

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ELECTORS
VILLAGE OF PUGWASH
Pugwash Village Hall Board Room
7pm, Thursday May 25th 2023**

A G E N D A

- 1 Swearing in of Commissioners – Brent Wilson**
- 2 Call to Order**
We acknowledge that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.
- 3 Introduction of Guests and regrets**
- 4 Adoption of Agenda**
- 5 Approval of Minutes of Annual General Meeting held May 26th, 2022**
- 6 Audited Financial Statements**
Lawrence Lake CPA, CA – Morse Brewster Lake - remote meeting by video conference
- 7 MOTIONS**
 - 7.1 Adopt Financial Statement as presented
 - 7.2 Appoint auditors for financial year end 2023
 - 7.3 Adoption of Budget 2024
 - 7.4 Exemption of taxes:
 - Camp Pagweak
 - Ground Search and Rescue
 - Northumberland Community Curling Club
- 8 REPORTS**
Pugwash Village Commission - Chair's Report – Brent Wilson - attached
- 9 Village Committee Reports**
Standing Committees
 - 9.1 Audit - Duncan
 - 9.2 Accessibility - Betts
 - 9.3 Association of Nova Scotia Villages – Duncan
 - 9.4 Audit Committee – Duncan
Special Committees
 - 9.5 CN Train Station Community Hub – Houghtaling/MacEwan
Advisory Committees
 - 9.6 None

Community Committees

- 9.7 Physician Recruitment & Retention - Duncan
- 9.9 Communities in Bloom – see 9.7

10

Community Reports

- 10.1 RCMP Report – Corporal Shawn Galbraith
- 10.2 MLA for Cumberland North, Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin
- 10.3 Nova Scotia Department Municipal Affairs – Jason Haughn
- 10.4 Municipality of Cumberland County – Councillor Jennifer Houghtaling
- 10.5 Pugwash Volunteer Fire Department – Chief Andy Yarrow
- 10.6 Communities in Bloom –Maureen Leahey – report attached
- 10.7 2022 Gathering of the Clans – Lisa Betts– report attached
- 10.8 2022 HarbourFest – Louise Haycocks - regrets
- 10.9 Farmers’ Market – Pat McInnis - regrets
- 10.10 North Cumberland Historical Society – Harvey Gullon – report attached
- 10.11 Sunset Community – Carrie Nix

11

Adoption of Reports

12

Information Items/Motions

13

Adjournment

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Minute Number 450

1 CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 Brent Wilson, Commissioner by acclamation, was sworn in as Commissioner of the Village of Pugwash.

2 CALL TO ORDER

- 2.1 As past chair, Brent Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.
- 2.2 **Territorial Acknowledgment** - Declared by Commissioner Wilson.

3 INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND REGRETS

- 3.1 Chair Wilson welcomed all present. There were 13 people in the gallery. Regrets were extended from Commissioner MacEwan and from Lousie Haycocks (HarbourFest), Pat McGinnis (Farmers' Market)
Invited guests present included:
 MLA Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin
 Councillor Jennifer Houghtaling
 Maureen Leahey (Communities in Bloom)
 Harvey Gullon (North Cumberland Historical and Genealogy Society)
 Municipal Advisor, Jason Haughn

4 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Duncan and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the agenda as amended. **MOTION CARRIED**

5 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Duncan and seconded by Commissioner Mundle to approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held May 26th 2022. **MOTION CARRIED**

6 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT – Lawrence Lake CPA, CA – by Zoom

Note: Due to technical difficulties, this presentation was not made until the next regular meeting, June 12th, 2023.

7 MOTIONS

- 7.1 Adoption of Financial Statement**
Deferred to June regular meetng.

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7.2 IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Duncan and seconded by Commissioner Mundle to APPOINT Lawrence Brewster Lake Chartered Accountants as auditors for fiscal year ending 2024.
MOTION CARRIED

7.3 IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Duncan for the Village of Pugwash to adopt the Budget for 2024 as presented.
MOTION CARRIED

7.4 IT WAS MOVED by Commissioner Duncan and seconded by Commissioner Anderson that the Village Commission exempt from Village taxes: Camp Pagweak, Pugwash Ground Search and Rescue and Northumberland Community Curling Club.
MOTION CARRIED

8 PUGWASH VILLAGE COMMISSION – CHAIR’S REPORT - Chair Brent Wilson
See report attached.

9 VILLAGE COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 Standing Committees

9.1.1 Audit - Commissioner Duncan (chair), Commissioner MacEwan and civilian member, Clara MacDonald.

This is an internal audit committee that reviews and maintains oversight over the Villages finances. The committee meets with the external auditor two to three times a year.

9.1.2 Accessibility - Commissioner MacEwan, Clerk Treasurer Betts
No report.

9.1.3 Association of Nova Scotia Villages (ASNV) - Commissioner Duncan. The function of the Association was explained to the gallery. There are four scheduled meetings a year and an Annual General Meeting (AGM). The Association is currently lobbying for more rights for Villages. Pugwash will host the 2023 AGM.

