



NOTICE

- MEETING:** Regular Council Meeting
- DATE:** Wednesday, June 17th, 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, June 17th, 2026

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 May 20th, 2026
 6. Business Arising from Minutes
 7. Presentation: Royal Canadian Mounted Police – Cpl. D'Arcy Doucette, Guysborough County RCMP
 8. Recommendations from Committees of Council
 - a. Committee of the Whole – June 3rd, 2026
 9. Outside Committee Reports
 - a. Port Bickerton Lighthouse Association – May 25th, 2026
 - b. Eastern Region Solid Waste Management – May 28th, 2026
 10. Correspondence
 - a. ECRL Statement on Library Service – June 8, 2026
 - b. Rink Revitalization Project Funding Denial Letter – May 26, 2026
 - c. Environment/Climate Change – Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund – May 28, 2026
 11. Other Matters of Business
 - a. Staff Report – Ice Edger Replacement
 - b. Staff Report – REMO Committee Appointments
 12. CAO Report
- Adjournment
- A 10-minute question and answer period pertaining to agenda items.



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday, May 20th, 2026

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

1. Meeting, Date & Time:

The Regular Council meeting of the St. Mary's Municipal Council was called to order on Wednesday May 20th, 2026, at 5:04pm in the Council Chambers Sherbrooke, N.S.

2. Attending:

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

Absent with Regrets:

Councillor Emma Tibbo

Also Attending:

Lesley McFarlane, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
Marian Fraser, Director of Finance/Treasurer
Janelle Fleet, Interim Municipal Clerk
Kelsey Reece, Director of Emergency Services/REMO Coordinator
Shaun MacLaughlin, Department of Emergency Management

3. Additions to the Agenda:

- There was one addition to the agenda: Item 10.d. – Statement Regarding Shoppers Drug Mart in Sherbrooke, Nova Scotia.

4. Approval of Agenda:

On motion of Councillor O'Connell and seconded by Councillor Beaver Council approved the agenda as amended.

Motion approved.

5. Approval of Previous Minutes:

Warden Fuller called for any errors or omissions to the minutes of the Council Meeting held April 15th, 2026, the Annual General Meeting held April 27th, 2026, and the Special Council Meeting held April 27th, 2026.

An error was noted in Item 4 of the Special Council Meeting minutes dated April 27th, 2026. The minutes stated that the agenda was approved "as amended"; however, there were no changes to the agenda. The wording was corrected to read "as presented."

On motion of Councillor Beaver and seconded by Councillor O'Connell, Council approved the minutes of the Council Meeting held April 15th, 2026, the Annual General Meeting held April 27th, 2026, and the Special Council Meeting held April 27th, 2026, as amended.

Motion approved.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes:

- a. There was no business arising from the minutes.

7. Correspondence

- a. Department of Municipal Affairs - 12 Month Notice of Provincial Changes Impacting Budget
 - Please see meeting materials for correspondence.

- b. Road Infrastructure Management Master list 2026-2028
 - Please see meeting materials for correspondence.
 - Council discussed the Road Infrastructure Management Master List. Councillor Beaver inquired about the status of repairs to the Archibald's Brook bridge and why the project was not included on the 2026–2028 RIM list. Warden Fuller noted that, based on previous information provided by Basil Pitts, the project was understood to be included on a separate list and planned for a later date.

- c. From the Cruiser – March 2026
 - Please see meeting materials for correspondence.

- d. From the Cruiser - April 2026
 - Please see meeting materials for correspondence.

8. Recommendations from Committees of Council:

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Anti-Hate and Accessibility Advisory Committee – April 10th, 2026

On motion of Councillor Beaver and seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council approve the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's 2026-28 Inclusion Plan.

Motion approved.

Committee of the Whole – April 15th, 2026

On motion of Councillor O'Connell and seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council approve the transfer of any Municipal Operating Surplus for the 2025/2026 fiscal year to the Municipal Capital Reserve fund and the Fire Service Reserve equally.

Motion approved.

Committee of the Whole – May 6th, 2026

On motion of Deputy Warden Malloy seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council approve the purchase of the F-150 Regular Cab truck from Highland Ford at a price of \$55,500 plus HST, to be funded through the 2026/27 capital budget.

Motion approved.

On motion of Councillor O'Connell seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council award Strait Engineering Ltd., the design of the Westside Water Main replacement at a cost of \$30,875.00 plus HST to maintain reliable water distribution to the Westside and to help promote growth to our community, funded from the Housing Accelerator Fund program.

Motion approved.

On motion of Councillor Beaver seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council recommend approval for the CAO to be authorized to enter into an agreement with Clean Foundation to provide project management and oversight for the Low Carbon Communities – Large Scale Solar Feasibility Study Project.

Motion approved.

On motion of Councillor O'Connell seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council approve transferring \$61,739 in Low Carbon Communities Program grant funding to Clean Foundation to manage as part of the Low Carbon Communities – Large Scale Solar Feasibility Study Project.

Motion approved.

On motion of Councillor Beaver seconded by Councillor O'Connell, Council recommends attendance of up to two (2) members of council with mileage expense to be reimbursed for those attending the Strengthening Municipal Partnerships: Community Challenges and StFX Research Solutions on May 27th, 2026.

Motion approved.

9. Outside Committee Reports

- a. Guysborough County Home Care Support Agency – February 26th, 2026
 - Please see report in the meeting materials.
- b. Sherbrooke Restoration Commission - February 27th, 2026
 - Please see report in the meeting materials.
- c. GALA - March 14th, 2026
 - Please see report in the meeting materials.
- d. Smart-Go – April 14th, 2026
 - Please see report in the meeting materials.

10. Other Matters of Business:

- a. REMO Introduction – Director of Emergency Services - Kelsey Reece
 - Kelsey Reece was introduced to Council as the shared Director of Emergency Services / REMO Coordinator for the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's, the Municipality of the District of Guysborough, and the Town of Mulgrave.
 - Shaun MacLaughlin, Department of Emergency Management, also introduced himself to Council. Mr. MacLaughlin advised that he works with Region 2, which includes Pictou, Antigonish, and Guysborough Counties, and supports municipalities in establishing their Regional Emergency Management Organizations, including the development of by-laws and service agreements.

