

Mayors of the Town of Fortune, NL (1946-present)

John R. Dixon August 20, 1946 – 1950

Source of confirmation: name is engraved in a nameplate on the Mayor's sash, along with a picture from Council chamber with him and original council members. Duplicate of picture also found on Fortune then and now Facebook group.



● COUNCIL—Introducing some of Fortune's foremost citizens, members of its hard-working, enterprising Town Council—from left to right: Messrs. G. Collier King, James Wicks, Stanley Spencer (vice-chairman), J. R. Dixon (chairman), Mrs. Janet Hillier (clerk), Messrs. E. W. Hicks and C. E. Bennett. Fortune's Town Council came into being on August 20, 1946, an important date in the town's history. With an eye to the youth of the town who will one day assume the responsibility of running the council's affairs, the present body invites three Junior citizens to every Council meeting. All meetings are open to visitors, and the Council encourages residents to bring their complaints and suggestions before them in person.



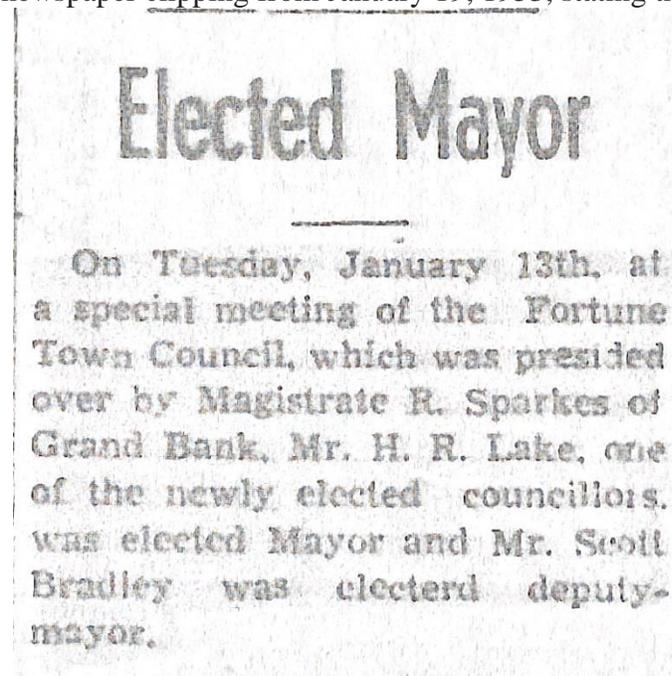
Ernest W. Riggs 1950 – 1953

Source of confirmation: his name is engraved in a nameplate on the Mayor's sash



H. R. Lake January 13, 1953 - January 1955

Source of confirmation: name is engraved in a nameplate on the Mayor's sash, along with a newspaper clipping from January 19, 1953, stating that Mr. Lake was elected on January 13.



Ernest W. Riggs January 1955 – 1957

Source of confirmation: his name is engraved in a nameplate on the Mayor's sash. Also, a newspaper clipping from January 1955 stating Mr. Riggs was re-elected.

Riggs Elected Fortune Mayor

GRAND BANK (Special) — Last night the Fortune Town Council elected E. W. Riggs as Mayor and Scott E. Bradley was re-elected Deputy Mayor. Mayor Riggs previously served in the latter capacity on the Fortune-Town Council.



Scott Bradley 1957 – 1965

Source of confirmation: his name is engraved in a nameplate on the Mayor's sash. Also, a newspaper clipping from June 21, 1963 states "Mr. Bradley, who has been Mayor of Fortune since 1957".



Charles E. Bennett April 1965 – November 1965

Source of confirmation: his name is engraved in a nameplate on the Mayor's sash.



Tobias Matthews 1965 – 1973

Source of confirmation: his name is engraved in a nameplate on the Mayor's sash. Also, a guest book in the Town Hall storage room is labeled as follows:

“The Town of Fortune, Newfoundland

Centennial Project

Officially Opened by Hon. T. Alex Hickman, Minister of Justice

May 29, 1968”

Mr. Matthews' name is listed as Mayor on the opposite page.

Further confirmation provided by newspaper clipping from September 1969 and an undated picture listing Mr. Matthews as mayor at the time.



Standing: Alec Noseworthy, Deputy Mayor; Russell Lake; Geo. T. White; Basil Collier; Harvey Piercey; Geo A. Thornhill

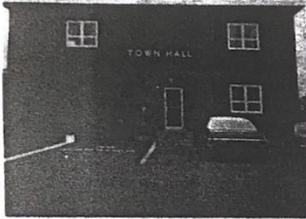
Sitting: Tobias Matthews, Mayor; Hon. T. Alex Hickman

Alec Noseworthy 1973 – 1977

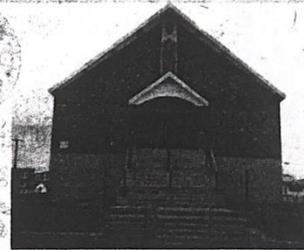
Source of confirmation: his name is engraved in a nameplate on the Mayor's sash. Also, correspondence with Mr. Noseworthy himself via Facebook Messenger which also stated that some of the councilors included Lloyd Lake, Russell Lake, Harvey Piercey and George White.

Furthermore, his name is engraved in a nameplate on the Mayor's sash, and an article commemorating the 100th anniversary of the United Church in Fortune, printed in October 5, 1977 edition of The Southern Gazette, has his name listed as mayor.

-The Southern Gazette, October 5, 1977



A Message from the Fortune Town Council



It is with great pleasure that we help celebrate the 100th anniversary of our United Church in Fortune. The Church has provided invaluable assistance over the years to the residents of Fortune and we look forward to their continued involvement in our community in the years ahead.

We trust that all residents are celebrating the Church's Centenary this week by taking part in the many activities that have been planned.

Again, Best Wshes to the United Church and continued success in the future.

**The Fortune Town Council
Alec Noseworthy,
Mayor**



Basil Collier 1977 – 1981

Source of confirmation: his name is engraved in a nameplate on the Mayor's sash. Also, a news article from June 28, 1978 posted on Fortune then and now Facebook group, as well as correspondence with CAO Linda Collier, daughter of Mr. Collier.



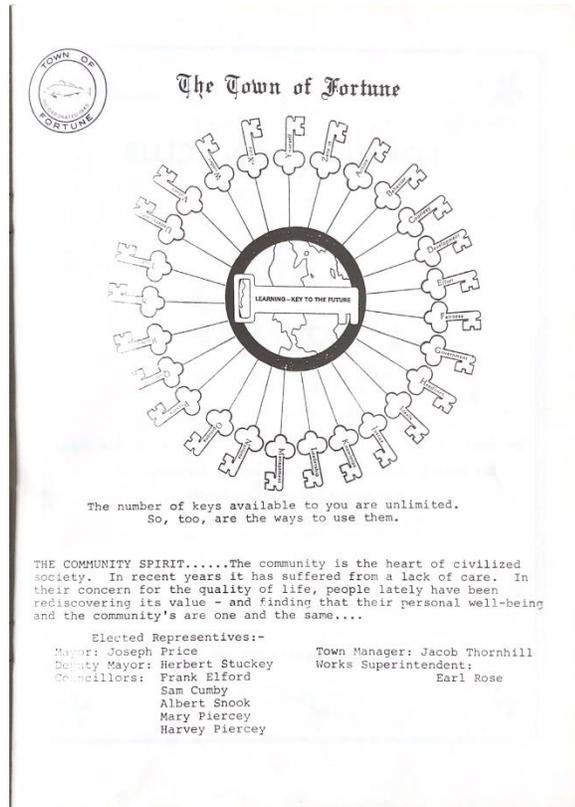
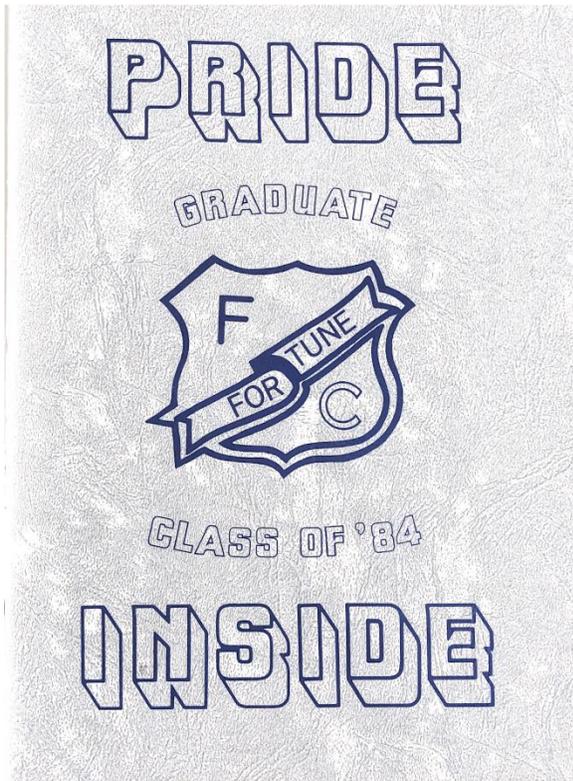
Jacob P. Thornhill 1981-1982

Source of confirmation: his name is engraved in a nameplate on the Mayor's sash.



Joseph Price 1982 – 1984

Source of confirmation: his name is engraved in a nameplate on the Mayor's sash. Furthermore, his name is listed as mayor in the 1984 Fortune Collegiate Yearbook on a page in which the Town of Fortune gives best wishes to the graduating class.



THE COMMUNITY SPIRIT.....The community is the heart of civilized society. In recent years it has suffered from a lack of care. In their concern for the quality of life, people lately have been rediscovering its value - and finding that their personal well-being and the community's are one and the same....

Elected Representatives:-

Mayor: Joseph Price
Deputy Mayor: Herbert Stuckey
Councillors: Frank Elford
 Sam Cumby
 Albert Snook
 Mary Piercey
 Harvey Piercey

Town Manager: Jacob Thornhill
Works Superintendent:
 Earl Rose



Herbert Stuckey 1984-1985

Source of confirmation: his name is engraved in a nameplate on the Mayor's sash.



Major King Jr. 1985 – 1989

Source of confirmation: his name is engraved in a nameplate on the Mayor's sash. Also, his name and signature can be found on meeting minutes from 1985 until November 15, 1989, on which a special meeting was held to swear in a new council. Page 1 of the minutes from that meeting states the following:

"The new Councillors, Mr. Harold Thornhill and Mr. Eugene Warren came into the meeting. Mayor King welcomed the gentlemen then vacated the mayor's chair."

By Faye Dominie

Residents of the Town of Fortune will not be faced with a tax increase in 1987. The town council approved its new budget prior to Christmas budgeting an expenditure of \$1,615,878.

Mayor Junior King told the Southern Gazette the 1987 budget is "the largest ever prepared by the Town". As a formality, approval will be sought from the Minister of Municipal Affairs, however, a balanced budget presented by a town ordinarily requires only a signature of the minister.

The council's Finance Committee recommended no change in the present tax structure. Property tax remains at five mills, poll tax stands at \$100, business tax and water and sewer rates are also the same as last year.

Mayor King said "the municipal budget is very realistic" and revenue will provide the continuation of existing municipal services and for major improvements in 1987. Funding of \$375,000 has been approved for culvert replacement for Loggerhead Brook beginning in April.

Another \$80,000 will go toward phase one of the storm drainage and road improvements program for Confederation Street Land Assembly. Council is also anticipating additional funding to proceed with phase two of the project this year to correct the problems associated with the flooding of Confederation Brook and damages to personal properties.

Major improvements will be undertaken to correct storm drainage problems on Eldon



Junior King

Street. A cost sharing arrangement with the provincial government will finance this work.

This year Fortune will begin phase one of its sidewalks program. Council has pegged \$103,000 for this phase which will take in the area around Fortune Collegiate and Lake Academy. Funding for the project is also expected from the Canadian Job Strategy Program and the 60/40 cost shared program with the Municipal Affairs Department. The entire sidewalk and storm drainage program in this area will be completed in 1987.

Additional funds will be made available to the Fortune Fire Department this year to allow for purchase of equipment, training and a contribution to the 'Equipment Reserve Fund' gearing to

purchase of a pumper.

Firemen will still receive their \$10 honourarium for each meeting they attend and remuneration for councillors will remain the same as in 1986.

Debt charges, like with most other councils, continues to be the heaviest load on the Fortune council with \$235,706 set aside in 1987. The direct debt charge on the Fortune Arena alone will mean \$67,914 this year.

Council has approved funding for the purchase and installation of a new 'brine heater system' for the Arena. It will be installed this spring and will allow for an increase in summer and fall activities.

Mayor King said "council will continue its efforts to provide additional employment to the residents under our capital works program and through various projects funded by both levels of government. The Town staff," he added, "should again be commended on their efforts in 1986, providing some 100-residents with ten to twenty weeks of employment under the various programs."

King said the new budget displays the financial responsibility of the council and our confidence in the town staff.

The tax collection rate in Fortune remains at 95-percent, reflecting the co-operation of the residents and the control of the Town's administration, King said.

The Mayor stated, "my council will endeavour to encourage small business and development" as the town continues its efforts to attract new jobs to the community.

Charles Penwell November 15, 1989 - November 1993

Source of confirmation: his name is engraved in a nameplate on the Mayor's sash. Also, meeting minutes contain his name as mayor and/or his signature from November 6, 1989 to October 25, 1993. Page 1 from minutes of a special meeting on November 15, 1989, describes the following:

“The Council then took their Oath of Office. Nominations for Mayor were called. Councillor Major King nominated Councillor Charles Penwell. Councillor Charles King seconded the nomination. No further nominations. With unanimous agreement Charles Penwell was declared Mayor.”



Lloyd Barnes November 1993 - December 13, 1993

Source of confirmation: his name is engraved in a nameplate on the Mayor's sash. Also, he is listed as mayor in meeting minutes for November 8 and December 13, 1993, the latter of which clearly states, on page 1, as follows:

“Mayor Barnes noted he would like to step down as mayor and to be a Councillor for the next four years. The new Councilors were sworn in by the Returning Officer-Basil Collier.”

“The election for Mayor-Councilor Barnes nominated Charles Penwell. After calling for nominations three times, Charles Penwell was elected.”



Charles Penwell December 13, 1993 - October 12, 1994

Source of confirmation: his name is engraved in a nameplate on the Mayor's sash. Also, meeting minutes for December 13, 1993, in which page 1 clearly states the following:

“Mayor Barnes noted he would like to step down as mayor and to be a Councilor for the next four years. The new Councilors were sworn in by the Returning Officer-Basil Collier.”

“The election for Mayor-Councilor Barnes nominated Charles Penwell. After calling for nominations three times, Charles Penwell was elected.”

Furthermore, pages 1 and 2 of meeting minutes from October 12, 1994, under “Genreal”, item 2 clearly states the following:

“2. Resolution re Leave of Absence – Mayor Penwell

Mayor Penwell explained his conversation with Mr. Keith Warren of Dept. of Municipal and Provincial Affairs re the Leave of Absence.

Town Clerk basil Collier conducted the Election of Deputy Mayor: Councillor King nominated Councillor Tulk.

After calling for Nominations for Deputy Mayor three times, Councillor Harvey Tulk was elected as Deputy Mayor.

Mayor Penwell resigned as Mayor.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Tulk and seconded by Councillor King we would accept the Mayor's Resignation due to work commitments. Motion carried.

As a result Deputy Mayor Tulk automatically becomes Mayor.

Councillor Thornhill nominated Counillor Penwell for the position of Deputy Mayor.

After calling for nominations for Deputy Mayor three times Councillor Charles Penwell was elected as Deputy Mayor.”

Harvey Tulk October 12, 1994 – October 1997

Source of confirmation: his name is engraved in a nameplate on the Mayor's sash. Also, pages 1 and 2 of meeting minutes from October 12, 1994, under "General", item 2 clearly states the following:

"2. Resolution re Leave of Absence – Mayor Penwell

Mayor Penwell explained his conversation with Mr. Keith Warren of Dept. of Municipal and Provincial Affairs re the Leave of Absence.

Town Clerk basil Collier conducted the Election of Deputy Mayor: Councillor King nominated Councillor Tulk.

After calling for Nominations for Deputy Mayor three times, Councillor Harvey Tulk was elected as Deputy Mayor.

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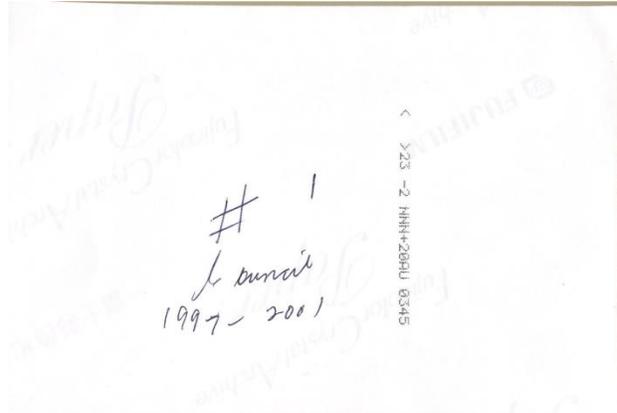
As a result Deputy Mayor Tulk automatically becomes Mayor.

Furthermore, his name is engraved in a nameplate on the Mayor's sash.



Charles Penwell October 1997 - October 2003

Source of confirmation: his name is engraved in a nameplate on the Mayor's sash. Also, meeting minutes contain his name as mayor and his signature from October 6, 1997 to October 2, 2003



Mr. Penwell (sitting) with the town council, 1997 – 2001, confirmed by notation on the backside of the photograph



Mr. Penwell (sitting) with town council, 2001 – 2003

Alec Noseworthy October 2003 - September 2009

Source of confirmation: meeting minutes contain his name as mayor and his signature from October 30, 2003 to September 14, 2009. Also, name is engraved in a nameplate on the Mayor's sash (with some possible typographical errors)



Mr. Noseworthy (sitting) with town council, 2003-2009



Charles Penwell September 2009 – October 2021

Source of confirmation: his name is engraved in a nameplate on the Mayor's sash. Also, meeting minutes contain his name as mayor and his signature from September 29, 2009 to September 21, 2021. A news article published on The Town Fortune Facebook page reveals that Mr. Penwell announced that he will step down as mayor in 2021.

MAYOR CHARLES PENWELL



35 Years of Dedicated Service to the Town of Fortune

At a regular meeting of the Fortune Town Council held on December 15th, Deputy Mayor Frazer Smith presented Mayor Charles Penwell with the Provincial Government's long term service award that would have initially been presented in person at the Municipalities Newfoundland Labrador Convention that was altered due to measures enforced due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Deputy Mayor Frazer Smith indicated that the presentation was an honour for him to do – with the *longest serving Councillor and Mayor for the Town of Fortune* being his “father-in-law and best friend”. Deputy Mayor Smith indicated his desire to serve the residents of Fortune by seeking municipal office twelve years ago was attributed to the persuasion of his father-in-law.

Mayor Penwell humbly accepted his long term service certificate along with a gift (*a much needed ipad*) acknowledging the other Councillors for their commitment and purpose for seeking election in municipal politics as being genuine, despite the timely commitment involved.

“I've enjoyed it, but there were lots of challenges and arguments over the past 35 years”, Mayor Penwell said. He has sat around the table with lots of different individuals with conflicting agendas and views; nevertheless, all were respected and appreciated. At the end of the day – everyone got along!

Mayor Penwell concluded by thanking the present Council – “thanks for being good to get along with”, he said. He also provided encouragement for them to seek re-election in September of 2021. Mayor Penwell advises the public that he will not be seeking re-election once his term is completed. He strongly encourages residents to consider seeking municipal office, *especially women* (very low involvement in recent years). Contributing to make the community a great place to live can be very worthwhile and rewarding.



Deanne Hickman October 2021 – present

Source of confirmation: social media posts on the Town of Fortune Facebook page with the enclosed photographs:



Mrs. Hickman sworn in as first female mayor of Fortune, October 2021



Mrs. Hickman (left, sitting) with council at swearing-in ceremony