9.2 Special Committees

9.2.1 CN Train Station Community Hub - Jennifer Houghtaling
Terms of reference – to discuss the future use of the train station now that the library is relocated to a new building. A lease has been signed between the Village and the Farmers’ Market. As the Terms of Reference

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had been met, Houghtaling suggested that the current committee may not be required any longer.

9.3 Advisory Committees

None

9.4 Community Committees

9.4.1 Physician Recruitment & Retention - Commissioner Duncan.
The committee hosts any prospective physician looking for a new practise. There has been some financial help with this from a provincial grant. There are many other communities also looking to attract new doctors. It is hoped that the new hospital will help attract new healthcare professionals.

9.4.2 Communities in Bloom (CIB)

A report from CIB was submitted later in the meeting. See minute 10.6.

10 REPORTS - from other levels of government and local organizations that collaborate with, fund or are funded by the Village.

10.1 RCMP - PUGWASH DETACHMENT - Cpl Shawn Galbraith - absent

No report

10.2 MLA FOR CUMBERLAND NORTH - Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin

See attached. Under *Health care*, Smith-McCrossin supports using a recruiting company to find health care workers for the area. There was some discussion on the decision-making process to change the level of care of the facility. For example, the ER of Tatamagouche was, apparently, changed to Urgent Care without any public consultation or input. It was suggested that the Village request a meeting to discuss this matter with Nova Scotia Health.

Under *Affordability*, Smith-McCrossin also talked about how Nova Scotia income tax rate base rate does not change with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as it does in most other provinces.

10.3 NOVA SCOTIA DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING –

Municipal Advisor Jason Haughn

Role: responsible for 28 Villages and Towns. Training – Strategic planning, thinking and priorities with Pugwash Commission and staff in the last year. Municipal Government Act – is still under review. Code of Conduct

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legislation is nearly complete. This applies to all levels of government. Included is a process of redress if a complaint is made. The ANSV has been very well represented in the development of this legislation. Haughn encouraged all present to be engaged in local government and volunteer.

- 10.4 MUNICIPALITY OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY – Councillor Jennifer Houghtaling.** The Municipality asked for a review of the fire services in the County resulting in 200 recommendations made within the 1,000 page document. Houghtaling said that the County owns 16 fire departments and is responsible for providing all equipment and all aspects of the fire services. Police Services Review: focused on the visibility of the RCMP in the community. A Request For Proposals for policing in the County has been released. Another County priority is investing in renewable energy, particularly geothermal. Recreation – the County is working with Village staff to bring more programming to the Village. Asset Management – maintaining infrastructure and preparing for future projects or replacement. Solid waste – working towards legislating that product producers become responsible for managing their packaging waste, not the consumer or taxpayer. Houghtaling thanked the Commission for its recent letter to the Municipality requesting extension of (sewer) services in the Village and beyond. This request aligns with Municipal planning, which is very helpful. The Pugwash Master Plan (2010) is still in effect. Many aspects have been completed. Sidewalks remain a priority. Other issues include affordable housing, climate change action plan and high levels of building and development permits. Emergency management - comfort stations are at the Legion, the fire station and Ground Search and rescue building. Solid waste – new rules are coming that are going to make management more difficult and costly.

Commissioner Mundle wanted to make it clear that not all equipment in the Pugwash department was provide by the Municipality. For example, the rescue boat and the side-by-side were purchased with fund raising events held in the community.

Smith-McCrossin commented that she appreciated how easy it was to work with Houghtaling. She also added Pugwash sidewalks are finally on the province's Five Year Plan. This will go ahead once the storm drains are replaced/repaired n the next two years.

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- 10.5 PUGWASH AND DISTRICT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT** – As Fire Chief Yarrow was not present, Brent Wilson (32-year member of the PVFD) gave a report.

The department currently has 39 active members. All are volunteers, responding, on average, to over a hundred calls a year. These include structure and wildland fire, medical assists, water rescue and animal rescue. Wilson told the meeting about the acquisition of the rescue boat and side-by-side from local fund raising. The Rafflebox 50:50 fundraiser has been a tremendous help. The next project is to build housing for the new equipment. Training: the department has hosted County training for Level I Firefighter relevant to local, rural departments.

- 10.6 PUGWASH COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM (CIB)** – Maureen Leahey, President. Report attached.

- 10.7 2022 GATHERING OF THE CLANS** - Lisa Betts, Coordinator
Report attached.

- 10.8 HARBOURFEST** – Louise Haycocks, Chair. Absent.
No report submitted. The Clerk told the meeting about the additional events the HarbourFest committee has organized over the past year. They include the community Christmas dinner, (lobster trap) Setting Day, management of the docks at Dinghy Beach and summer concerts.

