

# TOWN HALL NEWSLETTER

April 2014

## COUNCIL ADOPTS 2014 BUDGET

The 2014 Municipal Budget was adopted at the Regular Meeting of Council of March 25. The average municipal tax payer will see an increase to their municipal portion of their tax bill of just 0.29% or \$6.82. When the education levy is factored in the overall tax rate increase is 0.94% or \$22.23. This modest increase reflects a decrease in operating expenditures offset by an increase in capital expenditures. This is the second consecutive year where operating expenditures have decreased and the consumer price index has increased and the third consecutive year where the change in operating expenditures was less than the consumer price index. This increase reflects the direction of Council and management's commitment to provide the highest quality services in the most efficient means possible. The newly approved tax rate is the lowest it has been since 2004.

The Asset Management Plan identified a need of \$3,365,000 to be invested annually in our infrastructure to maintain and replace the tangible capital assets currently in use. Our 2014 planned capital expenditures are \$3,549,500; therefore we are meeting the requirement of this plan. Major capital expenditures this year include accessibility upgrades to the Town Hall, computer software, the replacement of the 1984 Rescue Unit, the Highway 6 project, the transition to LED streetlights and the replacement of various pieces of operating equipment.

The budget also reflects the repayment of a significant portion of debt which resulted from the Domtar ARB decision. With the expected contribution from the Province, the previous allowances made by the municipality and the utilization of the tax tools available there will be no further increases required from the residential and commercial property tax payers.

The full 2014 Budget is available on our website, please visit [www.espanola.ca](http://www.espanola.ca) for more information.

## COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Council is set to adopt the Community Improvement Plan (CIP) on April 8th.

The CIP is a planning tool that establishes a framework for achieving community improvements to rehabilitate and revitalize project areas. The Community Improvement Plan (CIP or Plan) will allow for municipal incentives to stimulate private sector investment to develop & revive the downtown commercial core and highway 6 corridor. The Plan will also serve to encourage multiple residential development to create more affordable and senior housing options.

The CIP includes incentives to stimulate private and public sector investments and sets out design guidelines for public and private sector improvements.

We anticipate CIP applications will be accepted for review as of May 19, 2014. Applications will be reviewed on a first come first serve basis. Applications will be accepted until the budget for the year is exhausted and then reactivated again the next budget year.

The full CIP document & application will be available at [www.espanola.ca](http://www.espanola.ca) under INVEST HERE. Contact [ckennelly@espanola.ca](mailto:ckennelly@espanola.ca) or [proque@espanola.ca](mailto:proque@espanola.ca) for more information.

## FLOODING NOTIFICATIONS

The Town of Espanola in partnership with our industry, government and community partner agencies will be monitoring flood conditions daily.

For up to date flood notifications or warnings please visit [www.espanola.ca](http://www.espanola.ca) and LIKE us on Facebook. Our local radio station Moose FM 99.3 will also be apprised of daily updates.



## Council

Mayor Lehoux  
P (705)869-8263

Deputy Mayor Beer  
P (705)862-7445

Councillor Howard  
P (705)869-6339

Councillor McMaster  
P (705)869-4858

Councillor McMillan  
P (705)862-7762

Councillor Meikleham  
P (705)869-6988  
(705)869-7975

Councillor Rose  
P (705)869-3577

## Council Meetings

Council meetings are open to the public, and held the second and fourth Tuesday evening of each month at 7:30 pm in Council Chambers at the Municipal Office.

All individuals or groups requesting an opportunity to make a presentation to Council must do so in writing, a copy of the subject matter should be included and submitted to the Clerk not later than 12:00 noon on the Wednesday preceding regular meetings of Council.

Full Council meeting agendas are posted on the municipal website Monday preceding regular meetings of Council by noon. [www.espanola.ca](http://www.espanola.ca)

Special meetings are called as needed and notice is posted at the municipal office and on the municipal website.

## GIANT HEARTS DONATE GIANT SEEDS

Jeff Warner of Englehart holds the current record of growing a 1,347 pound pumpkin; the largest in North Eastern Ontario. The Town of Espanola contacted Jeff Warner about the possibility of purchasing his giant pumpkin seeds for Espanola homeowners to plant in preparation for the 3rd Annual Pumpkin & Fibre Arts Festival.

