

The Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings Season's Greetings



Greetings from the Mayor & Council:

It has been a challenging first year for this Council but a great deal has been accomplished including the establishment of a new Website, the approval of a new Procedural Bylaw (to meet requirements of the *Municipal Government Act*), the provision of additional funding to the Eastern Kings Fire Department (\$40,000) and the provision of small grants to several community organizations totaling \$16,000. Discussion on wind turbines has also seen a lot of attention.

Now we turn our attention to the Christmas Season and a pondering of what the New Year will bring. This is an exciting and joyous time of the year!! To all the residents of Eastern Kings, the Mayor and Council wish all the blessings of a Merry Christmas and only the best for a wonderful New Year in 2020.

What's Coming Up In 2020??

Implementation of the National Building Code by the Province of Prince Edward Island – Impacts on the Municipality

In the Spring of 2017, the Province of PEI passed a new *Building Codes Act*, the Act, and its Regulations, adopt the National Building Codes of Canada throughout the Province where previously it only applied in the larger municipalities.

While the Regulations have yet to be finalized, more information on what this entails for all residents can be found on the Provincial website at <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/building-codes-act-regulations-consultation>.

The Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings does not have the staff or the funding to enforce the National Building Codes within its boundaries. Accordingly, the RMEK has entered into an Agreement with the Province to carry out the administration and enforcement of the Act on behalf of the Municipality; this will be carried out by the Minister of Agriculture and Land in accordance with subsection 4(3) of the Act.

What are the implications of these new Regulations? In a construction project, residents will have to first ensure that they meet the requirements of the Municipal Zoning and Subdivision Control Bylaws (<http://www.easternkings.ca/bylaws.html>); this means following the current process to obtain a Development Permit from the Municipality. Subsequently, residents will have to apply to the Province for a Building Permit. Appropriate fees will apply for both permits and both permits are required.

The planned effective date for enforcement of this new legislation was January 1, 2020 with enforcement delayed one year for single and two-unit residential buildings (most of what is built in Eastern Kings). This delay was to allow industry to become familiar with new code requirements. Institutional, commercial, multi-unit residential and industrial developments/construction were required to satisfy the legislation immediately upon its adoption.

This implementation date has been delayed somewhat by the Province. When new implementation dates are determined, this will be communicated through Provincial and Municipal websites.

Over the coming months, the Council will be reviewing our current process and application forms to ensure that we are in line with what the Province is requesting and that duplication of effort for all parties is minimized. However, residents should be aware that more time and effort will be required to ensure all permits are in order prior to construction and applications should not be left to the last minute.

Further information can be obtained at the Council Office and the Eastern Kings website will be updated with new information/documentation as it becomes available.

Development of an Emergency Management Plan for the Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings

The *Municipal Government Act* requires that each Municipality establish an emergency management program that “in the opinion of the provincial Emergency Measures Organization (EMO), is adequate and properly integrated with the provincial emergency measures plan.”

This Program includes the establishment of an Emergency Management Bylaw, an emergency measures plan, required delegations of authority and plans for training and exercises and any other component required by provincial EMO (*MGA* Section 145).

Efforts to establish all of these elements will commence in 2020. This will be one of the biggest volunteer initiatives that the Municipality has taken on and many hands will be required, not only to do the planning but to actually put that plan into action. The Community Centre has begun the effort with the establishment of a Warming Centre; the Fire Department and their current resources, including information, will be a huge component. More volunteers will be needed!! Calls for specific skills and abilities will be made when the planning process starts so think about what part you can play in this Emergency Management Program.

An Emergency Management Committee was established at the January 14, 2019 Council Meeting and its members, on Council, are Danelle Elliott and David Stewart. Additional members from the public will be sought to put this Committee into action.

Additional information on emergency planning can be found at <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/justice-and-public-safety/emergency-measures-organization>.



Review of the Official Plan and the Subdivision and Development Control Bylaws

The 2013 Official Plan and Subdivision and Development Control Bylaws for Eastern Kings is due for a complete review and update. This initiative will move forward in 2020 with the procurement of a planning consultant who will work with the Planning and Development Committee and the Council to ensure that “the Plan” reflects an up-to-date picture of “the nature, extent and pattern of future land use and development within the Community” (quoting from current Official Plan). The Bylaws will be reviewed to ensure they are in line with the Plan. Public consultations will be part of this process.

The Planning and Development Committee is led by Chair Anne McPhee with Councillors Arthur Baker and Bradley MacDonald; Judy Burke, a lawyer currently with the firm of Key Murray, has also volunteered to serve. Terms of Reference for this Committee are in the works.

Council Meetings:

The Council meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:15 p.m. at the Eastern Kings Community Centre. Residents are encouraged to attend the Council meetings. Minutes are posted online after they have been approved at the subsequent meeting.

The next Council meeting is January 14 – 2020.

Contact Us At:

Office Hours

Chief Administrative Officer Sonya Martin
Tuesdays and Fridays - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Council Office is located at the Eastern Kings Community Centre, 85 Munns Road, Rte. 301, Kingsboro PE C0A2B0

E: easternkingspe@gmail.com

T: 1.902.357.2894

F: 1.902.357.2607

www.easternkings.ca

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