

Low Income Exemption

The purpose of the Low Income Exemption Policy is to provide partial tax relief of current taxes on primary residences for low income property owners. The amount of the exemption will be calculated at 50% of the primary residence current year's tax bill, but only up to a maximum of \$200, less any Federal or Provincial property tax rebates received. Application forms are available at the Municipal office in Hebron.



To see if you qualify, please contact our office at 902-742-7159 or go to our website:

www.district.yarmouth.ns.ca

Applications for a tax exemption must be received at the Municipal office in Hebron prior to **May 15th** of each year.

Tax Bills

The 2016 tax bills are now past due and interest is being charged at the rate of 1.5% per month on overdue amounts. The 2017 tax bills will be mailed out in June. Payment can be made with cash, by cheque, debit, online banking, telephone banking, credit card (with service charge applicable to user) and automatic withdrawal.

If your mailing address has changed and you haven't yet notified our office, please do so prior to the 2017 tax bills being sent out in June.

We would be happy to assist you in setting up a payment plan that works for you. Please contact our office at 902-742-7159 or send us an email:

linda@district.yarmouth.ns.ca



Spring 2017 Newsletter

www.district.yarmouth.ns.ca

Warden's Message

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the residents of the Municipality of the District of Yarmouth for exercising their right to vote in the past municipal election. You have played a part in influencing the policies that affect our lives on a daily basis. The election has resulted in three new Councillors who we are pleased to welcome to Council – Councillor Daniel Allen in District 2, Councillor Patti Durkee in District 4, and Councillor Loren Cushing in District 6.

Moving forward we will continue to face many challenges and will continue to work on your behalf for the betterment of our communities.

I trust that this newsletter provides valuable information to you about our Municipality. Items of interest for future newsletters can be forwarded for consideration to:

admin@district.yarmouth.ns.ca

Have an enjoyable summer!

Warden Leland Anthony

211 - When You Don't Know Where to Turn

When you need help with a problem that involves community or social services, it isn't always clear who to contact. Now the answer is as close as your telephone or computer because you can call 211 or visit ns.211.ca to find out. The friendly team will answer your questions and help you find the service you need, where you need it.

- Senior Services & Homecare
- Parenting and Family Programs
- Adult Learning
- Food Banks and Meal Programs
- Housing and Shelters
- Mental Health & Addictions Support

- Employment Insurance
- Disability Support Programs
- Child Care
- Recreation Programs
- Volunteer Opportunities
- **and many more**



When you don't know where to turn.

211 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Give it a try and let 211 help you find the service you're looking for.

Streetlight Outages and Request for Streetlight Installation



Streetlight outages should now be reported to the Public Works Department at 902-742-9691. You will be asked to provide the nearest civic number as well as the ID sticker number located on the bottom of the light. This number usually begins with the letters YC.

To request a streetlight installation or removal, please refer to our Street Lighting Policy on our website which includes the application form. This form should be completed and returned to our office by hand or by post.

www.district.yarmouth.ns.ca



SIGN UP FOR E-BILLING

Would you like to receive your tax bill or sewer bill electronically or just keep an eye on your account? To sign up and get started, please send an email to:

linda@district.yarmouth.ns.ca



Financial Assistance for Sport and Recreational Activities

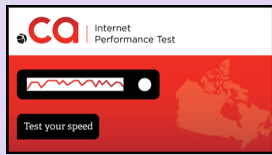
If you need financial assistance for your child to participate in a sport or recreational activity, there are many avenues to explore! Your local recreation department can help steer you in the right direction!

- **Jumpstart** is more than just about getting kids active. It's about giving kids from families in financial need the same chance to participate as their neighbours, their classmates and their friends. Apply at: <http://jumpstart.canadiantire.ca/en.html#apply>
- **KidSport** is a national not-for-profit organization that provides financial assistance for registration fees and equipment to kids aged 18 and under. Info at <http://www.kidsportcanada.ca/apply-for-assistance/>
- The **JSTRONG Fund**, formed in memory of Jadon Robinson, is designed to assist youth and families who may not be able to participate in sport and recreation due to financial burden. Forms available at Yarmouth Recreation.



Need More info? jstrongfund@outlook.com

Check out www.yarmouthrecreation.ca for information on programs, summer recreation jobs, and more!



Internet Performance Test

The Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA) has created a customized Internet Performance Test which allows citizens to test their Internet connection and contribute to a comprehensive Internet performance dataset for their community. Data from the test will help municipal leaders determine where they need market or policy interventions to ensure sufficient broadband access and performance.

Please help us generate an "Internet Heat Map" of the current condition of our Municipality's internet connectivity. Go to the website listed below and perform the test. You must allow the web page to access your location, so please allow it to do so when prompted. Please do the test as often as you can throughout the day and continue to do so for at least a week or so if possible. You can use your mobile smart phones, Ipads/tablets, laptops, PC's or whatever your use to connect. In fact we encourage you to use all of your devices to run the test.