- 10.9 PUGWASH FARMERS' MARKET** – President Pat McInnis. Absent.
No report submitted. Houghtaling reported that the market has a new manager. There are night markets and concerts planned. Focus will be on zero waste from vendors. Reporting on the Community Hub in the interior of the train station - some equipment has arrived and will be installed soon. A coffee shop should be set up soon. The solar panels on the Farmers' Market building is providing power to offset the Village power bills.

- 10.10 NORTH CUMBERLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY** – President Harvey Gullon
Report attached.

- 10.11 SUNSET COMMUNITY** – Carrie Nix. Absent. No report submitted.

11 ADOPTION OF REPORTS

11.1 MOTION

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**It was moved by Commissioner MacEwan and seconded by
Commissioner Duncan that all reports presented be adopted.**

MOTION CARRIED

12 INFORMATION ITEMS

12.1 Unsightly and Dangerous Premises

The procedure of making a formal complaint were explained. The high volume of complaints and low staff numbers makes it hard for Municipal staff to respond to all complaints. Priority is given to dangerous properties.

13 ADJORNMENT

**It was moved by Commissioner Mundle that the meeting be adjourned at
8:57pm**

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted
Lisa Betts
Clerk Treasurer

Chair _____

Clerk Treasurer _____

**Report for Village of Pugwash
Annual General Meeting
25th May 2023**

Welcome to the Village of Pugwash Annual General Meeting and thank you all for coming here this evening.

As you have heard from the auditor, the Village is in stable financial standing.

However, due to very low revenues from property taxes, the Village is still not in a position to get into any new, large capital spending for the next year or two.

The capital loan the Village took out to finish paying for the new stage in the park, the Pugwash Harbourfront Centre, will be paid off this year, as will the payments on our tractor. The Village is obliged then to build up reserves for capital spending. These reserves are generally used for unbudgeted, or unexpected, capital spending.

For example, post tropical storm **Fiona** heavily damaged our beautiful waterfront boardwalk. After many appeals, the insurance company continues to disallow coverage for that damage. The Village will have to bear those repair costs. This is a capital cost we did not budget for this time last year and becomes a cost that will be covered by reserves. We have applied for funding assistance from the Province and the Federal governments.

Just like our residents and businesses, our operational costs have increased, forcing our staff to continue to look at every cost saving measure during these tough times.

Despite these increasing operational costs and mandated requirements to build up reserves, the Commission has agreed that tax rates will not go up this year.

Tax relief is given to three worthy organizations in the village: Pugwash Area Ground Search and Rescue, Camp Pagweak, and Northumberland Community Curling Club.

Preparations for Canada Day and the Gathering of the Clans are proceeding. The theme of the day is "Proud to Call This Home" – welcoming visitors and residents old and new. The Gathering of the Clans and Canada Day celebrations have changed and evolved over the years. A recent change is the company that provides midway rides and games. After many years of increasing costs, the company that came here for many years is no longer able to come to Pugwash for July 1st. We have been able to hire HRM Mascots who will be providing all kinds of bouncy fun and games instead.

The Village has supported projects such as Art in the Park, StoryWalk and Community Hub projects at the Train Station property, new tennis courts and a study looking at the use of highways by off road vehicles. The Village has also been in communication with different levels of government to add its support in projects working towards sidewalks in the Village and extended services, primarily sewer, to areas not yet served. We believe that these developments will be of great benefit to the Village residents and help the development of housing and businesses outside the core of the Village.

The Village is working in collaboration with the Municipality and the YMCA to bring some recreational programming to the Village including soccer and swimming programs

On behalf of my fellow Commissioners and the residents of Pugwash and the surrounding community, I say thank you to our staff – full time and part time, seasonal and year-round, for all they do to keep the village running smoothly and looking beautiful, tidy, clean, and safe.

We invite you to attend our regular meetings on the second Monday of each month to observe and witness how a Commission operates. I truly feel that an informed community is a united community. Knowing how decisions are reached is often more important than simply knowing the decision.

I encourage any village resident to consider joining us as volunteers on the Commission. There is always much to learn about governance and the job brings great satisfaction.

Respectfully submitted,
Brent Wilson, Chair pro tem
25th May 2023

Pugwash Village Commission AGM Cumberland North MLA Report

May 25, 2023

As the elected member of the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly for Cumberland North, I am proud to represent the citizens of this constituency located in the heart of the Maritime Provinces. It is my responsibility to voice the concerns of the people and represent their viewpoints. It is also my responsibility to assist in problem solving and to develop expertise on topics of importance to Cumberland North, to share ideas for new laws and to propose amendments to existing laws. All of these are undertaken in an effort to empower my fellow citizens and to continue to the people of Cumberland North and Build this great area of the province and Maritime Region.