- Council discussed the Nova Scotia Guard. Ms. Reece advised that she connects with the Nova Scotia Guard through the Department of Emergency Management and noted that she had an upcoming meeting with Nova Scotia Guard representatives regarding community outreach and engagement.
 - Mr. MacLaughlin advised that the Nova Scotia Guard has approximately 1,500 volunteers across Nova Scotia, organized at different levels with various skill sets. He noted that the Nova Scotia Guard is not intended to replace first responders but may assist in the later stages of an emergency response, such as days two or three of an incident.
 - Council was also advised that Kaitlin Power works with Mr. MacLaughlin as an outreach officer and can provide community presentations to groups such as Lions Clubs and seniors' groups on emergency alerting, preparedness, and ways to build community resilience.
 - Council discussed provincial wildfire response resources, including the four water bombers recently hired by the Province. It was noted that the aircraft are single-engine, single-drop planes based in Debert and must return to an airstrip to reload with water or fire retardant. Council was advised that, for a multi-day fire, equipment may be moved closer to the incident area, such as Yarmouth, although that takes time. It was further noted that the Province also has helicopters in service and that provincial resources were active at the time of the meeting.
- b. Staff Report – Municipal Volunteer of the Year Selection
- Staff report included in meeting materials
 - Council reviewed the staff report regarding the selection of the 2026 Municipal Volunteer of the Year. The report noted that the Municipality issued a call for nominations, with submissions closing on May 15th, 2026. The selection criteria included community impact, commitment and dedication, and leadership.
 - Council selected Volunteer #3 by majority vote through secret ballot.

On motion of Deputy Warden Malloy and seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council agrees to select Volunteer #3 as the Municipal Volunteer of the Year.

Motion approved.

c. July & August Council & COTW Dates

- Council discussed the upcoming Council and Committee of the Whole meeting schedule for July and August.

On motion of Councillor O'Connell and seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council approved moving the July 1st Committee of the Whole meeting to July 6th due to the Canada Day holiday.

Motion approved.

On motion of Deputy Warden Malloy and seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council agreed that regular Council and Committee of the Whole meetings be suspended for the month of August, unless otherwise required.

Motion approved.

d. Statement Regarding Shoppers Drug Mart in Sherbrooke, Nova Scotia

- Council discussed the announced closure of Shoppers Drug Mart in Sherbrooke, Nova Scotia, following notice that the pharmacy would be closing after June 11th, 2026.
- Council expressed disappointment with the decision and discussed the potential impacts on residents, particularly those who rely on local pharmacy services and prescription access.
- Council discussed possible interim options to support residents during the transition. Councillor Beaver noted that when the pharmacy previously lost its building, the Municipality assisted by offering an alternate location. He asked whether there were any similar options the Municipality could consider in the interim.
- The CAO reported that a number of actions were taken to try to allow Shoppers to continue operating in Sherbrooke, including providing a location for prescription pickup last summer, and then providing a convenient municipal location for Shoppers to operate from over the past year; the municipal parking lot in Sherbrooke.
- In addition, she mentioned that the municipality revised the sale of real property policy in the winter to enable a public procurement process to solicit companies to develop a pharmacy in the region, as well as promote interim pharmacy services during the development of a new service. She mentioned that the Expression of Interest for Pharmacy Services is still open, and closes on June 19th.
- The CAO also communicated that the municipality has supported the creation of a delivery service which Superstore Pharmacy has put in place in partnership with the Sherbrooke Library. Further, Smart GO will deliver prescriptions to any address within the municipality for a \$5 fee.

11. CAO Report:

- Please see the meeting materials for the report.
- Council received the CAO Report for the period of April 1st to April 30th, 2026.
- The CAO Report included updates on major municipal projects and departmental activities, including housing initiatives through the Housing Accelerator Fund, the Westside Water Main replacement project, climate change projects with Clean Foundation, REMO shared service work, tourism promotion, economic development activities, hospital and nursing home discussions, accessibility and inclusion work, recreation programming, and Public Works infrastructure projects.

12. In-Camera: Personnel Matters

On motion of Councillor O'Connell and seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council moved into an in-camera session for personnel matters at 5:47 p.m.

Motion approved.

On motion of Deputy Warden Malloy and seconded by Councillor O'Connell, Council reconvened to regular session at 6:07 p.m.

Motion approved.

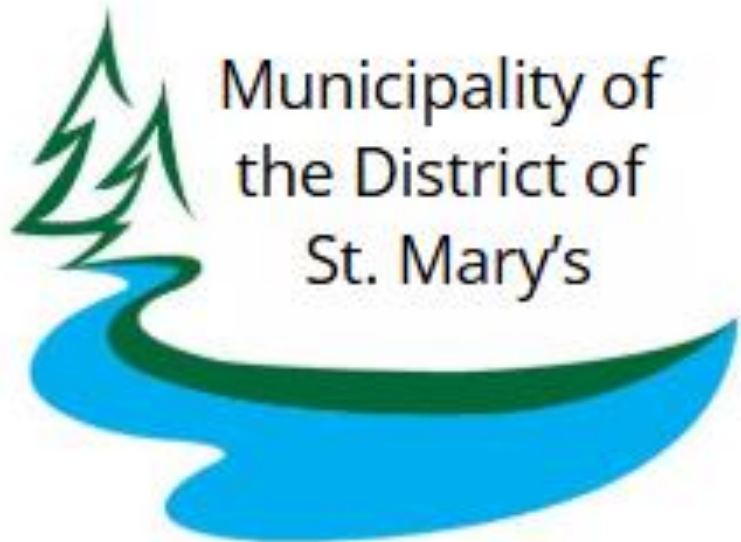
Adjournment

There being no further matters of business, Warden Fuller declared the meeting adjourned at 6:08pm.

Recorded By
Janelle Fleet, Interim Municipal Clerk

Approved By
Warden Fuller

**Municipality of the
District of St. Mary's
Inclusion Plan
2026-28**



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1 Background

The Municipality of the District of St. Mary's is committed to creating an inclusive and accessible community where residents and visitors of all ages and abilities can fully participate in civic life. The Inclusion Plan is a strategic tool designed to guide the Municipality in identifying, removing, and preventing barriers in municipal facilities, programs, services, and public spaces.

This Plan builds on previous accessibility initiatives and reflects the Municipality's ongoing commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility. It provides a framework for implementing practical improvements, setting priorities, and monitoring progress over time.

The development of the Plan was informed by the Nova Scotia Accessibility Act and the Dismantling Racism and Hate Act. It also draws on input from community members, municipal staff, and other stakeholders to ensure the Plan responds to the real experiences and needs of those who use municipal services.

The Municipality aims to foster a more welcoming and accessible environment, promote safe and equitable participation in community life, and ensure that inclusion is considered in all aspects of municipal decision-making and service delivery. In 2023 the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's published its first Accessibility Plan, with a revised Plan published in March 2026. Barriers to inclusion were assessed throughout the Municipality and a list of actions was created to support the removal of these barriers. To support this, we engaged in a process to update and refresh the Plan's actions that address the needs of residents in our community.

2 What We Heard: Community Consultation

Community engagement was a key component in completing the Inclusion Plan. Residents are the primary users of municipal programs, services, and facilities, and their lived experiences provide valuable insight into what works well and what barriers exist. To gather this

information, the Municipality conducted a range of consultation activities in the fall and winter of 2025, including two in-person workshops held in September, an online survey available to all community members, and attendance at community events across the Municipality. Through these efforts, feedback was collected from over fifty-one participants, helping to identify inclusion needs, priorities, and opportunities for improvement. This input has directly informed the recommendations and initiatives outlined in this Plan.

