



## **NOTICE**

- MEETING:** Regular Council Meeting
- DATE:** Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- TIME:** 5:00pm
- PLACE:** Council Chambers, 8296 Highway 7, Sherbrooke

Please Advise If Unable To Attend



# Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Regular Council Meeting  
Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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*We acknowledge that we are gathering in Mi'kmaqi the traditional unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.*

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Additions to the Agenda
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes of Council Meeting held Wednesday, March 4, 2026
6. Business Arising from the Minutes
7. Presentation: Royal Canadian Mounted Police – Sgt. Natasha Farrell, Guysborough County RCMP
8. Recommendations from Committees of Council
  - a. Committee of the Whole – February 18, 2026
  - b. Committee of the Whole – March 4, 2026
9. Other Matters of Business
10. CAO Report
11. In Camera: Contract Negotiations

Adjournment

*A 10-minute question and answer period pertaining to agenda items.*



*We acknowledge that we are gathering in Mi'kma'ki the traditional unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.*

## **1. Meeting, Date & Time:**

Warden Fuller called the Additional Meeting of the St. Mary's Municipal Council to order on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 5:07pm. in the Council Chambers, Sherbrooke, N.S.

## **2. Attending:**

Warden James Fuller  
Deputy Warden Beulah Malloy  
Councillor Dana O'Connell  
Councillor Scott Beaver  
Councillor Emma Tibbo

## **Also Attending:**

Lesley McFarlane, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)  
Marian Fraser, Director of Finance/Treasurer  
Mallory Tibbo, Director of Community Development and Recreation.  
Janelle Fleet, Municipal Clerk

## **3. Additions to the Agenda:**

- Invitation to Members of the Public to Address Council on Impacts of Provincial Budget Cuts.

*Moved by Councillor Tibbo that an item #8 be added to the agenda to address the impacts of the Provincial Budget. Seconded by Councillor Beaver.*

***Motion Approved.***

## **4. Approval of the Agenda:**

*On the motion of Councillor Tibbo and seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council approved the agenda as revised.*

***Motion approved.***

## **5. Approval of Minutes:**

*Warden Fuller called for errors, omissions or amendments to the minutes of the Council meeting held February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Hearing no errors or omissions to the minutes, the Warden declared the minutes were approved.*

## **6. Business Arising from Minutes:**

- No business arising from the previous minutes.

## **7. Correspondence:**

- a. Correspondence – Sherbrooke Village Budget Cuts
  - The agenda package contained an email from Sherbrooke Village Executive Director York Lethbridge to St. Mary's CAO McFarlane, and an accompanying letter sent by Sherbrooke Restoration Commission to the Premier and several Provincial Ministers regarding impacts of the cuts in the provincial budget.
  - Councillor Beaver read aloud the letter from the Commission to the Province.
  - Councillor Tibbo read aloud the email from the Executive Director to the CAO.

## **8. Invitation to Members of the Public to Address Council on Impacts of Provincial Budget Cuts:**

- Warden Fuller invited members of the public, in order that their names appeared on the sign-in sheet that had been provided prior to the start of the meeting, to address council.
- The Warden introduced each person by name.
- Community members expressed their concerns and displeasure with the upcoming provincial budget cuts.

### **Public Comments:**

Vickie Bruce - SHOPS:

Vickie Bruce spoke regarding the SHOPS program and advised that the program has received notice of a 100% funding cut effective April 1. She noted the program has received funding for approximately seven years and provides daytime programming for vulnerable individuals. Ms. Bruce indicated that eight other agencies have also received similar funding cuts and that information has been sent to Greg Morrow, MLA.

Barb Furlong:

Barb Furlong spoke regarding the funding cuts and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to speak about the impacts on community organizations and vulnerable individuals.

Jean Robichaud:

Jean asked whether Council had received any updates from Greg Morrow, MLA regarding the funding cuts. Council advised that Mr. Morrow indicated that no final decisions have been confirmed.

Minister Derek Elsworth – United Church Minister:

Derek spoke regarding the potential impacts of the provincial budget on vulnerable individuals and community services, including the food bank, and noted concerns regarding the impacts on rural communities. He highlighted the lack of advance notice of provincial changes.

Heather Kreffer – SMART-GO Community Transit:

Heather advised that SMART-GO Community Transit has received notice of a 20% funding cut. She noted that the service provides transportation for individuals to programs, medical appointments, and other services. This means that the cuts to one area impact on viability of other programs.

