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City of Mount Pearl Approves First Urban Beekeeping Regulations in Province

The City of Mount Pearl has become the first municipality in the province to develop and adopt a set of regulations around keeping honey bees in urban settings. At the March 14th meeting of Council the amendment to the Regulations were approved. The Planning and Development Department worked closely with the Newfoundland and Labrador Beekeeping Association (NLBKA) to develop the set of regulations, which are based on successful ordinances in other urban communities across the country.

Mayor Randy Simms said the reason for bringing the regulations into effect were part of a move by the City to encourage activities related to food security. “There is an increased enthusiasm for backyard gardens and activities related to growing your own fruits and vegetables. Honey bees and native pollinators are crucial to pollination for many of the crops that we eat. It only makes sense to find ways to allow people to keep bees in a manner that is successful for the gardens and bees and respectful of the neighbours.”

“We were very pleased when the City of Mount Pearl agreed to work with us on this initiative,” said Catherine Dempsey, President of the NLBKA. We know there are enthusiastic people who want to have some hives. Urban regulations allow the City to work with the “wannabees” and also ensure that proper techniques are implemented to make them as unobtrusive as possible. We met a number of times to discuss the issues, and were very impressed with how Mount Pearl offered information in advance, consultation and education sessions, and formulated the idea into a set of adopted rules.”

The next step for the NLBKA is to introduce the newly registered regulations as a template for other communities in the Province. “Not every community has the same mix of agriculture and residential lots, so they would be able to adapt the regulations to suit their set up, but much of the research and legwork has now been done. We will be bringing the new ordinances to Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador to help us introduce them to the rest of the Province”, said Dempsey. “NLBKA thanks the staff and Council of Mount Pearl for such a pleasant and productive collaboration.”

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Catherine Dempsey
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