The more tests we run the more data we will have to present to the policy makers of the Province. We will use this data to make evidence based decisions and help shape our Rural Internet Strategy.

<https://performance.cira.ca/annapolisvalley>

Property Tax Rebate for Seniors



The Property Tax Rebate for Seniors Program, administered by Access Nova Scotia on behalf of the Department of Community Services, is designed to help eligible seniors remain in their homes by providing them with an annual rebate on their municipal property taxes. The program provides eligible homeowners with a rebate (determined by the Provincial Government) on their municipal property taxes paid the previous year. Application deadline is December 31st.

For more information please contact:

Access Nova Scotia
1-877-296-9338

or the Municipal Office in Hebron
902-742-7159

or email:

linda@district.yarmouth.ns.ca

BUSINESS NAVIGATORS: Help with Red Tape

Starting and running a business takes courage, determination, and a lot of hard work. It can also be complex, frustrating and time-consuming.

To help reduce red tape, the Government of Nova Scotia is piloting a Business Navigator Service to help businesses navigate provincial rules and requirements.

Business Navigators can:

- Find timely information on rules and regulations specific to your business
- Help you understand how to comply with provincial regulations
- Help you secure the status of your business registration
- Help you get a status update of permit and license applications
- Provide support in completing applications and forms



Business Navigators have one goal: take some work off your plate so you can focus on the work only you can do - building a successful business.

Business Navigators can be reached Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm at 1-844-628-7347 or email: busnavigation@novascotia.ca

Dog Tags

If you own a dog and you live in the Municipality of Yarmouth you are required to register it. Dog tags can be obtained from the Municipal office in Hebron or from the Yarmouth SPCA on the Hardscratch Road.

All information collected when registering your dog is added to a database. If your dog gets lost, this information could help reunite you with your lost pet.

For more information, please contact the Municipal office at **902-742-7159**.



Spotlight on Local Business It's a Ruff Life Dog Training

In 2014, after retiring from 17 years in the Canadian Forces, Sonja Olejniczak came home to Yarmouth. Her focus was readjusting to civilian life, which included training a service dog for herself.

While training Zander as a service dog, Sonja gained a teaching certification for group classes and a certificate in canine communication. Her skill quickly became clear and she decided to try her hand at providing basic obedience classes. In 2015, she created It's a Ruff Life Dog Training with group classes in rented spaces around the region. People soon started asking for private sessions.

Early in 2016, the increasing demand for Sonja's services created a challenge for booking rented community spaces. Understandably, not all indoor community spaces are appropriate for groups of dogs – especially when the classes often include puppies!

In November 2016, with financial support from Coastal Financial Credit Union, It's a Ruff Life's purpose-built structure and fenced outdoor area were open for business at 1665 Hardscratch Rd.

Sonja continually develops professionally. She is a member of the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants and constantly develops her knowledge and skills around specific dog issues; including managing multi-dog households, dealing with aggressive dogs, and the ever-evolving field of learning theory.

It's a Ruff Life services, in addition to 3-day per week dog daycare, include group classes on basic obedience and specialty classes such as nose-work, urban herding, trick classes and more. Sonja also continues to offer private sessions.

It's a Ruff Life training philosophy is firmly rooted in positive training. You will find no pinch or shock collars in Sonja's tool kits. The training methods are scientifically supported to develop long-term results. Through these positive methods It's a Ruff Life Dog Training will help you and your dog by Building Relationships and Shaping Behaviors.

Follow It's a Ruff Life Dog Training on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/ItsARuffLifeTraining

or call **902-749-7833**.



Be Our Next "Spotlight on Local Business"!

If you own a small business located within the Municipality of Yarmouth and would like to be considered for the "Spotlight on Local Business" section of our newsletter, please drop off or mail your submission to our office at:

Municipality of Yarmouth
932 Highway 1
Hebron, NS B5A 5Z5

or
Send an email to:

admin@district.yarmouth.ns.ca



Newsletters are mailed out to residents of the Municipality of Yarmouth in the spring and fall of each year. Submissions should be 250 words or less. Please also ensure you include a telephone number and/or email address where we can reach you during the day.

New Arts & Crafts Signage

As early as this summer you could see the results of the coordinated efforts between the Municipality of the District of Yarmouth's Economic Development Department (EDD) and a local small business owner in our Municipality. Keep an eye out, province wide, for these two symbols denoting an Arts or Craft establishment within 15 km of a series 100 highway exit.

This province wide initiative came about as a request from a local small business owner who was looking for help with the lack of Arts or Craft signage in her area. She asked for help and the EDD was quick to respond. "It is the EDD's mandate to promote economic development in the Municipality and this was one instance where we were able to help out not only this particular business but others within the Municipality and indeed the province", said Mark Blinn, Manager, Innovation and Enterprise Development for the Municipality of Yarmouth. "We encourage businesses within our Municipality to contact our department to see if we can be of some assistance".

