



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, April 11th, 2023

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

1. Meeting, Date & Time:

Warden Wier called the Regular Council meeting of the St. Mary's Municipal Council to order on Tuesday, April 11th, 2023, at 4:00 pm in Council Chambers.

2. Attending:

Warden Wier	Councillor Mailman
Deputy Warden Fuller	Councillor Baker
Councillor Harpell	Councillor Zinck

Absent with Regrets:

Councillor Malloy

Also Attending:

Marissa Jordan, Chief Administrative Officer
Marian Fraser, Director of Finance (DOF)

3. Additions to the Agenda:

- There were no additions to the agenda.

4. Approval of Agenda:

On motion of Deputy Warden Fuller, and seconded by Councillor Baker, Council approved the agenda as presented.

Motion approved.

5. Approval of Minutes:

On motion of Councillor Baker, and seconded by Councillor Zinck, Council approved the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held March 13th, 2023.

Motion approved.

On motion of Councillor Mailman, and seconded by Deputy Warden Fuller, Council approved the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Council April 4th, 2023.

Motion approved.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

- There was no business arising from the minutes.

7. Recommendations from Internal Committees of Council

Accessibility Advisory Committee – February 28th, 2023

On motion of Councillor Baker, and seconded by Deputy Warden Fuller, Council approved the Municipal Accessibility Plan.

Motion approved.

EMO Advisory Committee – March 27th, 2023

On motion of Councillor Zinck, and seconded by Councillor Mailman, Council approved the Comfort Centre Policy with the agreed upon amendments to include a section in the MOU that the Comfort Center shall remain a Comfort Centre until they provide 90 days' notice to the EMO Coordinator and that if a Comfort Center opens on its own accord, its own insurance is liable.

- Council discussed the Comfort Center policy.
- Council directed staff to add to the Memorandum of Understanding that if a grant is given, it is the responsibility of the recipient to maintain the equipment.
- Council directed staff to look at parameters for how much money can be put towards funding for Comfort Centres and/or Emergency Shelters.
- The CAO advised that the amendments would be brought to a Council Meeting.

Motion was tabled due to Council's direction for staff to make amendments.

8. External Board / Committee Reports

a. Eastern Regions Solid Waste Management Committee – Councillor Malloy

- See the attached report.

9. CAO Report:

- See the attached report. The CAO provided highlights of what's included in the report.
- The Seeds of Literacy Program. The program evolved into a program not only for books, but morphed into food literacy, physical literacy, and nature literacy. The change in the programming received positive feedback from participants. Moving forward this is what the program will look like and will be offered with other regular programs offered by the Community Development and Recreation Department. There will be two eight-week sessions each year, with one in the fall and the other in the winter/spring. It will focus on different sorts of literacy and will occur in different facilities across the Municipality. The community book boxes are under construction and will be installed in the spring. The Municipality has received large donations of books to be placed in these boxes. There have been new books purchased for the Seeds of Literacy Program, and there has been feedback received that these books could be donated to the Saint Mary's Education Center / Academy library.
- The Tech Savvy Seniors Program has come to an end. This program focused on bringing technology to seniors and helping them learn how to utilize different types of technology and different applications on those devices. Equipment was available for seniors to use, but many brought their own devices. This program has been very successful.
- The St. Mary's Fitness Center is re-opening using a fob system.
- The Volunteer Appreciation Program is in the works again for this year. The Province of NS is collecting nominations for the Municipality's Volunteer of the Year from April 16th to May 23rd. The Municipality is going to continue with the Fall celebration of Volunteer of the Year. Staff will

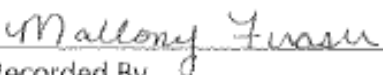
begin reaching out to community organizations via email to thank them for their contributions to the community during National Volunteer Week. The email will also inform the organizations of a volunteerism project being undertaken by the Department of Community Development and Recreation. The Department will be collecting data such as names of volunteers within their organizations for nominations for Volunteer of the Year and what the gaps are for volunteers in different organizations. Staff will provide an update to Council as this project progresses.

