

**For Immediate Release**

**December 15, 2015**

## **No Cuts to Mount Pearl Services**

### **City of Mount Pearl Budget 2016 at a Glance**

**MOUNT PEARL, NL** – Today, Councillors Lucy Stoyles and Andrew Ledwell, Co-Chairs of the Corporate and Community Services Committee, brought down the City's 2016 budget at the Public Council meeting.

"At the conclusion of our budget process, we are pleased to say that we have settled on a final expenditure budget for 2016 of just over \$49.5 million, all without cutting services," said Councillor Ledwell in the budget speech. "By not borrowing, we have set in place a fiscally responsible and sustainable budget, which has not sacrificed investment in our core services or in upkeep and renewal of our infrastructure. At the end of our deliberations, we settled on a reduction in our mil rate for our residents to 7.0 mils. We believe that this rate represents a recognition of the increased pressures on our residents due to assessment changes, while setting a fair and reasonable tax rate that ensures we are able to maintain our infrastructure and our high level of service for which we are known," added Ledwell.

Some other highlights of the City's 2016 Budget include:

1. Continued investment in a leak detection program to mitigate rising water costs and achieve aggressive conservation targets.
2. \$13 million in streets and related infrastructure, partially funded by the Provincial and Federal Governments.
3. Investment in the development process to streamline the process businesses and developers must go through when obtaining permits, while protecting the interests of our community.
4. Investment in further enhancements to the City's comprehensive asset management program to focus capital and other investment.
5. Planned upgrades to the Reid Community Centre, including expansion of the existing youth centre.
6. Upgrades to Admiralty House Museum and Archives Annex that will be primarily used by the Association for the Arts in Mount Pearl.
7. Continued property tax discounts for senior citizens 'in need', tax deferral for low income earners with income less than \$40,000 per year, and business tax exemption for operators of day cares and personal care homes within the City.
8. Commercial and business tax rates, as well as water and wastewater fees, maintained at the same rates as 2015.

### **About the City of Mount Pearl**

Mount Pearl is the second largest city in Newfoundland and Labrador, and leads the way as an independent, progressive, family-oriented and business-friendly city. The City of Mount Pearl provides outstanding municipal services and community programs.

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