

## St. John's Municipal Councils 1888-2017

### August 30, 1888

August 30, 1888 General Election

Ward 1 John T. Carnell  
Ward 2 Francis St. John  
Ward 3 Moses Monroe  
Ward 4 Michael Power  
Ward 5 William Morison

Government appointees on Council: James Goodfellow, Chairman and James P. Fox. The Hon. J. Harris succeeded James P. Fox who died before the end of his term.

This was the first municipal election in St. John's and the first election under the Ballot Act.

### January 23, 1892

January 23, 1892 General Election

Ward 1 John T. Carnell  
Ward 2 John T. Southcott  
Ward 3 James Goodfellow  
Ward 4 Michael Power  
Ward 5 Donald Morison

Appointees to Council: Edward W. Bennett and Thomas Mitchell. On February 26, 1892, Mitchell was elected Chairman. In 1894 James J. Callahan was appointed to Council.

### 1893

1893

By-Election, John Harris elected following the death of John Carnell.

### December 30, 1893

December 30, 1893

Chairman Thomas Mitchell was replaced by Thomas J. Edens

### 1894

1894

John Harris was elected in a By-Election following the death of Carnell in 1893

### January 4, 1894

January 4, 1894

Councillor Michael Power was elected Chairman

**January 23, 1896**

January 23, 1896 General Election

- Ward 1 John Harris
- Ward 2 Thomas Keating
- Ward 3 John V. O'Dea
- Ward 4 Michael Power
- Ward 5 James T. Callahan

Appointments by Government: Thomas J. Edens and R.A. McCoubrey

The new Council held its first meeting on February 7, 1896 and Power was elected Chairman.

Edens resigns on November 18, 1896 and replaced by M.K. Greene.

**1898 to 1902**

St. John's was governed by Commission. Three members were appointed by Government consisting of: H.C. Burchell, T.M. White and J.V. O'Dea

**1899**

P. C. O'Driscoll succeeded T. M. White on the Commission that ran St. John's from 1898 to 1902.

**1899**

T. M. White resigns from the Commission that governed St. John's for the period 1898 to 1902.

**1900**

H. F. Bradshaw appointed to the Commission that governed St. John's during the period 1898 to 1902. He replaced P.C. O'Driscoll and T. M. White.

**1902**

1902 Abolishment of the Commission

1902 Legislation was passed providing for an elected Council consisting of a Mayor and six Councillors, all elected at large. Elections were to be held in June of every fourth year from 1902 onwards.

**June 19, 1902**

June 19, 1902 General Election

- Mayor: George Shea
- Councillors: John R. Bennett
- William J. Ellis
- Charles F. Muir

John Harris  
John Anderson  
Michael Kennedy

Bennett received the highest vote among the six and was referred to as Senior Councillor and as such was to preside over Council Meetings in the absence of the Mayor.

### **June 26, 1906**

June 26, 1906 General Election

Mayor: Michael P. Gibbs  
Councillors: William J. Ellis  
Michael Kennedy  
John Carew  
Samuel G. Collier  
John Cowan  
James T. Martin

Between September 3-10, 1906 John Carew died in office, no by-election was held.

### **July 1908**

First civic strike held by sanitary workers.

### **June 27, 1910**

June 27, 1910 General Election

Mayor: William J. Ellis  
Councillors: James Martin  
John Coaker  
James J. Channing  
Charles R. Ryan  
James J. Mullaly  
Martin W. Myrick

### **August 9, 1911**

Council opened the town's first civic-owned offices after having purchased the Seaman's Home in late 1910.

### **July 1, 1914**

July 1, 1914

Elected form of municipal government replaced by Commission system of government.

Appointments:  
John Anderson

Charles P. Ayre  
F. W. Bradshaw  
William Ellis  
William Gilbert Gosling  
John Harris  
Edward M. Jackman  
James McGrath  
Francis MacNamara  
Issac C. Morris  
James J. Mullaly  
J. W. Withers

### **July 2, 1914**

July 2, 1914. First meeting of Commission. William Gosling elected as chairman, defeating William Ellis who resigned after failing to become chairman.

### **June 29, 1916**

June 29, 1916 General Election

Mayor: William G. Gosling  
Councillors: Issac C. Morris  
Dr. James S. Tait  
Henry J. Brownrigg  
James J. Mullaly  
Charles P. Ayre  
Nicholas J. Vinnicombe

### **June 1920 to June 1921**

June 1920 to June 1921. St. John's run by Commission appointed by the Governor-in-Council.

July 5, 1920  
Appointments:  
W. G. Gosling  
Charles P. Ayre  
Issac Morris  
James Mullaly  
Nicholas J. Vinnicombe

### **July 1, 1921 to December 31, 1921**

New commission appointed to replace the one that went out of office June 30, 1921.

June 26, 1921. New commission took office.  
Appointments: Issac Morris, Chairman  
Samuel G. Collier

W. H. Jackman  
James J. Mullaly  
Samuel H. Peet  
Nicholas J. Vinnicombe

The old Commission ended its term of office on June 30, 1921 and the new Commission took office on July 26, 1921 leaving St. John's without any local government for nearly a month.

### **August 21, 1921**

August 2, 1921. Civic legislation known as the City Charter passed both Houses of the Legislature. This document was worked on extensively by William G. Gosling and laid out the rights and responsibilities of the council and its officials. Women received the right to vote as a result of the charter.

### **December 15, 1921**

December 15, 1921. General Election

Mayor: Tasker Cook  
Councillors: James T. Martin  
Philip E. Outerbridge  
Nicholas J. Vinnicombe  
Samuel G. Collier  
Charles W. Ryan  
Reginald Dowden

The new position of Deputy Mayor was to be determined by a vote of all the Council.

### **December 8, 1925**

December 8, 1925 General Election

Mayor: Tasker Cook  
Councillors: Joseph Fitzgibbon  
Dr. Archibald C. Tait  
William E. Brophy  
Philip E. Outerbridge  
Charles W. Ryan  
James T. Martin

Julia Salter Earle ran in this election and came within eleven votes of claiming the sixth and final Council seat. This is the first election in which women were allowed to run for Council. Three women ran unsuccessfully.

### **1927**

The City's first Town Planning Commission appointed.

### **December 9, 1929**

December 9, 1929    General Election

Mayor: Charles J. Howlett  
Councillors: Charles W. Ryan  
Andrew G. Carnell  
John P. Kelly  
Jonas C. Barter  
James R. Chalker  
Ernest St. Clair Churchill

Andrew Carnell was elected Deputy Mayor.

**March 31, 1932**

Charles J. Howlett died. Andrew Carnell administered the City.

**December 1933**

December 1933    General Election

Mayor: Andrew Carnell  
Councillors: James R. Chalker  
Charles W. Ryan  
John P. Kelly  
Philip E. Outerbridge  
Michael F. Caul  
James J. Spratt

Chalker elected as Deputy Mayor. Outerbridge resigns shortly afterwards.

**April 8, 1935**

April 8, 1935    By-Election

John Williams wins seat left vacant by Philip E. Outerbridge

**December 16, 1937**

December 16, 1937    General Election

Mayor: Andrew G. Carnell  
Councillors: James R. Chalker  
James J. Spratt  
John P. Kelly  
John M. Tobin  
Kenneth Ruby  
John T. Meaney

Chalker elected as Deputy Mayor.

May 1, 1941 Kenneth Ruby dies while in office.

**December 15, 1941**

December 15, 1941 General Election

Mayor: Andrew G. Carnell

Councillors:Eric Cook

Edward Lawrence

Oliver L. Vardy

James J. Spratt

John P. Kelly

John T. Meaney

**1943**

1943. Edward Lawrence and John T. Meaney died while in office. Their seats were filled by A. M. Fraser and H.G.R. Mews in a by-election later that same year.

**November 13, 1945**

November 13, 1945 General Election

Mayor: Andrew G. Carnell

Councillors:James J. Spratt

Harry G. R. Mews

Oliver L. Vardy

John P. Kelly

William P. Ryan

Eric Jerrett

Spratt was chosen as Deputy Mayor by Council. A tradition had evolved whereby the Deputy Mayor's position was given to the Councillor finishing first in the polls.

1948 - William P. Ryan dies while in office.

1949 - John P. Kelly dies in September 1949.

**November 8, 1949**

November 8, 1949 General Election

Mayor: Harry G. Mews

Councillors:George Nightingale, Deputy Mayor

James D. Higgins

Joseph Fitzgibbon

Eric Jerrett

James Tucker  
Leo A. Earle

The new Council was sworn in on January 3, 1950.

**January 7, 1950**

Ronald Martin appointed City Engineer.

**March 9, 1950**

Edward Foran appointed as Assistant City Clerk.

**June 1, 1950**

June 1, 1950 By-Election

Won by Douglas Oilphant.

**November 10, 1953**

November 10, 1953 General Election

Mayor: Harry G. R. Mews  
Councillors: James D. Higgins, Deputy Mayor  
George Nightingale  
Joseph Fitzgibbon  
James Tucker  
Leo A. Earle  
W. Gordon Warren

**November 12, 1957**

November 12, 1957 General Election

Mayor: Harry G. R. Mews  
Councillors: James D. Higgins, Deputy Mayor  
Joseph Fitzgibbon  
James Tucker  
George Nightingale  
Geoffrey C. Carnell  
Alec Henley

James tucker resigned from Council on April 30, 1958.

Joseph Fitzgibbon dies on December 17, 1960. No By-Election is held.

**June 23, 1958**

June 23, 1958 By-Election



Won by Robert F. McLeod. Seat left vacant by the resignation of James Tucker.

**November 14, 1961**

November 14, 1961 General Election

Mayor: Harry G. R. Mews  
Deputy Mayor: William G. Adams  
Councillors: James D. Higgins  
Geoffrey C. Carnell  
Alec G. Henley  
Walter C. Carter  
James M. Fagan

October 1963 James D. Higgins resigned as a result of an appointment to the Supreme Court.

**November 25, 1963**

November 25, 1963 By-Election

Gerald A. Wiggins elected.

1964 - Wiggins dies in November 1964.

**November 16, 1965**

November 16, 1965 General Election

Mayor: William G. Adams  
Deputy Mayor: John Crosbie  
Councillors: Walter Carter  
James Fagan  
Geoffrey Carnell  
Thomas Doyle  
Jim Browne

July 1966 - Crosbie resigned from council.

**November 15, 1966**

November 15, 1966 By-Election

Clarene L. Englebrecht (Bob Lewis) elected as Councillor. By-Election was called due to the resignation of John Crosbie from Council.

**November 18, 1969**

November 18, 1969 General Election

Mayor: William G. Adams

Deputy Mayor: Leonard Stirling  
Councillors: Clarence Englebrecht (Bob Lewis)  
James Fagan  
Brian E. Higgins  
Dorothy Wyatt  
Jim Browne  
Albert Andrews  
Geoffrey Carnell

Dorothy Wyatt was the first woman ever elected to Council.

### **November 13, 1973**

November 13, 1973 General Election

Mayor: Dorothy Wyatt  
Deputy Mayor: John J. Murphy  
Councillors: Miller Ayre  
David G. Riche  
David Barrett  
James Fagan  
Brian E. Higgins  
Eric Gullage  
Ray O'Neill

Dorothy Wyatt became St. John's first female mayor.

On October 26, 1973 Eric Gullage resigned from Council.

### **November 8, 1977**

November 8, 1977 General Election

Mayor: Dorothy Wyatt  
Deputy Mayor: Ray O'Neill  
Councillors: Suzanne Duff  
Brian E. Higgins  
James Fagan  
David Barrett  
Frances Innis  
Hugh Baird  
Andrew Wells

Council took office on December 1, 1977. Previous councils had taken office on January 1st of the year following the election.

### **June 24, 1979**

First St. John's Day celebrations held on June 24, 1979.

### **September 25, 1979**

September 25, 1979 By-Election

Thomas Osbourne wins a By-Election that was called due to the death of Brian Higgins.

### **November 3, 1981**

November 3, 1981 General Election

Mayor: John J. Murphy

Councillors at large:

Suzanne Duff, Deputy Mayor

James Fagan

David Barrett

Ronald Pumphrey

Ward 1: Andrew Wells

Ward 2: John Tessier

Ward 3: Bruce Tilley

Ward 4: Thomas Osbourne

Council took office on December 1, 1981.

Ronald Pumphrey resigns from Council in September 1984.

### **November 12, 1985**

November 12, 1985 General Election

Mayor: John J. Murphy

Councillors at Large:

Suzanne Duff, Deputy Mayor

Raymond O'Neill

Dorothy Wyatt

David Barrett

Ward 1: Andy Wells

Ward 2: Eric Gullage

Ward 3: Bruce Tilley

Ward 4: Thomas Osbourne

May 24, 1989 Eric Gullage resigns from Council.

### **November 13, 1990**

November 13, 1990 General Election

Mayor: Suzanne Duff

Councillors at Large: Andrew Wells, Deputy Mayor

Dorothy Wyatt  
Raymond O'Neill  
Basil Jamieson  
Ward 1: Wendy Williams  
Ward 2: Douglas Atkinson  
Ward 3: John Whalen  
Ward 4: Gerard Colbert

Council takes office effective December 1, 1990.

Douglas Atkinson resigns on September 28, 1992.

**February 25, 1992**

February 25, 1992 By-election for Wards 5 and 6  
Ward 5: Paul J. Reynolds  
Ward 6: John Dinn

Wards 5 and 6 were added after the Towns of Wedgewood Park and the Goulds amalgamated with St. John's.

**November 24, 1992**

November 24, 1992 By-Election  
Bruce Tilley elected in Ward 2. By-Election called due to the resignation of Douglas Atkinson.

Tilley was sworn in on December 7, 1992.

**November 9, 1993**

November 9, 1993 General Election

Mayor: John J. Murphy  
Councillors at Large:  
Andrew Wells - Deputy Mayor  
Dorothy Wyatt  
Jeffrey Brace  
Marie White  
Ray O'Neill

Ward 1: Sean Hanrahan  
Ward 2: Shawn Skinner  
Ward 3: Keith Coombs  
Ward 4: Gerry Colbert  
Ward 5: John Dinn

**September 30, 1997**

September 30, 1997 General Election

Mayor: Andrew Wells  
Deputy Mayor: Marie White  
Councillors-at-Large:  
Peter Miller  
Shannie Duff  
Dennis O'Keefe  
Dorothy Wyatt

Ward 1: Sean Hanrahan  
Ward 2: Frank Galgay  
Ward 3: Keith Coombs  
Ward 4: Gerry Colbert  
Ward 5: John Dinn

October 14, 1997 Council sworn in. Deputy Mayor Marie White sworn in as Acting Mayor due to a recount of the Mayor's vote.

October 31, 1997 Andy Wells sworn in as Mayor

**September 25, 2001**

September 25, 2001 General Election

Mayor: Andy Wells  
Deputy Mayor: Gerry Colbert  
Councillors at Large:  
Dennis O'Keefe  
Shannie Duff  
Paul Sears  
Dorothy Wyatt [elected after her death]

Ward 1: Art Puddister  
Ward 2: Frank Galgay  
Ward 3: Keith Coombs  
Ward 4: Kevin Breen  
Ward 5: John Dinn

Dorothy Wyatt first candidate to be elected posthumously resulting in a by-election to be held later in the year.

Council sworn in on October 9, 2001.

**November 27, 2001**

November 27, 2001 By-Election

Sandy Hickman elected as Councillor at Large.

Sworn in on December 3, 2001.

**September 27, 2005**

September 27, 2005 General Election

Mayor: Andy Wells  
Deputy Mayor: Dennis O'Keefe  
Councillors at Large:  
Gerry Colbert  
Shannie Duff  
Tom Hann  
Sandy Hickman

Ward 1: Art Puddister  
Ward 2: Frank Galgay  
Ward 3: Keith Coombs  
Ward 4: Ron Ellsworth  
Ward 5: Wally Collins

October 11, 2005 New Council sworn in.

**March 3, 2008**

March 3, 2008. Mayor Andy Wells resigns to take position as Chairperson of the Public Utilities Board.

**March 3, 2008 to April 18, 2008**

March 3, 2008 to April 18, 2008. Deputy Mayor Dennis O'Keefe assumes the role of Acting Mayor.

**April 18, 2008 to June 9, 2008**

Councillor Shannie Duff assumes the role of Acting Mayor.

**June 3, 2008**

June 3, 2008 By-Election

Dennis O'Keefe elected Mayor  
Ron Ellsworth elected Deputy Mayor  
Debbie Hanlon elected Ward 4 Councillor

June 9, 2008 Swearing in ceremonies for newly elected Council Members.

**June 9, 2008 to September 2009**

Council for the period June 9, 2008 to September 2009.

Result of the June 3, 2008 By-Election

Mayor: Dennis O'Keefe

Deputy Mayor: Ron Ellsworth

Councillors at Large:

Gerry Colbert

Shannie Duff

Tom Hann

Sandy Hickman

Ward 1: Art Puddister

Ward 2: Frank Galgay

Ward 3: Keith Coombs

Ward 4: Debbie Hanlon

Ward 5: Wally Collins

**September 29, 2009**

September 29, 2009 General Election

Mayor: Dennis O'Keefe

Deputy Mayor: Shannie Duff

Councillors at Large:

Gerry Colbert

Tom Hann

Sandy Hickman

Sheilagh O'Leary

Ward 1: Danny Breen

Ward 2: Frank Galgay

Ward 3: Bruce Tilley

Ward 4: Debbie Hanlon

Ward 5: Wally Collins

October 13, 2009 New Council sworn in.

**September 24, 2013**

September 24, 2013 General Election

Mayor: Dennis O'Keefe

Deputy Mayor: Ron Ellsworth

Councillors at Large:

Tom Hann

Sandy Hickman

Dave Lane

Art Puddister

Ward 1: Danny Breen  
Ward 2: Jonathan Galgay  
Ward 3: Bruce Tilley  
Ward 4: Bernard Davis  
Ward 5: Wally Collins

October 7, 2013 New Council sworn in.

**September 26, 2017**

September 26, 2017 General Election

Mayor: Danny Breen  
Deputy Mayor: Sheilagh O’Leary  
Councillors at Large:  
Sandy Hickman  
Dave Lane  
Debbie Hanlon  
Maggie Burton

Ward 1: Deanne Stapleton  
Ward 2: Hope Jamieson  
Ward 3: Jamie Korab  
Ward 4: Ian Froude  
Ward 5: Wally Collins

October 10, 2017 New Council sworn in.

**October 20, 2020**

October 20, 2020 By-Election

Shawn Skinner elected Ward 2 Councillor

Sworn in October 26, 2020

**September 28, 2021**

September 28, 2021 General Election

Mayor: Danny Breen  
Deputy Mayor: Sheilagh O’Leary  
Councillors at Large:  
Sandy Hickman  
Ron Ellsworth  
Debbie Hanlon  
Maggie Burton



Ward 1: Jill Bruce  
Ward 2: Ophelia Ravencroft  
Ward 3: Jamie Korab  
Ward 4: Ian Froude  
Ward 5: Carl Ridgeley

October 12, 2021 New Council sworn in.