- Council asked if the grating has been completed at the Sewer Treatment Plant. The CAO answered that it has not been completed yet, but it is scheduled to be completed this fiscal under capital projects.

Adjournment:

On motion of Councillor Baker, and seconded by Councillor Mailman, there being no further matters of business, Council adjourned at 4:32 pm.

Motion approved.


Recorded By
Mallory Fraser, Municipal Clerk


Approved By
Warden Wier



Report to Council

Member of Council: Beulah Malloy

Board/Agency/Organization: Solid Waste

Date Attended: March 30/2023

Location: Guys Municipal Office

Highlights March 2023

ERSWM Meeting – Thursday, March 30th, 2023

Diversion Credits

- Divert NS just released Final Installment payment.
- Tanya will do up payments to the Municipalities once she meets up with Nicole to show how to do this.

Clean Leadership Intern Application

- Ashley Lansley accepted the position for the Clean Leadership student for the summer. She will be starting on May 15th, 2023
- Ashley is a fourth year STFX student taking a BSc. Aquatic Resources and Earth Science.

Recollect – Curbside Audit Tool

- Has been removed for the Renewal Contract and a credit will be issued to the ERSWM Committee.
- Renewal Contract has been signed and a Cheque will be sent out in the coming weeks for payment.

New Laptops for Regional Coordinator and Compliance Officer

- Committee members passed a motion for both Tanya and Kevin to get new Laptops.
- Tanya will discuss with Sarah (IT person) when she can order them.

ERSWM Compliance Vehicle

- Kevin will talk to Public Works as they are putting out tenders in the near future which will include the ERSWM vehicle. Once Kevin and I hear back from Public Works we will bring quotes back to the Committee.

New Councillor for Mulgrave

- David Gray (CAO) for Mulgrave informed Tanya that currently all they're councillors are either working during the week or have commitments with other Committees. He informed me (Tanya) that they will be having further discussions regarding this issue soon.
- Donnie will speak to David on this issue. HHW Funding and Proposed Updates

Page 2

- Currently HHW funding claims runs from April 1st to February 28th.
- To avoid March from being missed in funding claims while still allowing claims to be processed within the fiscal year the proposed plan is for the next funding claim to be submitted by February 28th, 2024: include eligible HHW expenses incurred between March 1st, 2023 and December 31st, 2023 (only 10 months, but ensures that there are no gaps in funding eligibility)
- Claims submitted by February 28th, 2025: include eligible HHW expenses between January 2024-December 31, 2024.

C&D Regulations

- Tanya did up a package with all the information needed on C&D Regulations for all Committee members.

Jacqueline Dort Memorial Bursary

- Tanya updated Committee that only 1 applicant has applied to date.

Meeting with Antigonish / Guysborough Fishers Association

- Tanya and Kevin are doing up an educational poster to present to the Fishers on the amount of lobster bands that are found on our local beaches.

Next regular ERSWM meeting will be held on Wednesday April 26th, 2023

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Eastern Shore Flood Line Mapping

The Nova Scotia Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing is supporting municipalities with flood mapping projects under their Municipal Flood Line Mapping program. The St. Mary's Municipal Flood Line Mapping Project RFP was awarded to CBCL Engineering and Design Services in January. The project area with measuring, modeling and hazard mapping will encompass the coastline of the Eastern Shore from Ecum Secum to the Canso Causeway.

The online survey is now closed and data from the survey has been included in the interim report. Initial model simulations have been completed including the on-site data collection which was extended into March due to weather constraints. The QA/QC of data, modelling, and reporting is near completion with an interim report submitted to staff on March 29th, 2023. Pending flood maps are expected towards the end of April and into May 2023 with Stakeholders and Rightsholders presentations scheduled for after completion.

