

For Immediate Release

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Opportunity for Growth

Mount Pearl-Paradise Chamber of Commerce Hosts Annual Outlook Luncheon

MOUNT PEARL, NL – Today, Mayor Randy Simms addressed the Mount Pearl-Paradise Chamber of Commerce at the City's Annual Outlook Luncheon. Mayor Simms recognized the province's current state of affairs and discussed the City's action plan to guard against further financial strain for businesses and residents. The Mayor provided a positive outlook for the City, showcasing the potential for growth in Mount Pearl.

"The City has 250 hectares of land reserved for open space and still has more than 110 hectares reserved for future growth. There are currently 20 undeveloped industrial lots available and it's anticipated that 500 new houses could be built within the next 5 years," said Mayor Simms.

The Mayor also addressed the recent census data.

"Mount Pearl experienced a decline in population. Interestingly, what we discovered is that the family dynamics of our City have changed – the average population per household also declined. However, we continue to have an increasing number of houses being developed, as well as streets and other infrastructure. So, our City is still growing."

The 2017 budget ensures the historical high levels of service for which the City is known, with no increase in taxes or fees for taxpayers. To do this, the City absorbed \$3.5 million in increased costs through reductions in other spending.

"Although we have a hold the line budget, we are still moving forward with a tremendous amount of capital investment and have lots to be optimistic about," continued Mayor Simms.

The Mayor went on to address a number of highlights, including:

- Completion of the Asset Management Enhancement Project that will provide necessary information for long-term and sustainable fiscal planning;
- Reinvestment in Commonwealth Avenue and Topsail Road, as well as the reconfiguration of the Blackmarsh Road intersection;
- Reinvestment in signalized intersections throughout the City and pedestrian-activated crosswalks on Mount Carson;
- Completion of an updated City profile to attract new developments and residents;
- Review of the recreation master plan to ensure that continued community reinvestment relates directly to the needs of citizens;
- Completion of a draft Comprehensive Development Scheme for Kenmount Hill that will propose zoning of the area into residential, commercial and open space;
- Commencement of new initiatives under the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund to better deal with wastewater and storm water, and to better protect waterways;
- Continuation of staff training in implementing a Lean management system approach to delivering municipal services.

Mayor Simms praised the success of the business community, as it saw growth in 2016 and created 43 new businesses.

“Despite economic challenges, I am pleased to announce that our City has experienced, once again, a healthy level of investment by private developers with over \$37 million invested in residential, commercial and industrial construction last year. Our City is home to almost 1,100 businesses that employ over 15,000 people.”

The Mayor added that the City’s plans for commercial growth and investment into core infrastructure will allow Mount Pearl to lead the way as a progressive, independent City.

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