Warner, who's heart is as giant as his pumpkin seeds, offered to donate his seeds to support our Pumpkin festival but he was short on the Town's order of 2500. Warner took it upon himself to contact his pumpkin growing peers who belong to the Giant Vegetable Growers of Ontario and they began shipping Jeff seeds to make up the full order for the Town of Espanola.

"These seeds are all from top notch growers around the province. Much better seeds than you can buy from the store" says Warner. "Growers are very generous when it comes to giving seeds that might help a new grower get started. Hopefully a couple of your citizens might get the bug that we have and join the madness that we call pumpkin growing. The Giant Vegetable Growers of Ontario (GVGO) is a great club for someone to join that wants to learn a little more about growing these giants."

For information contact Cheryl Kennelly/Community & Economic Development Town of Espanola 705-869-1961 ext 2212 [ckennelly.espanola.ca](http://ckennelly.espanola.ca)

**\*\*Attention Pumpkin Growers\*\* When planting your giant pumpkin seed, please ensure the enclosed tag with the name or the ID number of the grower who donated the seed is submitted with your entry. This will ensure the winning pumpkins can be traced back to the grower.**

## REGISTRATION FOR SPRING SWIM LESSONS

To register for Spring Swim Lessons in-person or by phone, please call 705-869-1961 between April 14<sup>th</sup> – April 17<sup>th</sup>

### Lessons begin:

Tuesdays: April 29<sup>th</sup>, Thursdays: May 1<sup>st</sup>  
& Saturday: May 3<sup>rd</sup>



**WAITING LISTS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE IN THE EVENT THAT YOUR PREFERRED CLASS FILLS. WAITING LISTS LET US KNOW IF WE NEED TO SCHEDULE MORE CLASSES.**

## 2014 ART, BERRIES, JAZZ & FARMER'S MARKET

### CALLING ALL VENDERS!

Now is the time to plan for another successful July 1<sup>st</sup> celebration in Espanola.

Deadline for vendor registration is June 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm. For more information please contact Cheryl Kennelly at 705-869-1961 or [ckennelly@espanola.ca](mailto:ckennelly@espanola.ca)

## EASTER WEEKEND COMPLEX HOURS

Date	Building	Pool
Fri Apr 18 <sup>th</sup>	Closed	Closed
Sat Apr 19 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am – 2:00pm	1:00am – 1:00pm
Sun Apr 20 <sup>th</sup>	Closed	Closed
Mon Apr 21 <sup>st</sup>	12:00 – 4:00 pm	Closed

## GYM ORIENTATION - FREE

Wed Apr 9, 11:00am – 12:00pm  
Tues Apr 15, 7:00 - 8:00pm  
Learn how to use the gym & auditorium equipment to maximize return and safety.

## MUNICIPAL OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

**July 11<sup>th</sup> -Aug 29<sup>th</sup>**

Monday-Thursday: 8:30am-4:30pm

Friday: CLOSED

***Closed for Stat Holidays May 19th, July 1st, Aug 4th, Sept 1<sup>st</sup>***

Please be advised that the POA office will remain open on Fridays during the summer months.



## MUNICIPAL ADDRESSING BYLAW NO. 2267/10

**YOUR ADDRESS "It's not just a number; It can save your life!"**

The goal of the Bylaw is to maintain a consistent system for the addressing of buildings to assist emergency services. Emergency dispatch systems rely on accurate civic addressing to support emergency response personnel.

### Importance of the Municipal Addressing System

Municipal properties can be difficult to locate without an easily understood addressing system.

### Objectives of this Bylaw are:

To ensure every occupied building has a unique address making it easy to identify, locate and improve services from local government and utility companies.

To provide Emergency Personnel a quick and effective way to locate addresses. With a municipal address, dispatch operators will instantly know the address where a call (land-line phones only) is being placed from.

To obtain a full copy of this Bylaw please visit our website at [www.espanola.ca](http://www.espanola.ca) or contact the municipal office at 705-869-1540.

## BYLAW NO. 2586/14 MONITORED AUTOMATIC ALARMS (FALSE)

Bylaw 2586/14, being a Bylaw to Impose User Fees for Monitored Automatic Alarms (false) now stipulates that upon firefighters responding to a **Third** false alarm, within a twelve (12) month period of a first false alarm, the owner of the property from which the alarm originated will be liable for a \$300.00 fine, payable to the Town of Espanola.

