



NOTICE

MEETING: St Mary's Municipal Council
Committee of the Whole

DATE: Wednesday, January 3rd, 2024

TIME: 4:00 pm

PLACE: St. Mary's Municipality
Council Chambers, Sherbrooke, NS

Please advise if unable to attend



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, January 3rd, 2024 at 4:00pm

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: COTW held December 6th 2023
6. Business Arising from Minutes
7. Correspondence
 - a. 2024 Communities in Bloom Atlantic Edition Invitation
 - b. Exemption of Volunteer Emergency Services from New Fuel Charges
 - c. Ministerial Letter from Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage
(with original presentation of project attached)
8. Other Matters of Business
 - a. Volunteer Awards
 - b. Canada Summer Jobs Grant
 - c. Community Infrastructure and Access-Ability Grant Sessions
 - d. Provincial Economic Development
 - e. Flood Mapping
 - f. Housing – Municipal Affairs & Housing
 - g. Local Cellular Service – Verbal from Staff
 - h. Library Boxes
9. In-Camera: Contract Negotiations

Adjournment



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Committee of The Whole (COTW) Meeting

Wednesday, December 6th, 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 COTW Meeting of the St. Mary's Municipal Council to order on Wednesday, December 6th, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Sherbrooke, N.S.

2. Attending:

Warden Greg Wier

Deputy Warden James Fuller

Councillor Everett Baker

Councillor Courtney Mailman

Councillor Beulah Malloy

Councillor Charlene Zinck

Absent with Regrets:

Councillor James Harpell

Also Attending:

Doug Patterson, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

Marian Fraser, Director of Finance (DOF) *Attending Via Teams*

Jadzia Graham, Interim Municipal Clerk

Denise Dunn, Economic Development Officer (EDO)

Tyler MacLaughlin, Interim Director of Community Development and Recreation

3. Additions to the Agenda:

8. a.) New Long-Term Care Homes

4. Approval of the Agenda:

On the motion of Councillor Malloy, and seconded by Deputy Warden Fuller, Council approved the agenda with the addition.

Motion approved.

5. Approval of Minutes:

On the motion of Councillor Baker, and seconded by Councillor Zinck, Council approved the minutes of the COTW Meeting held November 15th, 2023.

Motion approved.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes:

- There was no business arising from the minutes.

7. Correspondence:

- Letter from Tourism and Heritage Culture – KAIROS Blanket.

8. Other Matters of Business:

a. New Long-Term Care Home

- Warden, Greg Wier informed Council about the New Long-Term Care Homes that are approved to be built in Sherbrooke.
- Warden, Greg Wier shared that this should help the shortage of senior rooms.

b. Active Transportation (What We Heard Report)

- See the attached document.
- Tyler MacLaughlin, Interim Director of Community Development and Recreation, and Lydia Broderick, from Uplands notified Council of the feedback on the Active Transportation Project.
- The “What We Heard” report highlighted Accessibility, Safety, Amenities, Education programming and Promotions, barriers and lastly the St. Mary’s River.
- Some additional comments on the “What We Heard Report” were items such as indoor activities, travel, accessible parking, and community centres.

c. Active Transportation (Draw for Gift Certificate)

- Tyler MacLaughlin, Interim Director of Community Development and Recreation drew for a Winner for the Active Transportation Gift Certificates.
- The Winner is Stephen MacDonald of the \$50.00 Gift Certificate to Beanies Bistro.

Tyler MacLaughlin left the meeting at 4:28 p.m.

d. Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging Paper Products and Packaging-like Products (EPR for PPP)

- See the attached report.
- Doug Patterson, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), informed Council of the new protocol for recyclables in Nova Scotia.
- Doug Patterson, CAO informed Council that the Municipality has the chance to opt into the agreement if needed. If the Municipality doesn’t opt in at the beginning of the agreement they will not be able to join later.

On recommendation of Councillor Mailman, and seconded by Councillor Malloy, Council agrees to opt in and participate in the Nova Scotia Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for Packaging and Paper Products (PPP).

Recommendation adopted.

e. Climate Change Action Plan

- See the attached report.
- Denise Dunn, Economic Development Officer (EDO), informed Council of the updates to the Climate Change Action Plan since 2021.
- