

PORTLAND COMMUNITY BOARD REPORT

Your Community Board manages the community hall and the government dock, and has responsibilities for the village either by making recommendations to Township Council, or direct service, such as the swimming beaches, the skating rinks, the plowing and sanding of some roads, removing garbage from public areas, and maintaining the grass in public areas.

Your Board operates on a budget of approximately \$18,000 per year. About half of that amount is raised by a tax levy on all property in the village. The balance comes mainly from fundraising, hall rental, and dock rental. The major fundraiser is the Annual Chicken Barbecue which, this year, showed a profit of over \$2,000. Last year, the next profit from overnight dockage charges was also over \$2,000.

Your Board has three groups of members, all unpaid:

1. Trustees: Three trustees are elected every three years at municipal election time. As described in the Municipal Act, to be nominated, a candidate must either reside in Ward 1 (Portland), or own a business here, and have the support of ten other electors (residents);

2. Community Representatives: Six community representatives are elected each year at the Annual Meeting of your Community Board. A person must be a resident or a business owner, and be nominated by the trustees.

3. Group Representatives: A number of community organizations, including the Anglican and United Churches, the Rideau Welcome Club, the Legion, the Firefighters' Association, and the Rideau Lakes Union Library Board place members on the Community Board. In each case these people are selected by their organizations.

The Board meets on the second Wednesday of each month. Each year, at its annual meeting in December, the Board selects its officers. This year these offices were filled as follows:

Chair.....Ross Andrew
Vice Chair.....Rick Long
Secretary.....Rob Dunfield
Treasurer.....Ken Derraugh

The Board has several ongoing projects:

1. Installation of outdoor play equipment for children at the Community Hall. This, originally scheduled as part of the re-development of the Hall, should be completed this Fall;

2. Rebuilding and repaving Water Street. This is currently in the planning

stage with Township Council and will depend on provincial grant money;

3. Continued development of the two Portland beaches, on Campbell Street, and Main Street;

4. A numbering system for homes and businesses in the village to simplify deliveries or to aid emergency vehicles. This may be completed this Fall;

5. Arranging the rebuilding of the main section of the Government Dock. This has been under

negotiation with the Small Craft Harbours Branch of the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries for the past two years. It may be undertaken this Winter;

6. Pursuing, in conjunction with Council, the maintenance of good public access to the lake for boats;

7. Ongoing consultation with Council on such issues as waste disposal, road maintenance, and the like. Your Board has completed several projects in the past three years:

1. The addition to the Community Hall of 5 washrooms, an inside and an outside ramp, a passenger lift, and a new septic system. The main building is now fully accessible to handicapped persons. This was done through Township Council and provincial grants;

2. The installation of floating docks at the Government Dock greatly increasing available dockage;

3. The placement of a second raft and a new float line at the Campbell St. beach, and the addition of sand at each beach;

4. Greatly increasing the number of picnic tables and benches available at various places in the village.

The Board has been able to keep the village tax levy at the same level for the past three years. Few public bodies can make that statement.

Not everything has gone as your Board had hoped:

1. Last year's Classic Boat Show lost money in spite of good weather, a good collection of boats, a great group of village volunteers, and over two thousand visitors. It succeeded in tying up the village virtually all weekend;

2. The Board has been unable to persuade Township Council to pass a noise abatement by-law or to apply vigorously the existing property standards by-law.

Municipal election day is November 12. Nomination day is October 11. You may choose to seek a position on the County Board of Education, the Township Council, or as a Village Trustee, or simply to exercise your right to vote. The first three groups spend your money; you should have a say in who spends it, and how it is spent.

Portland is a good place to live---we all have to help to keep it that way.



What we call progress is the exchange of one nuisance for another nuisance.

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