For more information on this or other fire related bylaws, please contact the Espanola Fire Department.

## MARK THESE IMPORTANT DATES IN YOUR CALENDAR

Household Hazardous Waste Day will be Saturday, May 3, 2014 from 8am-4pm.

Amnesty Week will be from May 5 - May 9, 2014 and Saturday May 10 from 10:00am to 4:00pm PWD will be accepting leaf and yard waste as well as branches/brush, at the municipal snow dump (across from the Ski Hill) large wood or garbage of any kind will not be accepted. Hours of operation will be from 12pm-5:30pm each day.

Afternoon spring water main flushing is anticipated to begin on April 28, 2014 and run as long as May 9, 2014 (weather permitting).

## ESPANOLA PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Scheduled Closings for Espanola Public Library

Closed April 18-21 (Easter); May 21 (Victoria Day). Saturday closing starts May 17

### Historical displays

Display cases and pictures from Espanola Historical Society are in the library.

## VOTE BY MAIL MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Electors for the Town of Espanola will cast their votes for the 2014 October Elections using the Vote by Mail method; all ballots will be counted using a tabulator.

An information table will be set up at the Espanola Mall on June 25<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00 pm where Staff will be available to answer any questions you may have, show examples of ballots and provide a demo on how to prepare the ballot for mailing. If you haven't already done so, we can also assist in determining if you are on the Preliminary List of Municipal & School Board Electors.

Staff will continue to hold these information sessions to ensure a smooth transition to this new voting method. Like us on facebook or visit our website at [www.espanola.ca](http://www.espanola.ca) for updates on election information sessions.

Election Day is October 27, 2014.

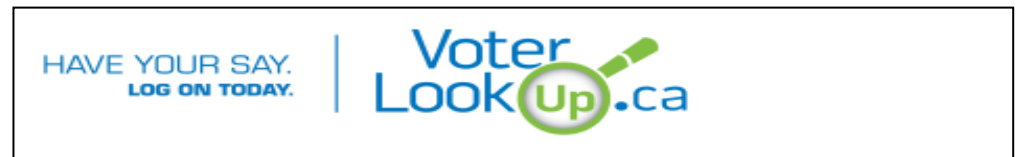


## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Espanola Public Works Department would like to remind everyone that half loading is currently in effect and will remain until the frost has completely left the affected roads.

With the snow finally melting, PWD has turned their attention to spring thaw activities. With the significant snow accumulation this winter it will be an onerous task to keep up with the melt. Your patience during these times is appreciated. Once spring thaw is complete the Department will concentrate on such tasks as street sweeping, sport field preparation, roadside litter pick-up, and spring grading and dust suppression application.

## ARE YOU ON THE LIST?



The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) is legislatively responsible for collecting occupant information (name, date of birth, citizenship and school support) for municipal and school board elections, and keeping up-to-date population figures for every municipality in Ontario. This information is used by MPAC to create a **Preliminary List of Electors** (PLE). The PLE is provided to municipalities and school boards to help create the final Voter's Lists used for municipal and school board elections. In addition to the continuous updating of enumeration data that occurs at MPAC annually, in an election year, MPAC undertakes various enumeration activities to confirm or collect occupant's information about each individual owning or occupying property in Ontario. The information collected will serve to compile the Preliminary List.

MPAC has made it easy to ensure you are on the Voter's List by launching [www.voterlookup.ca](http://www.voterlookup.ca). Simply logon to their website enter your name, date of birth and municipality in which you own or occupy property and you will receive a message letting you know if you are on the list or not. (Please be advised that your name will not be found unless it is an exact match to MPAC's records.)

**Please contact MPAC if you have any questions or wish to confirm the occupant information MPAC has on file for your household and to ensure your name is included on the 2014 Preliminary List of Electors.**

1-866-296-MPAC (6722) or [www.mpac.ca](http://www.mpac.ca)

## DID YOU KNOW?

When you file your tax return, you and your family could get money back by claiming a number of Ontario tax credits and benefits.

Visit <http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/taxcredits/index.html> to learn more.