

Chair's Report – Community of Miltonvale Park
To be presented by Chair Don Aitken - Annual General Meeting - March 25, 2008

On behalf of the Council, I wish to welcome you to the Annual General Meeting for the Community of Miltonvale Park. This evening you will hear reports from Council committees, review the financial statements from 2007, vote on proposed expenditures for 2008, and have an opportunity to raise any issues or concerns.

The powers of the Council are set out by the Province of PEI in the Municipalities Act, and Council must act within these powers. We have the authority to set and enforce bylaws, and issue development permits. We set the municipal portion of residential and commercial tax rates, and endeavor to spend this income in a way which benefits the Community of Miltonvale Park.

Fire Protection

Our fire protection for the community is provided by the North River Fire Department, whose members continue to serve the community well.

Planning – (Further report by Planning Board Chair Betty Pryor)

Council strives to provide efficient service to residents seeking development permits, through Development Officer Alfie Wakelin. Alfie works one day a week from Spring to Fall, and as needed at other times, and has proven himself to be very accommodating in his dealings with residents. Nineteen development permits were approved in 2007, and there were four applications approved for lot subdivisions or revisions. Miltonvale Park is restricted in its development, as it is part of the Charlottetown Special Planning Area, in which stringent regulations minimize the extent to which unserviced residential, commercial and industrial development may occur, protecting the rural-ness of the Community of Miltonvale Park.

Residents are reminded to apply for, and receive, a development permit before starting to build. Development fees will be doubled if the application has not been approved prior to the start of construction.

New Deal Funding for Planning

Council received funds to assist with costs to carryout for an Official Plan & Bylaw Review in 2007. This funding was made possible through the New Deal for Cities and Communities agreement between the Federal and Provincial Governments. Council expects the majority of work on these documents to be completed this year, as the requirement for additional information, slowed the process planned for 2007. There will be wide community consultation and Council urges you to consider what type of community you desire, share your ideas, and to get involved in this planning process.

Water and Sewer

I chair the Water and Sewer Committee. Council applied for funding for a project entitled Community of Miltonvale Park Wastewater and Water Servicing Feasibility Study. This Project has received funding through the Canada-Prince Edward Island New Deal for Cities and Communities Capacity Building Fund which is managed by the Prince Edward Island Department of Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour. Council expects this project to commence this spring. The City of Charlottetown had agreed, in July 2005, to provide water for extension of the water service into Miltonvale Park to provide water service to existing and/or new residential properties fronting along the Royalty Road and Lower Malpeque Road, with the

Community and/or the province paying 100% of the cost and user rates to be set at that 25% above the rates paid by City residents. Further discussions may be held regarding this option.

There remains approximately \$228,500 invested, in trust, from the Island Waste Management Corporation to be used for water in the Sleepy Hollow area.

Miltonvale Community Park – (Further report from Sheila MacKinnon –Parks & Recreation)

The Community enjoyed the benefits from the new park shelter which was finished for the 2007 summer season. This project was funded equally among the municipal, provincial and federal governments through the MRIF (Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund) Infrastructure program. Residents are able to use the shelter, and it is also be available for rental to non-residents, according to the Parks and Recreation Policy adopted in 2007. The Park and Recreation Committee, led by Councillor Sheila MacKinnon oversees the use of the Shelter.

The summer recreation program at the park was greatly enhanced by the shelter. Attendance was estimated to have doubled. Council was very pleased with the performance of Jessica MacKinnon and Danielle Stewart who were our Summer Recreation Students in 2007. Funding from the Canada Summer Jobs and the Provincial Employment Development Agency helped to fund these positions. Having two students enabled the shelter to remain open in the evenings and on Saturdays, which was especially useful to regular users of the ball field. The park did experience water quality issues and remained under a boil water order throughout the summer.

Many of you attended the annual Canada Day Festivities on July 1st, where the sunny weather, food, entertainment, tree planting and games and the work of dedicated residents contributed to the day's success. We must also recognize the Department of Canadian Heritage for their financial contribution to the event.

Community Pasture

Council investigated the Community Pasture over this past year. The pasture is approximately 100 acres (PIDs 283226, 283754, 283762) and was to be the responsibility of the Community, in an agreement signed in 1984. The community requested for expressions of interest from community members and locally based Coles Produce has signed a contract for use of the Pasture. Farmer Robert Coles has offered to use part of the land for a community garden, and a meeting will be held at the Council Office on Tuesday April 1st for anyone interested in becoming involved. This will be a great opportunity for residents to grow healthy produce, beautiful flowers, or Halloween pumpkins!

Discussion is continuing with government officials concerning continued and long term use of the pasture.

Communication

Council realizes the importance of regular communication between residents and the municipal government. In 2007, two newsletters were circulated through the community. Council's office hours for the administrator are for four set hours weekly (Tuesdays 4:30-6:30 p.m. and Wednesdays 9:00-11:00 a.m.); however, the administrator is also available by chance or appointment. A drop-off mailbox was also attached to the doorstep of the Winsloe Lions Hall for the convenience of residents. Residents are also encouraged to check the new website for news, photos and documents. Electronic news is also distributed occasionally to subscribers. If you would like to be put on this

distribution list, please email admin@miltonvalepark.com. If you are not connected to the internet, please do not hesitate to call the office to have information sent to you, or to drop in for information.

Council was also approached in 2007 concerning Canada Post's Safety Review, which saw many residents lose their individual mailboxes to be replaced by community mailboxes. Several of these community boxes are located in unsafe areas with inadequate parking. Council has been involved with lobby efforts regarding this review, and has received confirmation that residents can contact Canada Post's Safety Review in Spring at 1-866-501-1669 to have their mailbox re-assessed and possible other options for re-location identified.

Community Beautification, Events and Support

We continue to engage resident Kari Coles to plant and nurture the flowerbeds in the centre of the community near the intersections of Routes 2 and 7. We have purchased two additional "Welcome to the Community" Signs which will be installed when weather conditions permit.

Council was also pleased to sponsor a Pumpkin People contest at Gates' Farm Market in the Fall of 2007.

Council adopted a Gift and Donation Policy, allowing regular donations to community groups, such as the Women's Institute Branches and the Milton Community Hall. Individuals who are representing the province or the area in out of province competitions or events will also be considered for donations. Congratulations are extended to Elizabeth Lund, a member of the West Royalty Softball Team who competed at the Eastern Canadian Championships in Quebec, and Tricia Affleck who represented PEI at the Canadian Mixed Curling Championships in Calgary. Parents may also apply for a Child bursary to offset up to \$50 costs incurred each year to allow the children of the community to participate in arts, cultural or sporting events or lessons. Information on these initiatives can be found on the website or by contacting the office. Gifts and donations to Miltonvale Park, or any other municipality, are eligible to receive income tax charitable receipts.

Administrator Shari MacDonald and Councillor Joe Murphy attended a Basic Emergency Measures course in 2007, and Council continues to receive training from Municipal Emergency Measures Coordinator Gary Robbins.

I am confident that we will move forward in a productive, effective manner over the next few years, and encourage you to share your concerns and suggestions with us. Residents are invited to attend our meetings, which are regularly held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. We all live in the Community of Miltonvale Park and wish to improve it in any way we can.

Thank You

I would like to thank all of you who have shown your support for the community by attending Canada Day celebrations, our election meeting, by visiting the community park, or by beautifying the community. Thank you to those who work within community organizations, or as individuals. Special thanks are extended to Joannie and Jeff MacKinnon for their assistance with the Community Park over this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Aitken