



Volume 8 No. 1



Newsletter

March 2014

Warden's Message

The Municipality of Argyle continues to focus on economic development for Argyle with the great work of the Argyle Economic Development Committee and the Exit 33 Development Committee. As with many efforts, we must consider the merits of improving our municipality while working in partnership with our closest neighbours. A strong economy in Argyle helps the entire region!

As we still find ourselves in winter, don't forget that there are many opportunities for all our residents to stay active! Please contact our Active Living Coordinator, Natalie Surette d'Entremont if you wish to get help to organize an activity in your area, or if you want information on reserving schools or other facilities.

As we find ourselves beginning to prepare our budget, please also keep in mind that there are many municipal and provincial grant application deadlines in March and April. For more information on the applications for the Municipality of Argyle's scholarship, grants to organizations and tax exemption program, please contact the municipal office.

Happy reading!

Warden Aldric d'Entremont

<i>New Initiative</i>		<i>Business Spotlight</i>		<i>Opportunity for students</i>	
<i>Buy Local!</i>	<i>Page 2</i>	<i>Growing Green Earthworm Castings</i>	<i>Page 3</i>	<i>Growing Communities Scholarships</i>	<i>Page 4</i>

Economic Development Update

Council has approved an economic development plan for Argyle as prepared by the Chris Lowe Planning and Management Group. We recognize the importance in investing in both local and regional economic development initiatives. To assist us in this work, we have recruited members of our community to provide us with their business perspective on where Council should focus its resources to influence the creation of jobs in our community. Two committees have been put in place- one to further develop Exit 33 (Tusket) as a business/service hub and the second is the Economic Development Steering Committee which examines the remaining priorities in the plan. To view the plan, please visit www.munargyle.com/strategic-plan-and-icsp.html (Economic Development Plan).

The members have been asked to serve the Municipality in three capacities:

- to assist Council and staff in establishing priorities and an action plan to ensure the recommendations that matter most are executed.
- to offer ongoing advice to the municipality on current trends and business related opportunities.
- to recommend how Council should invest funds earmarked for local economic development opportunities in an advisory role.



Our warden, Aldric d'Entremont, receiving his Long Service Award at the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM) Annual Conference on November 7th, 2013. This was a Platinum Award for 25 years' service!
Well done!!!

The members of the two committees are as follows:

Economic Development Steering Committee

1. Philip Atkinson - Coastal Financial Credit Union
2. Marie-Germaine Chartrand - Université Ste Anne
3. Jules LeBlanc - Ocean Pride Fisheries
4. Tim Bourque - Logtek Inc.
5. Mike Doucette - Acker and Doucette Surveying Inc.
6. Roger d'Entremont - Le Village historique acadien de la NÉ
7. Ronnie Crowell - Crowell's Farms Ltd.

Exit 33 Development Committee

1. Calvin Boudreau - Del Agency Ltd.
2. Ian McNicol - Garian Construction Ltd.
3. Hubert Pothier - Tusket Sales and Service
4. Marcel Pothier - Tusket Sales and Service
5. Laura Muise - The Hatfield House
6. Marie-Germaine Chartrand - Université Ste Anne
7. Tom Moulaison - Coastal Financial Credit Union
8. Greg Pottier - Carl's Store Ltd.

Did you know...

- ◆ Council meetings are open to the public and are held the second and last Tuesday of each month - meetings typically begin at 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ All individuals or groups requesting an opportunity to make a presentation to Council must contact the CAO's office at 648-3293 at least two weeks prior in order to be added to the Council meeting agenda.
- ◆ Council meeting agendas are ready for distribution (on the Municipal website - www.munargyle.com/council-meeting-archive.html or pick-up in person) on the Friday prior to each meeting.

BUYING LOCAL!

The Municipality of Argyle has recently launched a buy-local initiative which encourages our residents to buy local products and services. As part of this initiative we have decided to update our purchase policy to include a buy-local component.

As part of our changes, we have reviewed our purchases of products and services to see if we could make them more locally. We are proud to list the type of products or services which we have recently begun to buy local:

Printing Paper
Office Supplies
Medical Supplies
Promotional Items for
Recreation Department
Catering Services

Remember, our local businesses are operated by our friends and neighbours who live, work and are invested in our community to ensure it is a place we are proud to call home. As we did with our partnership in the 2013 Buy Local contest where \$500 Argyle bucks were won, we encourage and challenge you – as we are – to shift to buying local first!

Argyle Municipal Office Holiday Closures:

Please be advised that the Municipal Office and Archives will be closed for the following holidays:

Friday, April 18 Good Friday
Mon. April 21 Easter Monday
Mon. May 19 Victoria Day

ARGYLE RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Summer Employment

The Argyle Recreation Department is looking to hire summer students for office positions (Recreation Program Coordinator, Physical Activity Programmer, Senior Program Planner and Office Administrative Assistant), Day Camp positions (Day Camp Directors and Day Camp Counselors) and a Soccer Club Coordinator for the Argyle Minor Soccer Club. The deadline to apply for these positions is **April 11, 2014**.