Sherbrooke Streetscaping:

The new redesigned storm water infrastructure, Main Street and 16 Main Street grading and paving, and sidewalks and curbing are complete (including the connecting of private and commercial walkways to sidewalk). The Sherbrooke Public library entryways and gathering space stonework is complete and the final stages of beautification to the parking lot and the library will commence as weather warms. Reporting for all grants is expected to be complete by May 15th.

EV Charging Stations:

The municipal charging Stations are available for use and have been added to widely used Charge Station Apps with information about surrounding amenities. Local public postings with Electric Vehicle and Charging Station information are ready to be shared on local and provincial communications channels ahead of tourism season.

Guysborough County Housing Network (GCHN)

GCHN has received funding to implement a website to develop a Guysborough County website that will provide resources, information including programs available to homeowners, community organizations and resources related to intersecting needs such as food security, mental health, poverty, health issues and others. The GCHN is in the process of presenting to Councils the plan for becoming a non-profit society. The next meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 2am. New members from St. Mary's are welcome.



Source Water Protection Plan

Protecting the sources of our drinking water is a cornerstone of A Drinking Water Strategy for Nova Scotia. The strategy provides the framework for managing drinking water supplies across the province using a multiple-barrier approach to clean, safe drinking water. The original St. Mary's Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP) was created in 2003 with a committee of 12 Stakeholders. Since the plan's inception, interns have participated in its creation and implementation, including last year with the completion of a plan review. A Clean Foundation Intern has been hired and will start the hybrid position on May 18, 2023. The Intern will continue the review, identifying gaps and changes, developing a monitoring plan while creating awareness for the protected area and how the community can contribute to its protection.

Tourism Guysborough County

The board of the Tourism Guysborough County (TGC) is anticipating the consultant's draft report for TGC participation in Tourism Nova Scotia's Voice of the Visitor program. The VisitGuysborough.ca website is undergoing updates in partnership with Guysborough Business Development Partnership. Funding (\$15,000) has been awarded through the Nova Scotia Tourism Digital Assistance Program (TDAP) to Tourism Guysborough County to assist with digital adoption including Website Design & Development, Copywriting, Photography, Search Engine Optimization (SEO) and Online Booking which will highlight all communities in Guysborough County.

Accessibility Advisory Committee

Staff have advertised a Call for Applicants for the Accessibility Advisory Committee. Two applications were received. Staff reviewed the applications to ensure that the applicants met the criteria for membership as per the Accessibility Advisory Committee. Both applicants met the required criteria. The applicants were presented to Council for consideration at the March 28th, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting. Council made the recommendation to appoint both Applicant A & B to the Committee.

Staff received a request from the Guysborough Journal asking for information about the Accessibility Advisory Committee and drafted a response. The article can be found [here](#).

Staff reviewed the Accessibility Advisory Committee Policy and provided edits to the CAO for review. The edits will be presented to the Accessibility Advisory Committee at its next meeting.

Staff completed the formatting of the Municipal Accessibility Plan and have sent the Plan to Council for review, and it will be placed on the Council Meeting agenda for consideration for approval on April 11th, 2023.

Land Development Committee:

The Land Development Committee held their seventh meeting on March 27th, 2023. The committee heard feedback as per the Land Development Committee Policy regarding perspectives considered in land development decisions. Perspectives heard in the March meeting include Home Builders and Sustainability-Renewable Energy. The Committee is nearing the end of its mandate with only 1-3 meetings remaining. A 'What We Heard' Report and analysis tools are currently being generated to assist the Committee with recommendations to council regarding municipal owned properties.

Fire Services Committee

At the Fire Services Advisory Committee Meeting held on February 22nd, 2023 the Committee agreed that a Fire Services Advisory Committee Policy would be beneficial to develop. Staff drafted a policy to present to the Committee at its next meeting on April 26th, 2023. Also, at the Fire Services Advisory Committee Meeting held on February 22nd, 2023 the Committee agreed to have staff prepare a draft Fire Scene Security Provider Agreement. Staff have drafted the agreement for review at the next Fire Services Advisory Committee meeting on April 26th, 2023.

EMO Advisory Committee

Staff made edits to the Comfort Center Policy and included the Municipal Comfort Center Registration Form, Registered Comfort Centre Application for Funding, Comfort Center MOU, Comfort Center Response Plan Activation Checklist within the Policy. The Policy was presented to the EMO Advisory Committee on March 27th, 2023 for consideration. The Committee recommended the approval of the Policy. Staff have distributed the Policy to Council for review, it will be placed on the Council Meeting agenda for consideration for approval on April 11th, 2023.

Household Hazardous Waste Rebate

Staff completed the Household Hazardous Waste Funding Rebate and submitted it to Divert Nova Scotia. The program provides a rebate for materials collected at the Municipal Transfer Station including flammables, corrosives, propane tanks, batteries, aerosols, fire extinguishers, and florescent light bulbs.

Policy Work

Staff completed the Annual Policy Review. Staff identified two policies that required amendments. The two policies that were amended were the Council Procedural Policy and the Mileage and Expense Policy. The amendments of the two policies were presented to Council at the March 28th, 2023 Committee of the Whole and Council recommended the approval of the policies.

Civic Addressing

Staff have received requests for road names in the Big Gasperaux Lake area and Bakers Road. Staff reports have prepared for these requests which will be presented to Council at the Committee of the Whole Meeting on April 19th, 2023.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Property Taxation:

Staff continued to process updates received from PVSC in regards to address changes and property title changes. The appeal process will take place over the next couple months where any property owners who have appealed their assessments could potentially be contacted by an accessor with PVSC.

Municipal Property Tax Sale, March 7th, 2023:

The municipal property tax sale was successfully held on March 7th, 2023. Staff have prepared a detailed report on the tax sale which will be presented at the COTW on April 5th.

Property Taxes Collected:

By fiscal year as of March 31st, 2023:

- 2022-2023 Taxes – 97.94% Collected
- 2021-2022 Taxes – 97.86% Collected
- 2020-2021 Taxes – 98.94% Collected
- 2019-2020 Taxes – 96.86% Collected

Financial Statements and Reporting:

Monthly bank reconciliations/ financials were completed and prepared reports along with processed accounts payable and receivable as required. Continuation of work on draft budgets for the fiscal year 2023-2024 including preparing reports, documentation and presentations for councils review at various COTW's during March. Staff completed grant reporting/applications for the following: CBC grant in lieu and the provincial HST off-set grant.

2023/2024 Annual Budget Preparations:

Staff continued work on calculations for the draft annual budget and implemented changes as per requests of council during draft budget deliberations.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Sherbrooke Water Utility:

Public works has been working diligently to try to increase the efficiency of the Water Treatment Facility. Public Works has discovered two solenoid valves that exhausted from dirt accumulation over the past month. Public Works replaced both solenoids and cleaned all lines associated with said solenoids. These solenoids were in stock for spares at the Water Treatment Facility.

Sherbrooke Sewer Treatment:

Public Works continues to monitor the equalization pumps at the sewer treatment facility. The pumps have been running steady for the past month. Although still tripping every four to five days, when they trip there is a substantial amount of debris plugging the pumps. Public Works also replaced the UV lights and bulbs at the outlet of the sewer treatment facility to ensure proper disinfection leaving the plant.

Recplex Facility:

Public Works staff are currently working within the Recplex to ensure the ice is at the best quality possible. Public Works has been working to increase the efficiency and quality of the curling ice. The ice plant was shut off on March 26, 2023 for the year to start the removal of the ice. The external servicing company was on site March 28th for the seasonal shut down of the ice plant.

Transfer Station:

Public Works staff have barricaded off two buildings at the Transfer Station as a result of severe damage which occurred during hurricane Fiona. Public Works is still working with the public to ensure that normal operation of the facility occurs while we await further direction for repair to the buildings. Public Works are working to bury the current C&D pile at the transfer station along with plotting a new cell.

Department of Environment Annual Directives:

Staff continues to work on submitting directives to the DOE. Over the past month the Wastewater Annual report and the Operator Transition Plan has been submitted to DOE. The Annual Report for the Transfer Station, Cross Connection Control Plan and Source Water Protection Plan is nearing completion.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Seeds of Literacy Program

Seeds of Literacy is a program offered through the Community Development and Recreation Department designed to give youth of all age's barrier free literacy opportunities within their own community. The pilot program has ended for the 2022-23 year. This program received funding support through the Province's Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage.

The Seeds of Literacy Program was initially designed to provide youth and families an opportunity to access books and literacy supports within their own community spaces. The idea of a mobile literacy program was to remove barriers to accessing literacy supports, such as travel, scheduling, costs etc. Early on, the program was offered on Saturday mornings and afternoons on a rotating schedule throughout the Municipality. The program was not highly utilized using this model, with attendance numbers being low to zero.

After some planning sessions and data collection from community members, the program was changed to a drop-off program at a wider variety of times during the week with hopes to increase participation and attract more youth and families to attend. The programming at Seeds of Literacy evolved into literacy programming across the spectrum including food literacy, physical literacy, nature literacy etc. Books were always connected to the activities, but a wider variety of activities attracted a larger number of participants. Parents responded positively to the new drop-off model.

Seeds of Literacy creates a unique opportunity for the Community Development and Recreation Department to continue to offer a wide variety of literacy programs across the Municipality. The Seeds of Literacy Program has been added to the Department's regular slate of programs, giving the Municipality a mechanism for doing outreach programming for youth in communities throughout St. Mary's. The Seeds of Literacy will have two, eight-week sessions each year – one session in the fall and another in the winter/spring. Programming will focus on literacy across the spectrum and will take place at different facilities in St. Mary's each week.

Through the Seeds of Literacy program, the Municipality has collected the equipment needed to offer the Seeds of Literacy program each year. A number of the books purchased for the program will remain with the Community Development Department to continue to support the delivery of the program. Games and additional equipment will also continue to be used for the delivery of the program. Used books donated by the community will be used to fill community library boxes. The Municipality is still working on securing a contract to have the boxes built, and community organizations will be contacted in April to work on finding locations for libraries to be installed.



Staff are recommending that the remaining books purchased for the program to be donated to the Library at St. Mary's Education Centre and Academy. These books will be made permanently be available to youth in grades pp-12 in St. Mary's to read and enjoy. The school librarian is currently going through the library's books, with many of them being out-dated and in poor condition. There is no identified budget for library services at SMECA on an annual basis, although specific support is provided when needed. In the early development of the Seeds of Literacy program, books were purchased through Scholastic with a direct link to SMECA in order for the school to gain points that could be used towards getting free books. Donating the books purchased through the Seeds of Literacy program will bring this project full circle and ensure that high quality books are available, barrier free, to all youth in St. Mary's.

Tech Savvy Seniors Program

Regularly scheduled Tech Savvy Seniors Programming has now come to an end. The Tech Savvy Seniors Program was a project supported through funding from the federal government's New Horizons for Seniors Program administered through Employment and Social Development Canada. The Program was designed to give seniors access to a variety of technology equipment within their community. The program also provided seniors an opportunity to learn more about their own forms of technology, by asking questions and troubleshooting.

Although the program was well utilized throughout St. Mary's, participants focused on the opportunity to bring their own devices to the program and learn how to do a specific or new task. Equipment provided to seniors were not highly utilized. The Community Development and Recreation Department would like to create a survey for seniors to understand their technology needs moving forward. This data will help to determine next steps for the Tech Savvy program. There is an opportunity to continue to support seniors' technology needs in a sustainable way. While collecting data, the department will also reach out to community facilities and community organizations to identify their capacity to make technology supports available to seniors in St. Mary's.

Before and After Program

The Before and After Program is a service offered to children in grades pre-primary to grade 6 at St. Mary's Education Centre and Academy in the Kids First Room in the Memorial Place wing. Funding to offer the program comes from the Province of Nova Scotia. Annual funding has been approved and received by the Municipality. The program is currently offered to up to 24 participants at a time from 2:30-6:00pm, Monday to Friday. The program currently has up to 40 participants registered, with daily attendance ranging from 8-15.



Fitness Centre Fob Program

Staff have been working hard finalizing plans to launch the new fob program at the St. Mary's Fitness Centre. The Province of Nova Scotia provided funding to support the installation of a new fob system at the St. Mary's Fitness Centre in an effort to increase accessibility to the facility in a sustainable way.

Installation of the system was completed at the end of February. Over the month of March, staff worked on cleaning and organizing the equipment at the facility, completing a registration package for users, developing a user handbook including proper use and safety information for all equipment and outlining all procedures.

The facility will open in April on a Monday-Friday schedule with staff heavily monitoring use through the fob software, performing weekly site checks, communicating with users to examine the effectiveness of the program and consistent communications with staff at St. Mary's Education Centre and Academy. The opening hours will give staff an opportunity to test the equipment, use and identify any areas of improvement or success.

Volunteer Appreciation Program

The Province of Nova Scotia is collecting nominations from Municipality's for Volunteer of the Year from April 16th to May 23rd, 2023. A provincial luncheon will be tentatively held September 25th, 2023. Staff will be making a change to the process of choosing a Volunteer of the Year for St. Mary's that will assist with longer term volunteer support for organizations. National Volunteer Week takes place from April 16th to 22nd this year.

The Community Development and Recreation Department will develop some online content for National Volunteer Week. Daily posts will go on the website and social media to help recognize the week. Staff will also reach out to organizations directly during this week to thank them for their contribution to the community as way to celebrate National Volunteer Week. Emails will also inform organizations that the Community Development and Recreation Department is officially starting to work on a Volunteerism Project as recommended through the St. Mary's Recreation Master Plan.

The email will also request a list of the names of individuals who volunteer with their organization. The list of volunteers will be used in two ways. First, all names submitted will be entered into a draw to pick the St. Mary's Volunteer of the Year. Secondly, the data will help identify organizations that may require help with volunteer recruitment, training and support or organizations who are excelling at volunteerism.

Once a volunteer has been chosen, they will be contacted (with the assistance of the organization they volunteer with) to ensure they accept the nomination and staff will work with them to develop a biography to submit to the province. This method of selecting a volunteer is used by other municipal units in Nova Scotia and gives an equal chance to all volunteers to be nominated (youth, seniors, newcomers etc.). Once a person is selected, their name will not be entered again for a 5-year period. Staff will work on planning a volunteer appreciation event that will take place in the fall, in conjunction with the provincial ceremony.

Recplex Programming

The following programs were offered at the St. Mary's Recplex in March and wrapped up throughout the month.

- Junior Curling
- Drop-in Curling
- St. Mary's Curling Club
- 50+ Hockey League
- Community Free Skates
- Adult Hockey League
- Adult Free Skates
- House League Hockey
- Learn to Skate

Program Delivery

The Community Development and Recreation Department offered the following programs in March 2023 (in addition to Recplex Programs):

- Yoga
- Seeds of Literacy
- Family Open Gym
- March Break Programming
- Tech Savvy Seniors

St. Mary's Transit Project

In 2022, the Province of Nova Scotia supported the development of a business plan for community transit in St. Mary's. Common Good Solutions was hired and hosted extensive community consultations throughout St. Mary's in the spring of 2022. The final business plan was completed in the summer of 2022. With support from the Province of Nova Scotia, the Nova Scotia Community Transit Association is now hosting a term contract to help gather interest from the community to form a non-profit board that will operate a community transit system in St. Mary's.

The Province, through the Transit Association, has also contracted an experienced individual to help mentor the local volunteers interested in forming the board with early governance work, and transit start-up efforts. The Director of Community Development and Recreation is supporting the current project by participating in the project management team. This team is comprised of

individuals from the province's department of Public Works, the Nova Scotia Community Transit Association and the contracted employees working to establish the board in St. Mary's. Public meetings will be held throughout St. Mary's in April to update the community on the project and find volunteers interested in sitting on the non-profit board. All decisions on how the business plan will be implemented and what the transit service will look like will be made by the newly established board.