2.1 Feedback Summary

Community feedback played a vital role in shaping this Inclusion Plan. Through in-person workshops, an online survey, and engagement at community events, residents and visitors shared their experiences, identified barriers, and suggested opportunities for improvement.

51 responses were received during the consultation period representing a range of ages, genders, and identities. Most respondents were seniors (57% aged 60+), predominantly White (82%), with representation from 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals (22%), persons with disabilities (14%), religious or faith-based minorities (8%), as well as Black (4%) and Indigenous (2%) residents. Many respondents identified as members of underrepresented or underserved communities, with seniors being the largest group.

Residents highlighted positive experiences with municipal programs and services, including recreational activities, seniors' events, holiday trips, low-income tax rebates, water distribution programs, and responsive staff and councillors. These programs were recognized as improving social connection, participation, and quality of life.

Barriers to access were identified, including geographic isolation, limited transportation, program costs, lack of childcare, online-only communication, and accessibility challenges. Cultural and social barriers were also noted, such as experiences of microaggressions, lack of representation, and systemic bias toward newcomers, LGBTQ+ individuals, and racialized or Indigenous residents.

Residents suggested several opportunities for improvement, including expanding cost-free or low-cost programs, enhancing transportation and outreach, improving communication in multiple formats, and offering inclusive educational and recreational activities. Policy recommendations included integrating an IDEAA lens in municipal policies, promoting anti-racism and anti-oppression measures, celebrating cultural diversity, and ensuring meaningful participation of underrepresented voices in decision-making.

Feedback highlighted differing perspectives within the community. Some residents strongly support targeted inclusion initiatives, while others prefer uniform treatment for all. Despite these differences, there was broad agreement that action, communication, and meaningful engagement are key to fostering a sense of belonging.

In summary, while municipal programs are valued, residents identified opportunities to address structural, cultural, and informational barriers to ensure that all community members can fully participate. Implementing these recommendations will support a more inclusive, equitable, and accessible Municipality of the District of St. Mary's.

This section highlights the ways the Municipality has taken action to create a more inclusive and accessible environment. Each initiative and improvement reflects our shared commitment to supporting all residents in living, working, and engaging in St. Mary's.

3 The Built Environment

The Municipality of the District of St. Mary's is committed to advancing equity by ensuring that all public buildings and spaces are welcoming and accessible to people of every age, ability, and background, whether those spaces are owned, leased, or operated by the Municipality. Recognizing that systemic barriers and historical inequities can limit participation, the following recommendations provide practical, actionable steps the Municipality can take to remove

obstacles, enhance accessibility, and foster a community where everyone has a fair and meaningful opportunity to engage, belong, and thrive.

3.1 Achievements

- In 2024, automatic door buttons were installed on all public washrooms and dressing rooms at the St. Mary's Recplex, improving ease of access for all visitors.
- In 2025, automatic door buttons were installed at the Sherbrooke Public Library entrances, exits and the washroom, improving ease of access for all visitors.
- In 2025, new rubber flooring was installed at the St. Mary's Recplex, designed to eliminate gaps and heaves for safer, smoother movement.
- In 2025, accessible parking spaces were added at the St. Mary's Recplex to support convenient access for visitors with mobility needs.
- In 2025, accessible parking spaces were added at the 16 Main Street Parking Lot, enhancing access to Pioneer Park.
- Residents appreciate well-maintained sidewalks, parks, and public recreational spaces, such as the Recplex, which provide safe spaces for seniors and families.
- Recreational spaces and facilities such as the St. Mary's Recplex, St. Mary's Fitness Centre, and seniors' event spaces are valued for providing safe and welcoming environments.
- Sidewalks and paved areas in key locations (e.g., Streetscapes improvements in Sherbrooke) enhance safety and accessibility.

3.2 Recommendations

- Provide accessible seating at key community facilities, including St. Mary's Recplex and the Sherbrooke Public Library, to ensure all residents can comfortably participate in programs and activities.

- Provide seating throughout Pioneer Park and Stonewall Park to improve accessibility along trails and open spaces, ensuring all residents can comfortably enjoy outdoor areas.
- There currently are no fully accessible washrooms available in municipal spaces. Ensure at least one fully accessible washroom is available at each of the four municipal facilities.
- Support community partners, local businesses, and organizations in making accessibility improvements by promoting available funding programs and sharing information about grants, resources, and best practices.
- Improve lighting in municipal parks to increase safety, accessibility, and usability for all residents, including during evening hours.
- Equip public and staff washrooms at the Municipal Office with push-button access to improve accessibility and independence for all users.
- Equip the Community Room at the Municipal Office with push-button access to improve accessibility and independence for all users.
- Extend sidewalks and accessible pathways from Maple Manor and other residential areas to downtown and community hubs.
- Ensure all municipal buildings and program spaces are wheelchair accessible, with appropriate seating, ramps, and temperature controls.
- Include child-friendly and age-friendly design in municipal spaces to encourage participation from families and seniors.
- Add culturally inclusive signage and art in public spaces to reflect local Indigenous, African Nova Scotian, and other historically underrepresented communities.

4 Information and Communication

The Municipality is committed to advancing equity by ensuring that all information and communications are clear, accessible, and inclusive for people of every age, ability, and background. Recognizing that barriers such as complex language, limited formats, or digital access can prevent residents, visitors, and stakeholders from fully engaging with municipal services, the following recommendations outline practical actions the Municipality can take to remove these obstacles, enhance accessibility, and ensure that all members of the community can receive, understand, and meaningfully participate in municipal programs and decision-making.

4.1 Achievements

- In 2025, the audio-visual equipment in Council Chambers was upgraded to improve clarity and accessibility for virtual meeting attendees.
- Municipal newsletters, water alerts, and email notifications help residents stay informed about events, programs, and services.
- Some residents acknowledged direct outreach by staff and councillors as supportive and responsive.
- Visible support for Pride events, flags, and cultural celebrations was noted as encouraging for LGBTQ+ and other communities.

4.2 Recommendations

- Establish a Communications Strategy that clearly outlines how to ensure all municipal communications are accessible, inclusive, and available in multiple formats to meet the diverse needs of the community.

- Develop programs and resources to help residents, staff, and community partners better understand accessibility, remove barriers, and foster an inclusive community for everyone.
- Provide multiple communication formats, including mailed letters, posters in public spaces, phone calls, and in-person briefings, to reach residents without internet access.
- Use plain-language materials, visuals, and videos to make information more accessible to people with disabilities or limited literacy.
- Improve awareness of available programs, including community picnics, educational workshops, seniors' events, and recreational activities.
- Establish a "Welcome Wagon" program to provide new residents with information on municipal services, supports, and community groups.

5 Employment

The Municipality is committed to advancing equity by ensuring that employment opportunities are accessible and inclusive for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. Recognizing that systemic barriers, bias, and exclusion can limit participation and advancement, the Municipality strives to create workplaces and employment practices that provide fair access for both new and existing employees. Building on this commitment, the following recommendations outline practical actions the Municipality can take to remove obstacles, foster an inclusive workplace culture, and ensure that every employee has an equitable opportunity to contribute, grow, and thrive.