Mark Blinn can be contacted at **902-742-9691** or email:

mark@district.yarmouth.ns.ca



Arts



Crafts

Voluntary Committees and Boards Citizen Representation

The Municipality of Yarmouth has several committees and boards that have citizen representation. From time to time the Municipality will advertise for expressions of interest from citizens for various committees. If you are interested in becoming a citizen representative on a committee or board of the Municipality, please contact our office at **902-742-7159** for more information. Currently there are vacancies on the following:

- **Planning Advisory Committee**
- **Regional Solid Waste Authority (Waste Check)**
- **Yarmouth County Joint Police Advisory Committee**

What Does the Planning Advisory Committee Do?

The mandate of the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) is to provide advice and recommendations to Council in the preparation, amendment or revision of planning strategies, land-use-by-laws, zonings, subdivision by-laws and on land use matters generally. These are documents that outline council's vision for where, when and how the municipality will grow and develop, while the by-laws identify and enforce that vision.

The PAC has 3 citizen representatives. Currently the committee consists of 11 members, including staff, councillors and citizens. The PAC normally meets on the third Tuesday evening of the month, and the agenda and minutes can be found on our website. These meetings are open to the public.

Building Permits - Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a Building Permit?

A Building Permit is your formal permission to begin construction. It means that plans for any new structure, addition or renovation have been approved by the municipality, and that they comply with the Nova Scotia Building Code, the local Land Use By-law and any other applicable laws and regulations.

2. How do permits protect you, your family and your neighbours?

If you or a contractor you hired are going to build, add, renovate or alter any part of your residence, or perform work on the electrical, plumbing and/or mechanical system for your residence, ensure that a permit has been obtained prior to starting the work/installation. Permits ensure that the work is in compliance with all codes and safety standards and will be inspected by a Municipal Building Inspector to ensure professional standards are met.

3. When do I need a Building Permit?

When considering any kind of construction on your property, you should discuss your plans with the local Development Office staff first. They can advise you about any other permits or approvals you might need, such as demolition permits, minor variances or electrical permits. If you are not sure whether you need a permit or not, simply call the Development Office and ask. You will either get an answer over the phone or a Building Inspector may visit your site in order to advise you what is required. It is important to check with the Development Office as a Development Permit may still be required before any project is started, even if a Building Permit is not required.

For more information on Building Permits, please contact the Development Office at **902-742-9691** or go to our website.

www.district.yarmouth.ns.ca



Dementia Care Conference With Teepa Snow

Teepa Snow is a dementia care-education specialist with over 30 years in clinical practice in a variety of settings.

Conference Dates:

Tuesday, July 4th, 2017

and

Wednesday, July 5th, 2017

Time: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Where: Yarmouth Wesleyan Church

70 Haley Road, Yarmouth

Registration Fee: \$125.00

Free Family Information Session

There will also be a free Family Information Session which will provide an opportunity for family members to ask questions in a supportive environment. Teepa will teach some of her basic techniques as well as explain approaches for care of persons with dementia.

Free Family Session Date:

Tuesday, July 4th, 2017

Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Where: Yarmouth Wesleyan Church

70 Haley Road, Yarmouth

For more information on the free Family Information Session or to register for the Dementia Care Conference, please contact Debbie Bain at:

902-742-0778

debbie.bain@nshealth.ca

ElderDog Canada - What They're All About

ElderDog Canada Inc. is a national non-profit organization dedicated to aging people, aging dogs and the important connection they enjoy.

Dog Care Support for Seniors

ElderDog enables older adults to continue to benefit from their relationship with their canine companions and provides a range of assistance and support. Some include dog walking, transportation to and from the veterinarian and temporary care during hospitalization.

ElderDog's mission is to honour and preserve the human-animal bond through care, companionship, commemoration, and education. This is done through programs that include:

- help for seniors with daily dog care activities
- foster care and adoption of older dogs
- long-term care planning for companion dogs
- volunteering and service learning
- education and research opportunities
- bereavement support
- commemoration and perpetual care



**ELDERDOG
CANADA**

REGISTERED CHARITY-832404057RR0001

Education and Outreach

ElderDog provides information sessions about the role of companion animals in seniors lives. You can contact them by calling **1-855-336-4226** or by sending an email to: info@elderdog.ca.

More information can also be found on their website at: www.elderdog.ca

Well Construction By-law

The Municipality of the District of Yarmouth is exploring the possibility of a well construction by-law and would like to gauge the need for this proposed by-law from our residents.

Such a by-law would enable the Municipality to aid homeowners in the construction of a new well by providing a loan that would be added to their tax bills and repaid over a set number of years, and would become a lien against the property in accordance with the Municipal Government Act.

We would appreciate receiving your interest in such a by-law by contacting our office at **902-742-7159** or by email at:

admin@district.yarmouth.ns.ca