Students interested in applying for any of these positions can do so by forwarding a cover letter and résumé to:

Argyle Recreation Department

27 Court House Road
Tusket, NS B0W 3M0

By email gdentremont@munargyle.com

Fax (902) 648-0367



Job descriptions will be available on our website at: munargyle.com/employment.html
For more information, please phone (902) 648-3379.

ATTENTION COMMUNITY GROUPS!

Municipality of Argyle: Grants to Organizations

Deadline to submit grant applications is

April 5th, 2014

The aim of the *Municipality Grant Program* is to provide modest levels of support and assistance to community non-profit organizations whose projects make the Municipality of Argyle a great place to live. Applications are available on our website: munargyle.com/grants-to-organizations.html as well as at the Argyle Municipal Office.

For information phone (902) 648-3293 or email cfrotten@munargyle.com

ACTIVE LIVING - THE IMPACT OF PHYSICAL INACTIVITY

Physical inactivity costs Canadian taxpayers approximately \$6.8 billion a year, or 3.7 percent of health care costs, per year. Getting moving and active is associated with as much as a 30% reduction in all causes of mortality rates

Today's Canadian children and youth are heavier, fatter, rounder and weaker than they were a generation ago.

**Source: Tremblay, M. S., Shields, M. Laviolette, M., Craig, C. L., Janssen, I., & Gorber, S. C. (2010). Fitness of Canadian children and youth: Results from the 2007-2009 Canadian Health Measures Survey. Statistics Canada, Health Reports 21(1), Catalogue no. 82-003-XPE.*

Childhood obesity in Canada has tripled over the past three decades.

**Source: Shilds, M. (2005). Measured Obesity: Overweight Canadian children and adolescents. Statistics Canada, Analytic Studies and Reports. ISSN: 1716-6713.*

A billion people worldwide are overweight and 300 million are obese.

**Source: World Health Organization. (2009). Global health risks: Mortality and burden of disease attributable to selected major risks. Retrieved from http://www.who.int/healthinfo/global_burden_disease/GlobalHealthRisks_report_full.pdf*

Worldwide, overweight and obesity cause more deaths than underweight.

**Source: World Health Organization. (2009). Global health risks: Mortality and burden of disease attributable to selected major risks. Retrieved from http://www.who.int/healthinfo/global_burden_disease/GlobalHealthRisks_report_full.pdf*

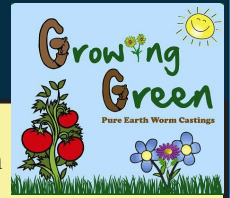
Physical inactivity is one of the five leading global risk factors for mortality and is estimated to cause 2 million deaths per year.

**Source: World Health Organization. (2009). Global health risks: Mortality and burden of disease attributable to selected major risks. Retrieved from http://www.who.int/healthinfo/global_burden_disease/GlobalHealthRisks_report_full.pdf*

For information on Physical Activity opportunities in your area, please "LIKE" Active Living – Municipality of Argyle on Facebook, or contact Natalie Surette d'Entremont, Active Living Coordinator at 648-3379.



Business Spotlight: Growing Green Earthworm Castings Inc.



Neil LeBlanc Jr. (known locally as P'tit Neil) and his wife Shannon, have brought a unique kind of farming to Southwestern Nova Scotia. During a recent visit to their farm, Neil proudly displays the end product which he explains are worm castings. The castings are non-toxic and odourless (just smell like soil), and they bear an uncanny resemblance to chocolate sprinkles! The journey which brought them here is an interesting one.

After earning his living as a lobster fisherman for 20 years, Neil decided he was ready for a change. At the time he struggled to know what form that change would take, though he was determined to remain in Yarmouth County rather than move away. Then, sitting in an airport, waiting to go on a family vacation, he was browsing through a magazine and came across an ad on vermiculture, and he was intrigued. He had heard about worm castings several years before, while taking courses on healthy eating and living, but at the time, the closest place to get them was from BC.

As soon as they returned home from their vacation, Neil contacted the company from the ad. They sent him an information package, and the next thing he knew, he was flying out to visit their farm in the US. He was immediately convinced that this was exactly what he wanted to do! So he paid his start-up costs which included the secret recipe and 24 buckets of worms (that's 8000 worms if you're counting), and he set up his new business in the back of a tractor trailer in his yard.

In order to do this, he had to make the difficult decision to sell his fishing rig and license, so there was no going back. But Neil is determined and not afraid of hard work, and over the past couple years, the business has grown and moved several times. Though the farm is currently housed in their rental location in Salmon River, Neil and Shannon have purchased the old Knights of Columbus hall in Wedgeport and are doing extensive renovations to turn it into their new worm farm. They anticipate moving to their new location in April. Incidentally, they currently have 1/2 million worms, producing about sixteen tons of castings per month!