5.1 Achievements

- In 2023, the Municipality adopted a new Human Resources Policy that strengthens inclusive employment practices by supporting the hiring, training, and accommodation of individuals with disabilities.
- Standing desks were purchased, supporting workplace accessibility and comfort for employees with diverse needs.
- Staff and councillors are recognized for being responsive and helpful, contributing to residents' positive experiences with municipal services.

5.2 Recommendations

- Develop an inclusive hiring strategy to promote diversity, equity, and accessibility in all recruitment and staffing processes.
- Deliver Foundations of Accessibility training to municipal staff and Council to build awareness, strengthen capacity, and support inclusive decision-making.
- Encourage leadership and staff to model inclusive language and call out harmful language when it occurs, fostering a respectful and supportive environment.

- Establish a clear process for employees to request accessibility support, ensuring all staff have the tools and resources they need to work effectively.
- Offer training for staff and councillors on diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion to reduce unconscious bias.
- Develop and promote mentorship or support programs for underrepresented groups seeking municipal employment.
- Develop programs for seniors, persons with disabilities, and racialized communities to engage in community volunteer or advisory roles.

6 Services

The Municipality is committed to advancing equity by ensuring that all programs and services are accessible, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. Recognizing that systemic barriers, social exclusion, and economic inequities can limit participation, the Municipality strives to design and deliver services that provide fair opportunities for everyone to engage fully and meaningfully. Building on this commitment, the following recommendations outline practical actions the Municipality can take to remove barriers, enhance accessibility, and create programs and services that foster belonging, participation, and equitable outcomes for all community members.

6.1 Achievements

- The Municipality's Equipment Loan Program has expanded its inventory to include adaptive equipment such as sleds and sledges, making recreation more accessible for everyone.
- Recreation programs are open for registration both in person and online, ensuring easy access for all community members.
- The Municipal Low-Income Property Tax Rebate and assistance with the Provincial Property Tax Rebate helps seniors and low-income residents maintain housing stability.
- Residents highlighted positive municipal programs, including Merry & Bright Holiday Trip, 55+ Games, summer day camps, free skates, fitness programs, and water distribution.
- Seniors' social events and community programs were recognized for reducing isolation and increasing community connection.

6.2 Recommendations

- Deliver recreation programs throughout all districts of the Municipality, helping remove location-related barriers and improve access for all community members.

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- Create a subsidy to help residents overcome cost-related barriers, ensuring that municipal programs and services are accessible and inclusive for all community members.
- Develop a family-based registration form that allows families to register as a unit, rather than requiring individual forms for each family member, making participation more convenient and accessible.
- Offer flexible service and program options to support participation by residents who are unable to attend during regular hours.
- Enhance the Equipment Loan Program by adding accessible equipment for all seasons, ensuring residents of all abilities can enjoy recreation year-round.
- Ensure residents can attend fitness programs without requiring a companion, supporting independence and participation.
- Expand cost-free or low-cost programming to make events accessible to youth, families, seniors, and low-income residents.
- Schedule programs at varied times, including evenings, to accommodate working residents.
- Increase cultural representation and inclusivity in programming, including recognition of Black, Indigenous, and LGBTQ+ histories and contributions.
- Introduce educational workshops on cooking, financial literacy, or local history to foster skills, awareness, and community belonging.
- Ensure childcare options and accessible facilities are available at all municipal events to reduce participation barriers.
- Develop a Use of Municipal Public Spaces Policy.

7 Transportation

The Municipality is committed to advancing equity by ensuring that transportation options are accessible, dependable, and inclusive for people of every age, ability, and circumstance.

Recognizing that lack of mobility, geographic distance, and systemic barriers can prevent residents from accessing services, programs, and community opportunities, the Municipality strives to provide transportation solutions that support fair and equitable participation.

Building on this commitment, the following recommendations outline practical actions the Municipality can take to remove obstacles, improve mobility, and ensure that all residents can travel safely, independently, and fully engage in community life.

7.1 Achievements

- To improve access and connectivity for residents, the Municipality supported the development of a non-profit transportation service. In 2023, the St. Mary's Association for Rural Transit was formed, helping community members travel more easily throughout the Municipality.

7.2 Recommendations

- Develop an accessible multi-use trail network connecting Main Street, Sherbrooke, and northeast Sherbrooke, improving safe and inclusive access to schools and essential services through active transportation.
- Explore creating a network that connects residents who need transportation with those willing to provide it, improving access to municipal programs, services, and community activities.
- Provide low-cost or subsidized transport to municipal programs, services, and events.
- Include accessible vehicles, such as trikes for seniors and those with mobility challenges to the Equipment Loan Program.

8 Implementing & Monitoring the Plan

The Municipal Inclusion, Diversity, Inclusion, Equity, Anti-Hate & Accessibility Advisory Committee, along with appointed staff and council are responsible for adopting and overseeing the MODSM Inclusion Plan.

The Chief Administrative Officer is responsible for implementing the plan and assigning an Inclusion Coordinator.

The MODSM Inclusion Coordinator is responsible for receiving and responding to public concerns, complaints, and suggestions. You can contact the Inclusion Coordinator at <mailto:info@saint-mary's.ca> or by calling [902-522-2049](tel:902-522-2049).

The Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Anti-Hate and Accessibility Advisory Committee is responsible for giving feedback and recommendations to the Municipal Council. The Municipal Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Anti-Hate and Accessibility Advisory Committee will prepare an annual report for council for the fiscal year ending March 31st of each year. This report card will measure the performance of the actions in this plan. The Committee may also make recommendations to improve the plan. The annual report will be a public document that will be posted to the MODSM website.

9 Glossary

Accessibility – the practice of making information, services, transportation and/or environments sensible, meaningful, and usable for as many people as possible.

Accommodation – a personalized adaption of a service or environment to overcome the barriers faced by individuals of all ages and abilities.

Active Transportation – refers to all forms of human powered transportation. Most commonly, it refers to walking and cycling, but also rollerblading, skateboarding, running, wheelchair use, skating, canoeing, kayaking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.

Anti-Hate – Actions, policies, and initiatives aimed at preventing, reducing, or responding to hate, discrimination, or harassment in the community.

Anti-Racism – Policies, practices, and actions that actively challenge racism and work to create equitable opportunities for all racial and ethnic groups.

Barrier – anything that stops or challenges the full and effective participation in society of an individual of any age or ability.

Belonging – The sense of being welcomed, valued, and included as part of a community.

Communication – the process by which information is exchanged between individuals through a common system of symbols, signs, or behavior.

Disability – Nova Scotia’s Accessibility Act defines a disability as a physical, mental, intellectual, learning or sensory impairment, including an episodic disability, that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders an individuals full and effective participation in society.

Diversity – The presence of differences within a community, including race, ethnicity, gender, age, ability, sexual orientation, religion, socioeconomic status, and more.

