



2020 IN REVIEW

**Report to: Members of Council
All Members of the Administration
Residents of Three Rivers**

Dated: January 2021

A year ago, I had the pleasure of presenting a report that recapped our first full year of operation. I spoke of the progress that our new municipality was making and how Three Rivers was coming together as the Island's 4th largest municipality. I spoke of Council giving of their time and their endless energy serving their community. As well, I spoke of the capital programs we had undertaken and the important bylaws and policies that were approved.

I was proud to talk about the tireless efforts of our CAO Jill Walsh. I was proud to address our staff as they consistently provide Council with thorough background reports complete with alternatives and recommendations. I was proud to mention the new hires that came forth to join our existing seasoned employees.

But as I use the term "I", it is important to hear "all" as we did these things together. The accomplishments of the Town are our collective accomplishments. My pride is your pride too.

Very few in this world expected that 2020 would be dramatically impacted by a pandemic that affected everyone in so many ways. COVID forced us to dramatically adjust the way we conduct our business as a Town, as a Council, and as an Administration. I will not belabour this topic other than to say we collectively met the challenge and we continued with our impressive track record of progress.

Over the past year we lost two Members of Council for various reasons that prohibited them from continuing to serve. Both gave a great deal of themselves and both deserve to share in our many achievements. Councillors **Isaac MacIntyre** and **Wayne Spin**

worked extremely hard to fulfill their role and do their part to better Three Rivers. They each had the respect of their constituents and their colleagues around this table.

We have been fortunate to add **Councillor Paul Morrison** as a valued addition to our Council and we welcome all the insights he has to offer. Early in 2021 we will hold our second by-election and welcome again a candidate that will become our colleague and contributor to our efforts.

In 2020, our CAO supplemented her staff with several key individuals. Our Manager of Corporate Services, **Danielle Herring**, came to us with her years of senior municipal experience. Danielle is a resident with an enviable resume of public service. **Ayla Alves** has moved to our community and brings her planning knowledge and enthusiasm as our Planner I. **Cathleen MacKinnon** brings her passion and talents in her role as Recreation and Events Officer. Her hands-on approach and appreciation for recreation is a welcomed addition. **Joan Marks**, also a resident, is the Executive Assistant to Jill and joins us following a successful career at UPEI. She adds superb organizational and administrative talents to our management team. **Dan Lemelin** brings building maintenance expertise and a “mischievous spark” to the public works crew.

On a sad note, our Town lost Dwayne MacIntyre this past year. Dwayne was the long serving Fire Chief of the Cardigan Fire Department and a valuable member of the Town’s public works department. He unselfishly gave of his time and his talents in the protection of those in Cardigan and brought his energy and capabilities to bettering all that he was involved with during his career. He is greatly missed.

Tom MacLeod also left his mark on the maintenance department after a lengthy career with the Town. His initiative and attention to detail were remarkable, and we wish him all the best.

It is said that Councils speak in bylaws and resolutions. This past year we passed key bylaws including Access to Information, a Records Retention bylaw, and amendments to our Grants, Fees, and Procedural Bylaws. We adopted many policies by resolution including our Financial Plan, our Pandemic Plan, our Disposal of Assets, and Procurement Policies, and a critical policy defining the Level of Service During a Power Outage. Numerous other resolutions were adopted as well to authorize important expenditures, give direction to administration, to sell property, to approve tenders, to adopt important plans and developments, to apply for funding opportunities, to communicate with the other levels of government, and the like.

Our Capital Program this year was over \$4 million. We have seen the completion of the long-awaited splash park in Montague which was met with great enthusiasm through our long and hot summer. We installed the lights at the Cardigan Ball facility to extend user time. We debated the Montague Waterfront Project and are now on a course to undertake necessary dredging and to develop an improved amphitheater for things such as concerts. We have built a needed works building and yard in Georgetown and the storage facility at the Montague sewer treatment plant is nearing completion. There is a

new sewer lift station on West Street. The Great Trail Extension has been constructed from West Street beach area and Water Street to Kent Street. Signs have been erected welcoming residents and visitors at the busiest entrances to Three Rivers. Work resumed on the scenic site at the Lower Montague school. The generator for the Civic Centre and maintenance building is now operational. Playground equipment was replaced and updated at the Cardigan Village Green.

A building was constructed on the Cardigan waterfront. Originally intended as a kayak building, its purpose and location are now under review. Council intends to ensure it is well-placed for its eventual use, and would welcome any suggestions or input.

We have once again demonstrated fiscal responsibility and proved ourselves good stewards of the taxpayers' money. Our Financial Plan and Budget have served us well as excellent guiding documents, and our new auditor was very complimentary about our financial position.

In February, we moved from our temporary trailer arrangement and are leasing a renovated office at 25 Queen's Road. We have chosen to build the new Administration Offices on the site of the former Montague Town Hall and engaged architects to design our new facility. This project will be tendered in January with construction to begin by early spring and occupancy in 2022.

Last year, Council agreed to reduce the size of Council to nine (9) members and appointed three hard working individuals to an Electoral Boundaries Commission for the purpose of recommending equitable ward boundaries. Their report is now in the hands of Council and we will be resolving this issue early in the new year.

We have recently embarked upon the task of adopting a new Official Plan that addresses all areas of the Municipality. Public engagement is being actively sought so that we consider the wishes of the people. This is a huge undertaking and one that will be cause for debate, insight, and strategic decision making around our table next year.

We have also commissioned a review of the various boards and commissions operating within the Town. A Proposal call is currently out for an Arts and Culture review with active participation from King's Playhouse and those many folks who run the various boards that contribute to our quality of life in Three Rivers. There is also a study underway of maximizing the potential of all our waterfronts, and that will extend to examine our recreational facilities. All will lead to the creation of an economic development strategy and a more efficient implementation of Town priorities.

Emphasis has been placed on the sewer and water utilities, to ensure they are sustainable for both current and future customers. In June, Three Rivers seamlessly assumed the operation of the Georgetown Sewer Corp. In December, a call for proposals for the development of a Master Plan for Services was issued.

Once again, the efforts of both the Federal and Provincial governments deserve recognition and our thanks. The Federal Government has been receptive to our grant

applications and have provided needed funding. Our Provincial government has also been instrumental in providing grant monies and their staff remain willing to offer whatever assistance and guidance that we may require.

In summary, there is value in taking time to reflect on our accomplishments as we head into another year serving the people of our Town. As was the case last year, this report will be posted on our Web site, and will form part of our next Community newsletter.

Again, my personal thanks are extended to each Member of Council as collectively we have made the contents of this report happen. In addition, I extend a thank you to all our citizens for giving us the privilege of serving you.

With utmost respect and valued appreciation to Council Members and Administration

E. MacAulay,
Mayor