The worm castings are used as a soil additive or fertilizer and have uses ranging from houseplants, planter gardening, gardens of all sizes, greenhouses and commercial farming. Growing Green Earthworm Castings has recently received their "Certified Organic" status. The product is sold in 3 L, 6 L, 15 L bags, as well as in 40 lbs bags and can be purchased at several local suppliers, as well as from larger suppliers in other parts of the province. A by-product of vermiculture is mulch, which is also available for sale. Traditional fertilizers are actually water soluble chemicals, making worm castings a healthier alternative for a growing population who are more health conscious. Though the price may seem a bit high compared to traditional fertilizer, a little goes a long way, and the resulting yields are worth it, according to the extensive, positive feedback from farmers who have been using worm castings in their plantings. Neil indicated that they have 100 tons ready for the Spring market.



For more information and a list of local suppliers, check out the website: <http://growinggreenearthwormcastings.com> and "Like" their Facebook page. Their office is located in Lower Wedgeport. Phone: 902-663-2557



Municipality of the District of Argyle - Spring 2014 Special Garbage Collection

Special garbage collection in the Municipality of Argyle will be carried out as follows (a different day than regularly scheduled garbage pickup):

- Thursday, May 15: East Pubnico, Argyle, Old School Road, Robert's Island, Glenwood, Lower Eel Brook, Sainte-Anne-du-Ruisseau, Rocco Point, stop at SAR Church
- Friday, May 16: Begin at SAR Church, Abram's River, Hubbard's Point, Amirault's Hill, Sluice Point, Surette's Island, Morris Island, including section of Highway 3 between Frank Doucette Road and Hanging Oak, stop at Hanging Oak
- Saturday, May 17: Lower West Pubnico, Middle West Pubnico, West Pubnico, Pubnico, Pubnico Head, including side roads in the area, Argyle Sound Road, Green Grove Road, section of Highway #3 between Argyle Sound Road and Intersection of #335 to Paul d'Entremont Marine
- Thursday, May 22: Wedgeport, Plymouth and Black Pond Road
- Friday, May 23: Comeau's Hill, Little River Harbour, Melbourne, Pleasant Lake, Gavel Road, East Kemptville, Tusket and Lake Vaughan Road
- Saturday, May 24: Chemin des Bourque, Eel Lake Road, Belleville, Bell Neck, Springhaven, Quinan

Roadside collection shall be set out **no earlier than seven (7) days** prior to the special collection. Please have items out the day of your scheduled pickup before 7 a.m. Construction and demolition debris will not be picked up during this special cleanup. A list of eligible items for this special collection can be found on the Municipal website or by contacting Property Inspection and Public Works at 648-2623.

Residential Property Tax Exemption

The Municipality of Argyle provides a property tax exemption for low income earners who are residents of the Municipality.

The exemption limits set by the Municipality of Argyle for the 2014 tax year are as follows:



Tax Exemption	Income
\$200	\$0-\$16,500
\$150	\$16,501-\$17,500
\$100	\$17,501-\$18,500
\$0	Over \$18,500

The income column noted above is the gross household income of all residents living in the homestead.

Applications are available on our website at:

www.munargyle.com/property-tax-exemption.html

or at the Municipal Office.

For more information, please contact the Tax Department at 648-2311. Deadline to apply is May 9th, 2014.

MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY REVIEW UPDATE

Our municipality is divided into districts which are each represented by a Councillor and each municipality is required by the Province to review the boundaries of these districts every 8 years. In 2014, the Municipality of Argyle must review their municipal boundaries to ensure they are still relevant.

The work to review these boundaries has already begun. In the coming months, the Municipality will be having a series of public consultations through a variety of mediums to seek input from you on the options chosen by Council.

You may also visit our dedicated boundary review page on our website at munargyle.com/boundary-review-front.html

Growing Communities Scholarship

The Municipality will be awarding two \$1,000 scholarships. One to a graduating student at École secondaire de Par-en-Bas and one to a graduating student at Drumlin Heights Consolidated School.

The students must be enrolled in a full-time certificate or degree program at an accredited community or technical college or trade school.

Information and application are found on our Facebook page as well as on our website at munargyle.com/growing-communities-scholarship-fund.html or at school guidance offices.



Deadline to apply is May 1st, 2014.

Contact Brenda LaGrandeur at 648-2931 or by email at blagrandeur@munargyle.com

Municipality of Argyle

27 Courthouse Road
PO Box 10

Tusket, Nova Scotia B0W 3M0

Fax : 648-0367

Website: www.munargyle.com

Municipal Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Community Development - 648-2931

EMO (Emergency Measures Office) - 648-2314

Finance & Administration - 648-3293

Municipal Archives - 648-2493

Property Inspection & Public Works - 648-2623

Recreation & IT - 648-3379

Taxation - 648-2311

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Email us at newsletter@munargyle.com