2023-2024 Priorities

Continuing to build on our work to date and based on what I hear every day from local citizens, the main priorities for myself and my team in 2023-2024 will be:

- Healthcare
- Affordability
- Children and Education
- Economy and Entrepreneurship
- Maritime Collaboration
- Isthmus of Chignecto Protection
- Truth and Justice - Sexual assault and IPV

Healthcare

Discussions surrounding the delivery of health care services are undoubtedly where I spend the majority of my time. Rarely a day goes by that my office doesn't receive a call or message from a patient or family with genuine concerns. Long before the recent unfortunate loss of Ali Holthoff the health care system was, quite simply, a mess.

After Ali's death, I developed a sixteen point action plan that would, if acted upon by government, improve the delivery of emergency services at the Cumberland Regional Health Care Centre and bring about substantive changes to the provincial system.

In addition to the 16 Point Plan I continue to pressure the Department of Health to recruit psychiatrists and obstetricians. Expand mental health crisis team to be available 24/7, open a cancer care centre in Cumberland and many more items. Request to see strategic plan for more details.

The construction of the Pugwash Hospital is continuing with some delays. It is expected to be finished late August, early September.

One concern is the possibility that NS Health may try to change the ER to an Urgent Care Centre. An UCC is a downgrade in service and will not benefit the people of Pugwash.

Affordability

Early in this new year, increasing inflation is impacting governments and individual citizens around the world with no change anticipated in the near future. Unfortunately, the current situation is just adding another layer of misery to the many in our communities who are struggling to keep a roof over their heads, to heat their homes and to feed their children. This isn't new. The needs are wide-ranging and evolving. Many, including the working poor and seniors, are just one financial crisis from facing life-changing decisions. Others are already homeless because affordable housing is almost non-existent. Despite the recent opening of a temporary winter emergency shelter, the long-term prospects for the unsheltered are bleak.

Those who are what is commonly referred to as "the middle class" are also facing challenges. Power rates and heating oil costs are increasing. Grocery costs in general have increased over 10% since this time last year and are forecast to continue to rise. The costs to borrow money to purchase a home or a vehicle are constantly increasing and credit cards interest rates are escalating.

Several pieces of legislation have been tabled with recommendations to assist in affordability for our people.

Protecting the Isthmus of Chignecto Isthmus

The Chignecto Isthmus connects Nova Scotia with New Brunswick and North America. On average, over \$50 million in goods are transported through the Chignecto Isthmus daily by both rail and roadways. Annual it is 35 Billion ++.

The dikes and aboiteaux along the Chignecto Isthmus are in urgent need of repair and past governments have failed to make the necessary financial commitments to address this issue. The federal government has now indicated its willingness to find 50% of the costs however neither Nova Scotia nor New Brunswick have made this a budgetary priority,

This is a problem is considered by the United Nations as one of the three greatest risks due to climate change. <https://research.fit.edu/media/site-specific/researchfitedu/coast-climate-adaptation-library/canadaamp-arctic/canada---atlantic/Webster-et-al.--2012.--An-Evaluation-of-Flood-Risk-to-Infrastructure-Acrossthe-Chignecto-Isthmus.pdf>

The people of Cumberland North urge this government to work with the government of New Brunswick to invest now in the protection of this valuable Isthmus.

Education, Entrepreneurship & Economy

Public Education System

Parents, Students, Teachers and Educational Assistants have contacted me regarding the lack of learning that is happening in classrooms due to many students requiring extra support. The cause is varied from disabilities and behavioural challenges.

Priorities for Pugwash area include the Bill Mundle Marina, Housing, New Daycare, OHV Trail development, Forestry, increasing number of tradespeople.

The storm system for the Village is included in the 5 Year plan and scheduled for 2024. This is a significant investment and project by Public Works.

Howards Bridge is being replaced this spring/summer.

Maritime Collaboration

The Maritime provinces are connected geographically and historically and we have the potential to be national and global leaders in demonstrating how governments can work together for the betterment of all. Our populations are relatively small in comparison to other areas of the country however we have a unique opportunity to develop our shared resources, health care systems and government services to create cost savings and provide enhanced services. I call on the government of Nova Scotia to enter substantive discussions with our Maritime neighbours to develop true collaborative government with an initial focus on health care services. **We must make Growing the Maritime Economy through collaboration with New England States a priority.**

Veterans

Veterans deserve and need supports and my staff and I are working with them on several fronts including the Armoury, Veterans Medical Clinic and Afghanistan War memorial.

Sexual assault and Non-Disclosure Agreements, Family Violence, Policing and Justice are other areas reflective of needed legislative changes.

Democracy is under threat with the continued polarization of partisan politics and culture that enables centralization of power. Democratic representative governments should allow the voices of the people to be heard. This is something I will continue to fight for, for our people, and all people.