Council thanked all speakers for attending and sharing their concerns. Council acknowledged the potential impacts these funding cuts may have on vulnerable residents, community organizations, and

local businesses, and noted that they will continue to monitor the situation as more information becomes available regarding the provincial budget decisions.

## **Adjournment**

*On motion of Warden Fuller there being no further matters of business, Council adjourned at 5:29pm.*

***Motion approved.***

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Recorded By  
Janelle Fleet, Interim Municipal Clerk

Approved By  
Warden Fuller



# GUYSBOROUGH DISTRICT RCMP

Enforcement & Involvement around St. Mary's

October 2025 – December 2025

# What's New?

## All Guysborough District RCMP will be transitioning to navy blue work shirts

As part of the RCMP's modernization plan, the RCMP is starting to roll out new navy-blue uniform shirts on a province-by-province basis.

- Starting in March 2026, frontline RCMP officers in Guysborough District will begin to wear their new navy-blue uniform shirts. Over the next 18 months, the uniform shirts will become available to officers in other provinces as part of the scheduled rollout.
- Members of the public should note that RCMP officers may still wear the previous grey uniform shirts for the foreseeable future, meaning they can be seen wearing either the grey or blue shirts on duty.
- If you have any concerns about the identity of the police officer you are interacting with, you can ask the officer for identification. You can also contact your local detachment's non-emergency line or Operational Communication Centre to determine if there is a police officer at your location.

# ROAD SAFETY – Current Priority

- ❑ Check Stops, speeding enforcement, school zone safety and combating impaired driving.
- ❑ February 20<sup>th</sup>, Guysborough District RCMP responded to a single vehicle collision on Highway 7 in Aspen. Eyewitnesses to the collision stated the vehicle was travelling at a high rate of speed and toward oncoming traffic prior to it leaving the road and flipping before coming to a stop. The 48-year-old female driver was showing signs of impairment. She was transported to hospital, where RCMP continued their investigation of impaired operation of a conveyance. The investigation is on-going.
- ❑ North East Nova Traffic Unit has been in the Municipality District of St. Mary's partnering with Guysborough District members to slow drivers down in the area.

# BUILDING COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS / COMMUNITY POLICING – Current Priority

Sherbrooke members continue to take part in community events in an effort to build & maintain positive relationships with the community.



# From October 1, 2025 to December 2025

**During this time, St. Mary's Members responded to:**

Total Calls - 131

Number of Criminal Code charges – 2

Number of traffic charges – 8

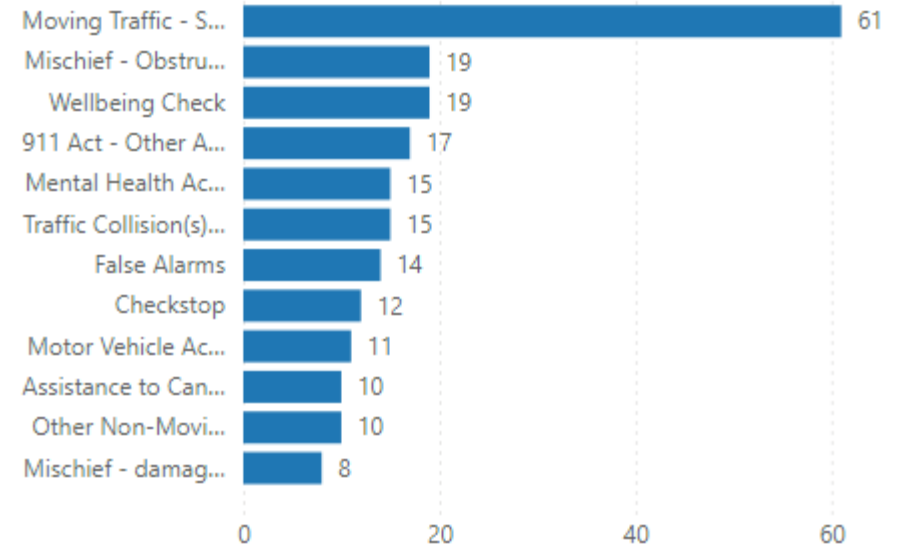
Total traffic warnings – 17

Traffic Collisions – 12

Wellbeing check - 11

**Most frequented call dispatched to all Guysborough District RCMP Members:**

Occurrence count by violation



# 2026 year starts on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

We are choosing our priorities for the upcoming year. To be effective are asking for input from Council and community members on issues you can identify in your neighborhoods that need extra attention.