Equity / Equitable – an individual or group is provided with the same resources or opportunities. Equity recognizes that each person has a different circumstance and allocates the exact resources and opportunities needed to reach an equal outcome.

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IDEAA Lens – The practice of reviewing programs, policies, or decisions to identify potential impacts on diverse and underrepresented communities and promote fairness.

Inclusion – The intentional practice of ensuring all community members are welcomed, respected, and able to participate fully.

Plain Language – language that is clear and easy for the reader or listener to understand.

Underrepresented Voices – Individuals or groups whose perspectives, experiences, or needs are often overlooked in municipal decision-making.

2SLGBTQIA+ – An inclusive term for individuals identifying as Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, or other non-heterosexual/non-cisgender identities.



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Wednesday, June 17th, 2026
Council Meeting

Recommendations from Internal Committees of Council

Committee of the Whole – June 3rd, 2026

On recommendation of Councillor Beaver, seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council authorize Warden Fuller to attend the 50th Annual Provincial Seamen's Memorial Service in Canso on August 9, 2026, as a representative of the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's, with mileage and related expenses reimbursed in accordance with the Municipality's Travel and Expense Policy.

Recommendation adopted.

On recommendation of Deputy Warden Malloy seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council approve entering into the Regional Emergency Management Organization Shared Services Agreement as presented, subject to non-substantive changes which may be identified through the public hearing process.

Recommendation adopted.

On recommendation of Councillor O'Connell seconded by Councillor Tibbo, Council repeal the existing municipal Emergency Measures By-Law.

Recommendation adopted.

On recommendation of Councillor Beaver seconded by Councillor Tibbo, Council approve the Regional Emergency Management Organization By-Law as presented, subject to non-substantive changes which may be identified through the public hearing process.

Recommendation adopted.

On recommendation of Deputy Warden Malloy seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council recommend that the CAO be authorized to enter into an agreement with Naviline Central Square Solutions for the Municipal Finance System.

Recommendation adopted.

On recommendation of Councillor O'Connell, seconded by Councillor Malloy, the Committee of the Whole acting in the capacity of the Planning Advisory Committee recommend that Council authorize staff to schedule a public hearing at 5pm on July 15th, 2026, prior to the meeting of Council, for the Rezoning request for PID #37529856.

Recommendation adopted.

On recommendation of Deputy Warden Malloy seconded by Councillor Tibbo, Council appoints applicant 1, applicant 2, applicant 3 & applicant 4 to the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Anti-Hate & Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Recommendation adopted.

On recommendation of Deputy Warden Malloy, seconded by Councillor Tibbo, Council recommend hosting a flag raising ceremony to kick off Pride Weekend celebrations on June 12–14, 2026, and annually in years when Pride Weekend celebrations are held.

Recommendation adopted.

Port Bickerton and Area Planning Association

Meeting Minutes

Date: May 25, 2026

Location: Port Bickerton Community Centre

Recording Secretary: Diane Zandvliet

Board Members Present: John Zandvliet (chairman), Diane Zandvliet (recording Secretary), Don Dodge (Vice Chair), Shawn Brown, Jerry Haines, Lauren Ross (treasurer), Beulah Malloy, Brian Gary

In Attendance: Cheryl Kulagowski

Meeting Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes reviewed – Diane motioned for minutes to be adopted as is, seconded by Shawn – carried

Financial report

Lauren met with Sheila and received the workbook, the mailbox key and the access information for the bank account. Lauren provided April and May financials entered by Shiela. Don to speak to Sheila about returning all the physical records, the cheque book, and the cheques.

Lauren is still working on updating the financial statement. She will get together with Don to obtain further details.

Balance as at May 20 - \$24,704.13

A credit card was obtained with \$1,000 limit for on-line purchases only.

Projects and Programming: (updates)

Fundraising updates

1. rain barrel fundraiser update -

It was a bit hectic on pickup day as the truck did not arrive until 6:00 am the day of. Thanks out to all volunteers for their help. All but 2 items were picked up. One has yet to be paid. Final numbers to be provided once the report is available from Rain Barrels company.

There are some extra barrels which belong to other organizations. Cheryl is communicating with them regarding getting them picked up.

All in all Customers were happy, but we need to address some issues with the company regarding the shipping mess and lack of identification on the accessories.

2. Chase the Ace

Numbers are still down but we continue to make money.

3. Tourism Guysborough

Video was made which was presented by Brian showing a lot of the attractions in the County.

4. Art Festival

Date is set for Aug 22 tentatively between 10 am and 6 pm.

Brian attended the Seascape Exhibition and made quite a few contacts to help with getting vendors/exhibitors out to the festival.

Some fundraising will be done over June/July including musical performances and a silent auction of works by local artists of paintings of the shoreline. Also letters requesting sponsorship will be going out shortly.

Promotion of the event is ongoing. Shona will provide fliers and posters for us.

Food truck will be Smash Brothers

Events will include musical performances and readings as well as weaving and henna tattoos.

Vendors will be required to pay \$10 to reserve their place.

New Business

All WI-fi is working at the lighthouse and thanks to Lyndsay for setting up the receipt printer. Final adjustments to be made this week but the square is working.

Boardwalk needs to be inspected for damages and repairs. John will take care of this and request volunteers to do the work once it has been established what is required.

Line dancing lesson will take place after Chase the Ace on June 6 in an attempt to draw more people out to CTA. If response is good, we can look at setting forth a regular schedule for lessons.

Round Table

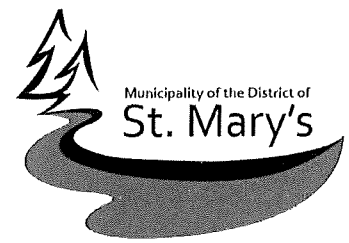
Don advised that time is short and students need to be hired asap. John will get this done.

Regarding plans to extend the season, we are looking at Thanksgiving as a closing date. Don advises ferry will down from near the end of June for at least 52 days. This will affect the number of tourists visiting as many will not want to make the long drive around.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Next meeting Monday June 29, 2026, 7 p.m.

F



Report to Council

Member of Council: Beulah Malloy Deputy Warden

Board/Agency/Organization: Solid Waste

Date Attended: May 28/2026

Location: Guysborough Municipal Office

ERSWM Meeting – Thursday, May 28th, 2026

Divert NS Contracts

- Tanya explained that the Divert NS contracts will be completed soon and once completed The Chair Neil DeCoff will be permitted to sign them. The 3 Contracts include: The Education Contract; The Coordinators Contract and the Enforcement Contract.
- To date only the Coordinator Contract has been completed and Chair Neil DeCoff has read and signed.

Jackie Dort Memorial Bursary:

- Bursary will be for The Town of Antigonish (Grade 12 graduates)
- To date we have had 6 applications, and the closing date is June 1st.

2025 Datacall / Diversion Credits

- Diversion Credit calculations have been completed however there was a discrepancy in the tonnes diverted. Once clarification on the numbers is complete, I will calculate the Diversion Credits for each Municipal Unit.

The Antigonish County Connect

- There was an error in the County Connect in regard to the Sorting Guide. The old sorting guide was printed instead of the new one.

- A radio script was made by the Regional Coordinator to be aired 3 times a day for a week. A post was also done and posted on social media.

Canopy Proposal for Educational Table Setup

- A motion was made in the amount of \$2,836.00 plus tax and any other related costs for the purchase of the Canopy.
- Printed top +3 unprinted walls: \$2,359 +\$159wall x3 = 2,836 plus tax

Large Scale Sorting Guide

- Tanya circulated the Large-Scale Sorting Guide to Committee members to view. The large-scale sorting guide was created for residents that have a hard time seeing the normal scale sorting guide.
- Councillor Sterling from the County of Antigonish was asking if a Large-Scale Sorting guide could be created like a mural and placed at the Beech Hill Transfer Station. Councillor Sterling said that he would bring it up at his next Council meeting and see if they would agree to pay for this project.
- Tanya will look talk to Councillor Sterling after his Council meeting to determine if this project will be done.

Data Call 2026

- A meeting is scheduled for June 9th at 10am-12pm with regional coordinators and Datacall respondents to review last year's key learnings, go over what's new for this year, and provide a refresher on completing the questionnaire.

Other Items

- Upcoming Events: Chamber of Commerce; Stan Fest; Canso Scouts; 4H; X-Ocean event on June 6th; Havre Boucher Wellness Committee Fair June 13th; Highland Games.

Next regular ERSWM meeting will be September 24th, 2026.

From: Michelle Greencorn <mgreencorn@ecrl.ca>

Sent: June 8, 2026 8:48 AM

To: Michelle Greencorn <mgreencorn@ecrl.ca>

Subject: ECRL Statement on Library Service

Good afternoon,

In light of recent news at AVRL and the ongoing uncertainty about library funding, ECRL Board Chair and Management have drafted the attached statement to ensure key stakeholders and the general public are informed of our efforts.

Further information and the latest updates can be found at <https://ecrl.ca/about-us/advocacy/>

Michelle Greencorn, M.Ed. (*she/her*)

Director, Communications and Engagement

Eastern Counties Regional Library

June 5, 2026 For immediate release:

ECRL Statement on Library Services It is certainly not news that libraries throughout the province are struggling with increased service demands while balancing strained and underfunded budgets. The board and staff at ECRL want you to know that we are doing our best to keep up with demand while delivering the excellent service all our communities have come to depend on. If some requests take a little longer than expected or a branch is closed due to illness, we apologize for the inconvenience. ECRL will continue to work to ensure public library services are protected in Guysborough, Inverness, and Richmond counties during these difficult times. Media inquiries should be directed to: Michelle Greencorn Director, Communications and Engagement

Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL) has been trying to get better funding for public libraries in Nova Scotia. We need a fair and steady way for the Province to give money to public library regions.

The provincial library funding formula decides how much money the Province and the municipalities pay for public library services each year.

Did You Know?

- In 2019, public library regions received more money for the first time since 2009. The funding has not been enough to keep up with rising costs.
- In the last 10 years, the Cost of Living has gone up by 26%. Provincial spending has increased by 80%, and library funding has only gone up by 19%.

2024-2025 Regional Comparisons

Location	Total Hours Open	Total Staff (FTE)	# of employees	Staff Expense per Hour	Staff Expense Per Capita	Staff Expenditures	Total Funding
Halifax Public Libraries	37,227.00	328.8	401	\$ 571.15	\$ 42.27	\$ 21,262,066.00	\$32,342,117.00
Cape Breton Regional Library	21,683.00	49.4	60	\$ 115.67	\$ 20.81	\$ 2,508,173.00	\$ 3,432,987.00
Annapolis Valley Regional Library	18,534.75	39.3	87	\$ 113.97	\$ 18.95	\$ 2,112,411.00	\$ 3,157,517.00
Eastern Counties Regional Library	15,088.00	18.73	22	\$ 63.45	\$ 26.76	\$ 957,323.00	\$ 1,403,147.00
Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library	14,634.25	39.8	60	\$ 126.28	\$ 27.31	\$ 1,848,016.00	\$ 2,816,318.00
Western Counties Regional Library	12,806.50	26.83	44	\$ 119.63	\$ 26.20	\$ 1,532,073.00	\$ 2,106,985.00
Cumberland Public Libraries	10,246.50	20.71	24	\$ 99.39	\$ 31.39	\$ 1,018,372.00	\$ 1,447,207.00
South Shore Public Libraries	8,590.25	19.7	31	\$ 144.08	\$ 19.56	\$ 1,237,706.00	\$ 1,995,426.00
Colchester-East Hants Public Library	8,288.00	30.73	52	\$ 217.35	\$ 21.52	\$ 1,801,388.00	\$ 2,634,180.00

File Number:
5038746

May 26, 2026

Mallory Tibbo
Municipality of the District of Saint Mary's
8296 Highway 7
Sherbrooke, NS B0J 3C0

Dear Mallory Tibbo:

I am writing in response to your application for capital assistance through the Government of Nova Scotia's Rink Revitalization under Recreation Facility Development Program.

This year requests for capital assistance have greatly exceeded our budget and as a result, a number of applications will not be funded. I regret that the St. Mary's Recplex Upgrades Project is not being funded at this time.

Please feel free to contact your Communities, Sport and Recreation Regional Manager if you wish to discuss your application further or for any other information you may require.

Rae Gunn, Highland Regional Manager
(902) 870-7278
Rae.Gunn@novascotia.ca

On behalf of the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage, I wish you well with your project. Thank you for the work you do in your community to support an active lifestyle and I encourage you to submit future applications.

Sincerely,



Chad Lucas
Director, Community Engagement
Communities, Sport and Recreation Division

From: NSGovRelease <release@gov.ns.ca>

Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2026 12:32 PM

To: Martell, Jeremy <Jeremy.Martell@novascotia.ca>

Subject: ENVIRONMENT/CLIMATE CHANGE--New Supports to Help Communities Adapt to Drought Conditions

ENVIRONMENT/CLIMATE CHANGE--New Supports to Help Communities Adapt to Drought Conditions

Provincial funding and a new data tool will help communities be prepared for – and respond to – water shortages caused by drought.

Applications for the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund opened today, May 28, with priority given to projects that address drought and water shortages. The Province also launched a new data portal with information on Nova Scotia’s ground and surface water resources.

“Projections tell us that drought and water shortages remain a risk because of global climate change,” said Timothy Halman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change. “This mean water conditions in Nova Scotia are changing. Drought, heavy rainfall and other events can affect water availability, water quality and infrastructure. Informed, collaborative and innovative action, however, can make our communities resilient to drought periods and water shortages. The data portal and this funding will help communities respond to their specific needs, helping to ensure Nova Scotians have reliable and sustainable access to water.”

Being water resilient means being prepared for dry periods so that when water is limited, the impacts are smaller, easier to manage or avoided altogether.

Some examples of water resiliency projects that could be eligible for the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund include:

- community wells (new or expanded)
- backup water systems such as cisterns or large-scale water storage containers for essential buildings like community centres, emergency shelters and fire departments
- community water conservation infrastructure such as rainwater harvesting and non-potable water reuse systems
- engineering and hydrogeological studies to better understand water resources to inform

adaptation planning

- regional, shared or linked water supply solutions, including water pipelines
- using nature, including plants, soil and wetlands, to help manage water in a sustainable way.

About \$6.3 million is available in this round of funding for municipalities, non-profit and community organizations, post-secondary institutions and Mi'kmaw communities. More information about eligible projects and how to apply is available at <https://nschallengefund.ca/>. The deadline to apply is July 23, with pre-screening information due by June 25.

New water data portal

The water resources portal brings together existing data on groundwater, rivers, lakes, water quality and weather conditions, making it easier for municipalities, academia, researchers, industry and Nova Scotians to better understand water conditions, trends and patterns and take informed action.

The portal includes information from provincial monitoring networks such as:

- groundwater levels
- water levels and flows in rivers and streams
- water quality in lakes and rivers
- weather data.

Quotes:

“The Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund is very much needed at this time to support municipal projects as focus on the water resources both in serviced and non-serviced areas of our municipality become increasingly important. As our municipality continues to grow, water sustainability is critically important. This new portal will help support not only municipal decision-making during this time of increased awareness and utilization of water resources, but it will also better inform residents so they can become water resilient in response to climate change-induced drought.”

— *Mark Phillips, Chief Administrative Officer, West Hants Regionality Municipality*

“The Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund will continue supporting projects across Nova Scotia in response to the growing impacts of climate change. From coastal adaptation to water resilience, we look forward to supporting more creative and community-led projects that address region-specific needs. Together, these projects build

on the momentum and impact of our first three rounds.”

— *Juanita Spencer, CEO, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities*

“Water shortages negatively impact the economy, food security, health, quality of life and overall well-being of communities. Robust adaptation means that climate risks do not exist in isolation. CLIMAtlantic welcomes these new supports focused on project funding for drought adaptation, as well as a new water resources data portal to inform planning and decision making. Both of those are critically important to help communities become more resilient.”

— *Sabine Dietz, Executive Director, CLIMAtlantic*

Quick Facts:

- the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund was created in 2021 as part of the Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act, a legislated commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, respond to climate change, transform how Nova Scotians produce and use energy, make homes and buildings energy efficient, and more
- since launching, the fund has provided about \$13 million for projects that help Nova Scotians respond to climate change
- the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities was selected through a request for proposals process to administer the program on behalf of the government
- the data in the portal is collected through provincial monitoring programs including a network of observation wells, river and stream gauges, water quality monitoring sites and weather stations across Nova Scotia; some records extend back decades, providing important long-term context
- CLIMAtlantic was created to help people understand how climate change will affect their communities and what they can do about it; it is funded by the four Atlantic provinces

Additional Resources:

The water resources portal and a series of user guides are available at:

<https://novascotia.ca/water-resources-data-portal/>

More information on the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund is available at:

<https://nschallengefund.ca>

News releases about the fund and related projects:

https://news.novascotia.ca/search/all?field_topics=228

Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act:

<https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/legc/statutes/environmental%20goals%20and%20climate%20change%20reduction.pdf>

Our Climate, Our Future: Nova Scotia's Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth:

<https://climatechange.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/ns-climate-change-plan.pdf>

Powering the Transition: Nova Scotia 2025 Climate Change Risk Assessment:

<https://climatechange.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/climate-change-risk--assessment-2025.pdf>

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Media Contact: Elizabeth MacDonald

Cell: 902-717-0580

Email: Elizabeth.MacDonald@novascotia.ca

Ice Edger Replacement for St. Mary's Recplex

SUMMARY

The ice edger at the St. Mary's Recplex has reached end of life and needs to be replaced. This is an essential piece of equipment for the St. Mary's Recplex to ensure safe and quality ice. A capital project to purchase an ice edger is included in the municipality's approved 2026/27 capital program, in the amount of \$11,280, proposed to be funded in part by the Rink Revitalization grant funding and the municipal capital reserve. Due to the key quality and customer service impacts of this project, Council agreed that this project would proceed with funding to be sourced from the municipality's capital reserve, in the event that Rink Revitalization grant funding was not approved. The Rink Revitalization grant funding was not approved, and Council approval is now requested to move forward with the purchase.

BACKGROUND

The St. Mary's Recplex ice quality relies on an ice edger to ensure safe and quality ice production. An ice edger removes ice buildup along the dasher boards where resurfacing machines cannot reach. It levels the ice surface in these tight areas, specifically in corners, to prevent the "bowl effect" where ice curves upwards. This tool ensures the entire ice sheet remains flat and consistent. When an ice edger is not used, it creates a void along the dasher boards which creates a tripping hazard in a vulnerable area of the ice surface.

The existing ice edger was donated in used condition to the St. Mary's Recplex Association in 2000 by the Antigonish Arena. Normal expected lifespan of an ice edger is 10-15 years.

CONSIDERATIONS

Quotes were requested from three providers for various brands and models of ice edgers. Saunders Equipment Ltd provided a quoted price of \$6,195.00 +HST for a Zamboni gas powered edger with electric start. Of the quoted products, this unit was the lowest cost and also has the highest power rating, and will be suitable for the needs of the Recplex. It can also be serviced by local mechanics, which may not be possible with the quoted electric models.

An application was submitted to the Province for Rink Revitalization Grant (RFD) funding to support the purchase of an ice edger. Although the Municipality's RFD grant funding application was unsuccessful, Council recognized that this equipment is essential to the ongoing operations of the Recplex. Through strategic planning and budget considerations, Council approved proceeding with the purchase despite the lack of external funding.

Staff Report



As part of the 2026–2027 Capital Budget, \$4,207 was allocated from the Municipal Capital Reserve, with a further \$7,073 budgeted to come from the RFD grant, for a total budget of \$11,280. The unit proposed to be procured is priced significantly lower than the total project budget. However, as the grant application was unsuccessful, the full purchase cost will need to be funded from the Municipal Capital Reserve, resulting in an additional reserve contribution of approximately \$2,000 beyond the amount originally budgeted from that source.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Approve the purchase of a Zamboni 10.5HP Electric Gas Ice Edger From Saunders Equipment Limited, at a cost of \$6,195.00 plus HST and any applicable freight costs, to be funded through the 2026/2027 capital budget.

REMO Executive Committee Council Appointments

SUMMARY

Council is required to appoint two members of Council to serve on the Guysborough County Regional Emergency Management Organization (REMO) Executive Committee. One of the appointed members must be either the Warden or Deputy Warden. Appointments will be for the duration of the current Council term.

BACKGROUND

As required by the new Regional Emergency Management By-law framework and updated legislative standards established by the Province, the three participating municipal units in the Guysborough County REMO are in the process of approving a Shared Services Agreement and Emergency Management By-Law.

Under the new structure, each municipal council is required to appoint two members of Council to serve as voting members of the Executive Committee. One of the appointees must be either the Warden or Deputy Warden. The appointments will take effect following the adoption of the new Regional Emergency Management By-law and repeal of the current Emergency Management By-law.

CONSIDERATIONS

The Executive Committee will provide guidance, advice, and strategic input on emergency management priorities, policies, and initiatives across the region. The committee is not responsible for operational decision-making during emergency events.

The Shared Services Agreement requires the Executive Committee to meet a minimum of three times annually. Council should consider member availability and interest when making appointments. Appointed members will serve for the duration of their current term of office.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council appoint _____ and _____ to serve on the Regional Emergency Management Organization (REMO) Executive Committee for the duration of the current Council term.



2026-2027

CAO Report – Project Summary

For the period of May 1st to May 31st, 2026

The Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

MAJOR PROJECT SUMMARY

1. Housing Initiatives –

CMHC- Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF)

The feasibility study completed by Strait Engineering Ltd in July of 2025 identified water utility capacity as the greatest hurdle for growth within the community.

The age and degraded state of the water main infrastructure on the west side of the St. Mary's River has been recognized as the key water utility capacity constraint limiting housing growth within the community. A three-year project, funded through the HAF, has been initiated to design and replace the west side water main. In 2026/27, the design will be completed; the replacement work will be scheduled over the following two fiscal years. Priority will be placed on replacing infrastructure to the hospital in the first year of construction. A Request for Proposals for construction will be issued later this year. In the month of May, the municipality's contracted design firm, Strait Engineering, completed their site visit for the design.

2. Climate Change Projects –

The municipality continues to work closely with CLEAN Foundation to address priority actions from the municipality's approved Climate Change Action Plan. In May, a project kickoff meeting was held with the consulting firm who has been contracted to provide a study and roadmap of potential sources of funding to reduce energy costs for the Recplex.

3. EMO/REMO –

- On May 20th, our new shared REMO Coordinator Kelsey Reece was introduced at a meeting of Council, and Council discussed upcoming REMO priorities.
- In early June, the shared services agreement and REMO Emergency Management By-Law will be circulating for approval by all three municipalities, with a public hearing to follow in July as part of the By-Law approval process.

4. Tourism Promotion & Electronic Content/Advertisements –

- In May, the municipality entered into a contract to maintain the Visit St. Mary's Tourism website over the coming year, and provide regular content updates and social media posts to encourage tourism to the region.

5. Economic Development and Business Support–

- The municipality's Expression of Interest to identify proposals for long-term pharmacy services within the municipality was published to the municipal website and provincial procurement website.
- The municipality supported the creation of a prescription delivery service which will make prescriptions ordered at the Antigonish Superstore Pharmacy available for pickup at the Sherbrooke Library on a weekly basis. Further details will be shared with the public as they are available.
- The recruitment for the Director of Economic Development continues, to identify a dynamic experienced individual to lead the municipality's economic development plan and implementation.

6. Upcoming Municipal Events

- a. Sherbrooke Pride Flag Raising Ceremony – A Flag Raising Ceremony of the Progress Pride Flag is planned for June 12th at 4:00 p.m. at the municipal flagpole located at the intersection of Highway 7 and Old Road Hill. The purpose of this Flag Raising Ceremony is to demonstrate the Municipality's support for Pride and for the Sherbrooke Pride event. This event holds growing significance within our community, now entering its third year and continuing to expand in both participation and impact. Raising the Pride flag is a meaningful way to show that our Municipality is committed to being supportive, welcoming, and inclusive for all.
- b. The municipality is providing a youth tie-dye program on Saturday June 13th as part of Sherbrooke Pride, as well as providing fliers to promote the weekend.
- c. Planning is underway for Canada Day celebrations.

7. Community Development and Recreation Programs

- a. Before and After School Program continues, with strong attendance.
- b. Eco Explorers continued in May and will conclude in June.
- c. Planning for T-Ball, Youth and Adult softball underway in May, with programming to start in early June.

8. Capital projects supporting Community Development and Recreation

- a. Connect 2 – Multi Use Trail Design –Strait Engineering Limited continues work on the design of this trail. Final design deliverables are due to the municipality this summer.

9. Accessibility & Inclusion

- a. The municipality's Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Anti-Hate & Accessibility (IDEAA) Advisory Committee recommended that Council approve the 2026-28 Inclusion Plan for the municipality. On May 20th, Council adopted the 2026-28 Inclusion Plan, which reflects the outcome of significant community consultation. Implementation of the plan will be ongoing, and the plan will be made available to the public on the municipality's website.

10. Public Works

Municipal Utilities & Infrastructure

- The temporary water line bypass in the parking lot of Clover Farm was replaced with the permanent infrastructure in May.
- The municipality's new public works truck was purchased and arrived on site in May.

Capital Projects

Description	Update
16 Main Street Washroom Accessibility Renovations	Request for proposals scheduled to be issued by fall 2026.
Old Road Hill Multi-Use Path Construction Ready Design	Design work is underway.
Cushion Tank Replacement	Completed in May 2026.
Filter #1 Overhaul	Scope revised to complete some work in house. Requesting quotes for trough extension and Council approval if required in fall 2026.
Agitator and Tank for Soda Ash Mixing	Quotes requested; work to be completed by fall 2026.
West Side Water Main Replacement	Design contract awarded by Council; site visit scheduled for early June.
Water Main Replacement (Clover Farm Parking Lot)	Completed in May 2026.
Water Meter Replacement	Meters being installed throughout the year.
Water Treatment PLC Replacement	Request for Proposals closed with no bids received; contacting potential design firms directly.
Outside Storage for Chemical Barrels	Project planned to be completed in fall 2026.
Hospital Road Lift Station Pedestal Replacement Village Lift Station Check Valve Replacement Main Street Lift Station Overflow Gasket Replacement	Work is planned for fall 2026.
I&I Recommendations – Flushing and Videoing Sewer Lines, Lift Station Clean Outs	Work is scheduled to be completed by October 2026.
Lift Station Electrical Panel Upgrade – Two Year Project	Confirming procurement approach and budget estimate; project scheduled to be completed by late fall 2026.
Sewer Plant Exterior Aeration Piping	Project planned to be completed in late fall 2026.
Sewer Blower Replacement	Contract awarded and installation scheduled for June 2026.
Ice Edger	Provincial grant funding application was declined. Project to proceed using municipal capital funding; Council approval to be requested in June.
Drilled Well for St. Mary's Recplex	Provincial grant funding application was declined. Next steps being evaluated.
Recplex Surge Protector	Project planned for completion by fall 2026.
Solar RFP	Recplex Energy Transition Study expected to be completed in summer 2026.
Truck Purchase	Completed and truck received in May 2026.