~ Elizabeth Smith-McCrossin
MLA for Cumberland North

Pugwash Communities in Bloom (CIB) Annual Report April 1, 2022- March 31, 2023
for CIB AGM and Pugwash Village Commission

The Village of Pugwash was the *winner in the National Communities in Bloom (CIB) Class of Champions*-population under 1,000. Rated 5 Blooms-Silver and a special mention for *Prospering Partnerships*. Also received an **Outstanding Achievement Award for Community Involvement**.

Following their evaluation in July, the two national volunteer judges Lorna McIlroy and Linda Tomlinson wrote:

“The picturesque Village of Pugwash is located on the north shore of Nova Scotia at the mouth of the Pugwash River. Pugwash is a vibrant community of enthusiastic people. In summer, the population can swell seven-fold with the addition of cottagers and visitors. Volunteer dedication has enabled Pugwash to host this quantity of visitors and be one of the best places to live in Canada. Amazingly, this small village has more than 60 volunteer organizations. Partnerships among the volunteer organizations have prospered. Operating under the umbrella of the CIB Committee, the Pugwash Open Air Gallery adds greatly to the landscape. Friends of the Pugwash Estuary join CIB in protecting the natural heritage. The CIB Committee also partners with agencies, schools, and groups to advance their goals. Increased cooperation with the Village Commissioners and their Municipal Councillor reaps benefits. Collaborative Partnerships enable the community to grow and bloom”.

CIB focusses on the categories of community appearance, plant/floral display, environmental action, heritage conservation, tree management, and landscape. Significant accomplishments in each area in 2022-2023 include:

Community Appearance:

- The Great Garbage Challenge was a big success. More than 77 local residents, PDHS/CEES students, Village and Salt Mine employees pledged to clean a roadway and/or beach section, chose their own time, and picked up litter. About 48 km. were covered including the village core, West Pugwash, sections of Gulf Shore, Irishtown, Rabbittown, Murray, Pugwash River, Cape Cliff, and Crowley Roads. This year Port Howe and Linden also participated. Unfortunately, more than 100 bags of garbage weighing about 510 pounds were collected. Thanks to KGB, the Village and Municipality for co-sponsoring this Great NS Pick-Me-Up event.
- Purchased new hoops
- Many residents contributed to cleaning up and helping each other deal with the damage from Fiona.
- Advocacy efforts continued with the Village and Municipality to address dangerous and unsightly properties.

Plant and Floral Displays:

- CIB and the Village divided up gardening responsibilities with flower selection and planting in village gardens, planters, and triangle. Red and white colours commemorated the Queen's jubilee and honored Covid healthcare providers. The Village hired a part-time gardener to focus exclusively on the village gardens and CIB contributed up to \$2000 toward salary costs. Having a dedicated person focussing on flowers and maintenance is making a significant positive difference. Unfortunately the gardener had to leave the position in early July owing to health reasons.
- VC-CIB Gardening Partnership Committee composed of the Village Clerk and a CIB member continue to collaborate to ensure the gardens are their very best.
- CIB held a very successful Spring Plant Sale offering typical and unique/unusual plants.
- Assisted NCMH Thrift Shop, Pugwash Ground, Search & Rescue in maintaining their gardens
- Maintained the Post Office garden.
- Volunteered to work with CEES Garden Club and teacher
- The Municipality and the Village Commission agreed to our request to proclaim 2022 as the Year of the Garden. As our part in *The Year of the Garden 2022*, a nation-wide program, we offered a number of informative and fun events in our community:
 - *Mulching Work.* CIB volunteers mulched several village gardens and new trees.
 - *Celebration of Gardens* recognizes and celebrates gardens and the hard work of gardeners. Container gardens, vegetable gardens and children's gardens...all were acknowledged. The public was invited to nominate gardens by submitting photos and brief descriptions; gardens were visited and featured on CIB's Facebook page in August.
 - *CEES Gardens.* Cyrus Eaton Elementary students planted seeds in their classroom, tended to them and watched them grow. In the spring they weeded and prepared the soil to plant their seeds and transplants. During the summer the produce from the various fruit trees and plants was available for the community to pick and enjoy. A group of enthusiastic children from the village, under the guidance a dedicated CIB volunteer, planted seeds and tended to the garden during the summer months.
 - *"Take Me" Flowers.* This small but thoughtful, and much appreciated, effort saw a number of bouquets of flowers pop up in the village. Delighted 'finders' were encouraged to take these beautiful gifts home, complements of CIB.
 - *Open Gardens.* Garden lovers were invited to visit three outstanding gardens in our area one hot Saturday in July. Seventy-seven visitors toured gardens on the Gulf Shore (Liz Clarke), Pleasure Cove (Vandewiel's garden) and Prince Albert Street (Valerie Brown) in Pugwash and get pointers and recommendations from experienced gardeners.
 - *Ask a Gardener Series.* July was also an opportunity to visit gardeners with expertise in growing perennials (Debbie Cameron) and vegetables (Dot Pal at the Open Hamper Community Garden).

- *Bulbs, Fall Clean-up:* 360 daffodil bulbs were planted. Most are in the park, at the base of flagpoles, peace garden; some at Ground Search and Rescue and thrift store garden, in the dories and at Dinghy Beach.

Environmental Action:

- CIB initiated a No Mow May project in partnership with the Municipality, elementary and high schools.
- Partnered with the Food Bank promoting donations of surplus vegetables.
- Circulated posters advertising how to dispose of Sharps and Drugs
- CIB adopted the following policy about Unsightly Premises:
 - “CIB will send out the complaint forms as issued by the Municipality to anyone who asks about this matter. CIB will not be the lead on individual complaints. Rather, CIB will make the Village Commission aware of concerns about a property and will advise individual residents to make the complaint to the Municipality themselves. CIB will continue to work towards a clean, safe and tidy community through positive action and remediation where possible”.
- EcoSeminar/Ocean Grant: In partnership with the Farmers Market and Community Roundtable, CIB planned :
 - an evening presentation for April 2023 by the manager of North Nova with the topic being trees (types, soil, care, remediation after extreme weather) and a focus on homeowners.
 - A celebration of Ocean Day, June 8 at the Lobster Factory

Heritage Conservation:

- CIB designed, financed and installed a heritage interpretative sign commemorating the Salt Mine. Village and Windsor employees, Sheryl’s Bakery, Municipality, and Tools & Time all collaborated on this project.
- Art in the Park. CIB, Pugwash Open Air Gallery and HarbourFest joined forces on July 30 to host a day of Art Demonstrations, Guided Art Tours around the village to see 16 installations, Artful Tree displays and the creation of a Community Art Project.
- CIB installed a large steel peace sculpture in Eaton Park as part of the tradition of Pugwash being world renown for Peace. The public wrote messages for peace and affixed them to the sculpture during HarbourFest.
- CIB received a \$1000 grant from the Wallace, Wentworth, Pugwash and Area Community Health Board to promote community involvement in *Art in the Park* during HarbourFest 2022.

Tree Management:

- Of the 17 trees planted in Spring 2020, 13 are thriving. A delightful success! The 10 red oaks along the perimeter of the elementary school on King Street have started to make a definite presence.
- A walk about identified dead trees, problem issues, and potential solutions. Volunteers added mulch to the CEES trees.
- Replaced 3 dead red oak at CEES property. Mulched, fertilized, and watered the trees.
- Installed 5 snow poles on Church Street to guide the plough from pushing snow on trees.
- Advocacy for county wide arborist services was continued with the Municipality
- Encouraged tree planting, observance of National Tree Planting Day, and publicized the Pugwash Tree Inventory and list of desirable trees to plant.
- Initiated discussions with PDHS about tree planting in future years. Owing to insufficient volunteer time, no planting was done at PDHS.
- Sourcing trees from private lands. CIB volunteers explored this possibility but it proved not feasible.
- *Love this Tree.* CIB encouraged residents to share photos of their favourite trees and explain why on the CIB Facebook page. Favorite trees were chosen and celebrated on National Tree Day Sept 21.

Landscape:

- Installed Winterscape including erecting the trees on the vacant lot adjacent to CO-OP, hanging wreaths on the bridge, village hall and library, decorating the window boxes and lighting the Cenotaph.
- Organized a Festival of Lights contest celebrating winter holidays in our community. CIB judges drove past over 400 homes in the greater Pugwash area to pick winners in the Festival of Lights contest. So impressive the great variety of outdoor lights, creativity of owners, and sheer number of light displays. They awarded gift certificates to the three winners at the Pugwash Christmas Farmers' Market.
- Bush cut and cleaned the area near the Village Welcome/Gateway Signs. Discussed with Village how to increase maintenance of these areas. Planned for the creation of a shrub garden near the western Gateway sign.
- New Bike Racks. CIB purchased two new bike racks with grant money from the Municipality.
- New Library landscaping: Two CIB volunteers met with the Municipality Library project leader to provide input on proposed landscaping for the new library.

Community Involvement:

In addition to work in the above areas, CIB focuses on community pride and development:

- 1 July Parade: CIB won 2nd prize in non-commercial category. It was fun for members and the public gave lots of positive feedback.
- In late July, Pugwash CIB was delighted to host National Communities in Bloom judges, Lorna McIlroy from Grande Prairie AB and Linda Tomlinson from Kelowna BC. During a two-day visit, judges met representatives from a number of local organizations and businesses, including Friends of the Pugwash Estuary, Cumberland Trails, Sunrise Greenhouses, KGB Recycling, HarbourFest, Open Hamper Food Bank, Pugwash Open Air Gallery, the Tennis/Pickleball Assoc., Sport Pugwash, Bill Mundle Marina, Thinkers Lodge, and many more. Representatives of all three levels of government outlined how our community is administered and funded for new projects including the hospital, Harbourfront Centre Stage, library and tennis/pickleball facility. Pugwash received the judges' recommendations in late October during the National CIB Symposium in BC.
- CIB continued work on disseminating the Community Profile Book. The 2022 version is available digitally on the village website. The Village initiated making 25 copies of the book for distribution to prospective physicians, commissioners, etc. A copy was given to Mayor Scott.
- Recognition Program. CIB identified community members who contribute significantly to making Pugwash an even more vibrant place to live. Their photos and a brief description of their contribution were part of the Village Newsletter. Their names on the CO-OP sign is a significant way to acknowledge their contributions.
- Awards. Norene Smiley received the Queen's Jubilee Pin in recognition of her commitment to community support within Cumberland- Colchester.
- Fundraising: Over 150 people donated to various fundraising events: February online auction of a Valentine's basket, a dinner at Inn the Elms, Gardening Basket, Fall auction and direct ask. We're most appreciative of the generous support of the community individual donors, businesses and granting bodies.
- Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. This annual event recognizes community volunteers who donate thousands of hours to enhance Pugwash and area. In 2022 after an absence of two years during Covid, it was very heartwarming and wonderful to hear from all the various organizations about how they have contributed to our community. About 70 volunteers attended.
- Community Photo Bank: CIB and HarbourFest are creating a Community Photo Bank.
- Community Christmas Dinner. To celebrate the season a group of community organizations/ businesses and the Municipality partnered to offer the first ever Community Christmas Dinner at the Pugwash Legion. About 90 guests enjoyed a hot turkey dinner, talked with old friends and neighbours, and met new community members. Sponsors included HarbourFest, Mike Cunningham Construction, Municipality of Cumberland, Open Hamper Food Bank, Pugwash Communities in Bloom, Pugwash Farmers Market, Pugwash Legion, Pugwash Women's Institute, Rebekah Lodge, and Wallace, Wentworth, Pugwash & Area Community Health Board.

Submitted by Maureen Leahey, Chair, mdleahey@gmail.com

Gathering of the Clans (GOC) and Canada Day report 2022

After a two year hiatus, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 70th Pugwash Gathering of the Clans and Canada was very successful. All normal events and competitions went ahead.

The day started with the Highland Dance competitions on the Harbourfront stage for the first time and ended with Dave Gunning and his son playing the Harbourfront Centre and fabulous fireworks – probably the biggest display Pugwash has ever seen.

The parade was as large as any could remember for a long time. The winners were:

Commercial

- 1st Cunnigham Construction
- 2nd By the Bay Farm
- 3rd The Elm Tree

Non-commercial

- 1st George Lockhart
- 2nd Pugwash Communities in Bloom
- 3rd Friends of the Pugwash Estuary

Antique Vehicles

- 1st John and Nellie VandeWeil
- 2nd Alvin MacAulay
- 3rd #12

Most Original/Humorous:

The Royal Funny Farm

There were 80 Highland Dancers competing PHC stage through the morning. The winner of the much-prized Bonny Gael Memorial Trophy was Gwendolyn Landry of Truro, NS. The judge was Ann Landry from Grande Digue, NB.

There were two pipe and drum bands this year, both from Cape Breton University. The Corrections Canada band entered the parade but did not compete. There were 9 pipers and 1 drummers who registered for a total of 28 solo competition events. Updated numbers from field entries are pending.

The midway games and rides were unavailable. They were replaced by inflatable activity area which was very popular. Just as the Midway charged for entry to their rides and paid the GOC a percentage as a vendor fee, this year there were wristbands to be purchased for unlimited entry or one-ride-only tickets. The GOC broke even on costs. Now we have explored this area of entertainment we can prepare and plan on an expansion of the kinds of inflatables and activities, reaching a wider audience in a cost effective way.

With the addition of beach toys and bubbles, the volleyball court became a very popular sand pit, entertaining youngsters for free all day.

26 vendors registered for the day. Four didn't show. Most of the vendors were new to the festival, COVID having taken its toll on many others.

The heavyweight games were held again at the Cyrus Eaton Elementary school playgrounds.

The Opening Ceremony was held on the Pugwash Harbourfront Centre. Competition and parade winners were announced from the stage and those present were awarded their prizes. A delicious, giant birthday cake was donated by Donna Guthro. Dr Stephen Ellis, MP helped cut the cake and distribute to the appreciative crowd.

The entertainment at the PHC were Paul Randy Mingo, Alycia Putnam and family, Christina Martin and Dale Murray band and finally Dave Gunning. The fireworks were set off around 10pm.

The gates were run by groups of volunteers. Advance sales and the six gates took in \$,19,403 selling 4,227 wristbands on July 1st. This was about 81% of our expected (budgeted) numbers. We put the lower numbers down to the cool weather and the continued hesitancy by some people to venture into big crowds post COVID-19.

