Downtown New Glasgow

- ▶ May 17: Engage & Empower Session. Guest speaker Ann MacLean, Glasgow Square

Visit www.newglasgow.ca and our Facebook page for details and updates.

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

In celebration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (March 21), the Canadian Commission for UNESCO is launching a nationwide social media campaign to raise public awareness about

racism and discrimination and the role we all have to play in eliminating it. The campaign is built around the hashtag #ItStartsWithMe and “wearing red against racism and discrimination”. New Glasgow’s Town Council in

partnership with New Glasgow’s UNESCO Race Relations and Anti-Discrimination Committee will support this campaign with the goal to ignite discussions in our community. We ask residents and businesses to post a photo of

themselves on social media wearing something red (a tie, a shirt, etc.) and holding a sign on which appears the campaign’s hashtag #ItStartsWithMe, Racial discrimination has no place in my community.