Are there any new priorities we should consider?



QUESTIONS ?



# Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Council Meeting

## **Recommendations from Internal Committees of Council**

### **Committee of the Whole – February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

*On the motion of Councillor Tibbo and seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council requested staff to provide recommendations to Council regarding the letter from Robin MacDougall about Childcare Facilities.*

***Recommendation adopted.***

*On recommendation of Councillor Tibbo seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council agreed to combine the Volunteer Appreciation Event, First Responder Event and the Healthcare Appreciation Event into one Community Heroes Appreciation Event.*

***Recommendation adopted.***

### **Committee of the Whole – March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

*On recommendation of Councillor Beaver seconded by Councillor Tibbo, Council approve the selection of the St. Mary's District Lion's Club to provide catering services for the provision of monthly snacks, at a maximum cost of \$9,072 for the term of March 2026 to February 2027, with funding to be provided from the Office of Health Care Professionals Recruitment Fund received by the Municipality.*

***Recommendation approved.***

*On recommendation of Councillor Malloy seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council declare the property at 8164 Highway 7, PID 37501871, AAN 04147405, to be no longer required for the purposes of the municipality.*

***Recommendation approved.***

*On recommendation of Councillor Beaver seconded by Councillor Malloy, Council approve that due to excessive costs of installing dry hydrants combined with ineffective functionality, investment in dry hydrants be paused, and considered as part of the broader policy and governance review associated with implementing the Support for Fire Protection Services Act.*

***Recommendation approved.***

*On recommendation of Councillor O'Connell seconded by Councillor Tibbo, Council approve that the Warden, Deputy Warden and CAO be approved to attend the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Spring Conference in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia from April 29 to May 1, 2026.*

***Recommendation approved.***

*On recommendation of Councillor Malloy seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council approve that all five (5) members of Council plus the CAO be approved to attend the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Fall Conference in November 2026, with attendance to be confirmed pending announcement of conference details.*

***Recommendation approved.***

*On recommendation of Councillor Tibbo seconded by Councillor O'Connell, Council confirms that no members of Council will attend the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference in Edmonton, Alberta from June 4 to June 7, 2026.*

***Recommendation approved.***

*On recommendation of Councillor Malloy seconded by Councillor Tibbo approve the Annual General Meeting to be set for 5:30pm on Tuesday April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026.*

***Recommendation approved.***

*On recommendation of Councillor O'Connell seconded by Councillor Malloy approve that Council award the Old Road Hill Multi-Use Trail Design contract to Strait Engineering Limited in the amount of \$25,145.00 (plus applicable taxes), with \$6,286.25 plus applicable taxes to be funded through the approved 2026 Capital Budget and \$18,858.75 plus applicable taxes from the Connect2 funding received from the Province of Nova Scotia.*

***Recommendation approved.***



2025-2026

## CAO Report – Project Summary

For the period of February 1<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026

*The Municipality of the District of St. Mary's*

# MAJOR PROJECT SUMMARY

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## 1. Housing Initiatives –

CMHC- Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF)

- Based on the recent significant water main break, a review is underway to determine the go-forward approach for the water utility to support housing growth.

## 2. Climate Change Projects –

Leveraging the relationship with CLEAN Foundation to identify and address outstanding actions from the municipality's approved Climate Change Action Plan.

## 3. EMO/REMO –

- Selection process for REMO Coordinator position is underway.
- Fire Protection Services Act introduced in the legislature on February 23, 2026. This legislation will be accompanied by regulations which will outline new requirements for municipalities with respect to Fire Services. Implementation of the Support for Fire Protection Services Act will necessitate comprehensive revisions to the municipality's Fire Services Administration Policy and associated governance.

## 4. Tourism Promotion & Electronic Content/Advertisements –

- TDAP Communities program is ongoing. A winter photo shoot took place on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Many thanks to all who participated! The images and video will be used to update the Tourism website later this year.

## 5. Business Support–

- The municipality is currently recruiting for a Director of Economic Development. A broad search is underway to identify a dynamic experienced individual to lead the municipality's economic development plan and implementation.