Thank you to the 120 or more volunteers that helped the day go smoothly and coped with a very different festival this year. All the various events, parade security, the gates and bankers are all run by volunteers and all deserve big thanks! Other paid help also helped make the day run smoothly and professionally: Hub City Sound (sound and lights), Scotty Brown (stage manager), the competition judges and HRM Inflatables. The MC for the day, Stacie Fisher, helped the day go smoothly.

Thanks also go to the many sponsors whose generosity help make this historic event a success. There were fewer Bronze sponsors this year but more Silver and Gold level sponsors. They make a tremendous difference in keeping this festival going.

A Ceilidh in the Park was planned for Saturday July 2nd but was cancelled due to rain and high winds.

Having an assistant help with event organization and registration, particularly with the vendors and inflatable entertainment, was an enormous help. Advance sales at the Visitor Information Centre improved again this year and we see that as a useful means of selling wristbands in the future.

The financial report is included in the Village of Pugwash Financial Statement for 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Betts, Coordinator

August 2022

Pugwash HarbourFest
May 2023

I am writing on behalf of HarbourFest to thank the Village for all of the support they have provided to us over the past years. It is truly appreciated.

Unfortunately, Louise Haycocks, our chair, will be away at the time of the AGM and will not be attending.
Gillian Forward

North Cumberland Historical and Genealogical Society

May 25, 2023

The NCHS started this year off in a post covid, normal setting. We continue to cover the same communities as the High School, this being Northport, Port Howe, Pugwash, Pugwash River, Pugwash Junction, Conns Mills, Middleboro, Wentworth, Westchester, Wallace, Malagash and all points in between.

Being centrally location in the village of Pugwash brings more attention to this village than to our outlying areas. Our Web site promotes the village with our snail mail address at the Pugwash Post Office. Our facebook presence is well used with many hits weekly.

We continue to be open on Fridays from 1 pm to 4 pm and at other times by appointment. Friday we answer questions about family history, we file donations from the public such as pictures of families, buildings and landscapes as well as documents like land deeds.

We are one of the oldest Historical Societies in the province of Nova Scotia, being in operation from 1963.

Our reach has been world wide in the past. Most of are enquires come from Canada and the USA. We had a couple from British Columbia visit just a couple of weeks ago. They had chosen to come to Pugwash for their holiday rather than go to Hawaii. That is how strong the pull of learning about your roots is. They spent about three days in the village, making use of the restaurants, the park, drug store and the Coop. She was the Great Great Granddaughter of Dr. Joseph Clarke He died in Pugwash 1880 after mistakenly drinking carbolic acid. One of the most embarrassing parts of their visit was to have to show them where the Clarke house was - the house beside the Scotiabank. (Clerk's note: a building now in great disrepair).

We have a mother and daughter booked for June 7th and 8th. They are from Albany, New York and Hopkinton Mass. and will be visiting the area to do research into their family. With covid restrictions lifted, we anticipate many more visitors in the coming months.

Last November, Dianne wrote an article on the life of Pilot Officer Gerald Weyman Murray RCAF from Pugwash, who was an Air gunner in the second war. He was shot down and died in the crash. This story was picked up by an Ottawa Citizen reporter, who writes an article each November on a veteran. He asked permission to use the information Dianne has put together.

The Confederation Art Gallery in Charlottetown PE was looking to do an art display of one of their own, Robert Harris, who painted the 1864 Quebec Conference and the Fathers of Confederation. His original hung in the parliament building in Ottawa until it burnt in 1916. They asked the National Art Gallery in Ottawa if a print of that painting exists. Ottawa did not have a copy, and told them the one copy that exists that they know of is owned by the NCHS in Pugwash.

NCHS 2023

We continue to get comments about the CBC documentary on the re-purpose of the old train station. The Society was helpful in working with Hike Pugwash trails to prepare text and pictures for trail signs.

We have 1000's of pictures on file of places and families. Records of business,550 plus family files.....maps...history files...school registers...a library of books..archives of Pugwash Peace Exchange...scrapbooks...books for sale..

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Ongoing project is the indexing of the many scrapbooks we have.

We are also working on preparing a book detailing the history of the NCHS. This will be our 60th year in operations and a celebration is planned for August.

Our cemetery book of 2008 has been digitized – now in the process of updating from 2008 to present. Also collecting obituaries of those buried in the various cemeteries. This will be a huge benefit for visitors or anyone doing research on their family tree.

University of Prince Edward Island is undertaking a project, that they hope to publish, about farms and farming, and it will include the north shore of Nova Scotia – The Northumberland Strait, and some families that live there. The MacKay family of Malagash is of particular interest to them.

Our anticipative move down stair to street level will enable more volunteers to access the building and better exposure for the society. It will allow more room to sort our archives for better displays and allow us to highlight the history of Pugwash to our visitors.

We are well know throughout North America and our location being centred in Pugwash has given the village great exposure, as we draw people to the area.

Harvey Gullon
President
NCHS