Sherbrooke Market Society

The Community Development and Recreation Director provided assistance to officers with the Sherbrooke Market Society in the preparation of their annual general meeting. This included a review of their by-laws in order to understand the process of hosting an AGM and electing the board of directors for the upcoming 2023 season.

Indian Harbour Lake Governance Presentation

The Community Development and Recreation Director made a non-profit governance presentation by invitation. The presentation was a first opportunity to attend a local non-profit organization and present information regarding board governance. Assisting organization with governance was included as a recommendation in the St. Mary's Recreation Master Plan. The presentation content will continue to be edited and expanded in order to be offered to organization's throughout the Municipality.

Sport Nova Scotia – Let's Talk Community Sport St. Mary's Community Discussion

A community discussion took place on Monday, March 20th, 2023, in the SHOPS room at the St. Mary's Education Centre/Academy. This meeting was hosted in order to brainstorm ways to potentially grow community sport in St. Mary's, and learn about programs and services that Sport Nova Scotia offers. Participants attended in person and online. 8 community members attended the meeting, as well as representatives from the Community Development and Recreation Department, Sport Nova Scotia and the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage.

As a result of the meeting, staff will be developing a survey to further examine the interest from community members in the development of an athletic association. Athletic associations are non-profits that focus on the delivery of a number of sports. The community conversation identified the interested in exploring an athletic association. Staff will collect data, and host a focused meeting to identify community members interested in forming this organization and provide support to the board to find subscribers, register and develop/submit by-laws.

Active Communities Fund

The Municipality has received confirmation from the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage that they are investing \$14,900 towards active communities' initiatives in St. Mary's. Projects supported by this fund are: improved equipment loan program, Fitness Centre equipment upgrades, parent and tot programming and facility access programming.

Equipment Loan Program Grant – Recreation Nova Scotia

Staff submitted an application for Recreation Nova Scotia's Equipment Loan Program in February 2023. The organization received over 60 applicants through the program. The Municipality's application was successful; \$7,250 will go towards the purchase of additional equipment to expand the Municipal equipment loan program.

2023 Active Living Strategy – Action Plan

A second draft of the St. Mary Active Living Strategy has been completed and is currently being reviewed by staff and provincial partners in the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage.

Active Transportation RFP

The Municipality has received \$47,500 to develop an Active Transportation Plan for all of St. Mary's. Active Transportation is defined as any human powered method of transportation (walking, cycling, wheeling or paddling). The Municipality's Request for Proposals period came to a close in March. Staff are currently reviewing responses and will bring forward a recommendation in April.

Winter Fun Fest

Winter Fun Fest took place on Saturday March 18th. Participant numbers at Free Skate were approximately twenty-six. The Exhibit Building component had approximately seventeen.

The Butterflyway Project – Plant a Canoe

The Plant a Canoe project is a community gardening initiative, promoting active living through gardening with an environmental component to help provide habitats for pollinators. The Municipality received a donation of a canoe from community members. The next phase of the project is to identify an appropriate location for the canoe to be planted.



Summer Day Camp Programming

Efforts to develop an eight-week summer day camp program is underway. The summer will be organized in theme weeks, with a continued effort to develop unique partnerships with community organizations to expand program opportunities. Summer positions have been posted and resumes are being accepted.

Municipal Easter Egg Hunt

Planning for the upcoming Municipal Easter Egg Hunt in April took place in March. The Hunt will take place in Sherbrooke Village on April 8th, 2023.

Canada Day Celebrations

Planning is underway for 2023 Canada Day celebrations in St. Mary's. Music and entertainment are in the final stages of being confirmed and additional activities are being developed.

April 11th, 2023

Date

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marissa Jordan".

Marissa Jordan, CAO