## 6. Upcoming Municipal Events

- a. Easter Egg Hunt – April 4, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

## 7. Community Development and Recreation Programs

- a. 50+ Hockey began in November and continues to attract approximately 15 participants for recreational play and social engagement.
- b. Adult Recreation Hockey continued throughout February, bringing together over 40 players across three teams for fun and competitive play.
- c. Before and After Program continues, with strong attendance.
- d. Attendance for Active Women's Group was up in February after moving to the new time. Participants mentioned that the updated schedule works better for them, which seems to be helping with consistent turnout. The group has been running smoothly with steady participation.

- e. House League Hockey continued throughout February, with over 40 young participants aged 5 to 15. The program has been well received, providing an opportunity for skill development, teamwork, and community engagement.
  - f. Senior Skates continued throughout the month of February, providing participants with an enjoyable opportunity to stay active on the ice while socializing with fellow community members.
  - g. The Pond Hockey Program runs on Wednesday evenings from 7:00–8:00 p.m. and offers participants a relaxed, informal pick-up style of play. While initial registration was modest, attendance continues to grow each week, and participants have expressed appreciation for the opportunity to get on the ice in a laid-back and social environment.
  - h. Learn to Skate has continued throughout February with approximately 18 children registered and many participating each week. The Department has received great feedback about this program.
  - i. The Workplace Walking Challenge wrapped up at the end of February, with lots of participation from both teams and individuals. The feedback that came in was very positive, with people saying the challenge was great encouragement to get more steps and something they were glad to take part in. Overall, it went very well.
8. **Capital projects supporting Community Development and Recreation**
- a. Connect 2 – Multi Use Trail Design - The Staff Report for the award of the tender for this project was presented at the Committee of the Whole Meeting on February 18<sup>th</sup>.
9. **Accessibility & Inclusion**
- a. Accessibility Plan – The Accessibility Plan was presented to Council on February 18<sup>th</sup> for final approval. Council approved the Plan.
  - b. Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Anti-Hate and Accessibility Advisory Plan – the first draft of the Plan is complete.
10. **Public Works**
- Municipal Utilities & Infrastructure**
- A main water line leak occurred within the parking lot of Clover Farm. The public works team addressed the issue and currently has a temporary bypass installed. Pricing for permanent repairs is currently being collected. This will be completed in the spring when the frost is gone, and the ground dries up further.
  - Consultation took place with Strait Engineering, FracFlow, Department of Environment and Climate Change to discuss the next steps with the remediation of the buried cells and ground water and leachate monitoring plan moving forward. There is currently a plan in place on how to approach this project by Strait Engineering and Fracflow.
  - There are funds remaining in the Inflow and Infiltration project. A scope change has been requested and accepted. All wastewater collection lines and lift stations will now be cleaned and video inspected to inspect the system for further inflow and infiltration issues.

## Capital Projects

Description	Update
I&I Recommendation Phase 2 & 3	Project completed.
Dry Hydrant – Fisherman’s Harbour/PB	Fire Dept confirmed this location is no longer available. Next steps under review.
Dry Hydrant – Liscomb	Next steps under review.
Recplex -RFD – Compressor	Project completed.
Recplex – RFD – Flooring	Project completed.
Flushing Hydrant (Cameron Rd.)	Project completed.
Admin Bldg – Recpt Area Privacy upgrades	Project cancelled; not required.
Accessible Public Washroom 16 Main	Project deferred to 2026/27.
Water Tr Plant – Heating and Cooling System	Project completed.
Public Works Garage – Electrical upgrades	Project completed.
Port Bickerton Lighthouse Rd.	Grading planned for spring.
Sewer Testing Equipment/Blower	Council approval to be requested in March/April to proceed with this project.
Water Treatment Plant – Programmable Logic Controller/Auto Control System	Project to be carried forward to 2026/27.
Replace roof on water pump house	Project completed.
Recplex Ammonia Detection System	Project completed.
Library Kitchen/Community Room Renos	Next steps under review.
Connect 2 – Multi Use Trail Feasibility Study	Staff presented the Staff Report for the award of the tender for this project at the Committee of the Whole Meeting on February 18 <sup>th</sup>
Water Tr Plant Bubble Traps for Filters	Project completed.
Sewer Tr Plant – Cross Supports Rebuild	Project completed.
Low Carbon Communities Solar Program	Next steps under review.
Water Meter Upgrade project	Project to be carried forward to 2026/27.
Sewer Equalization Pump Motor Drive	Project completed.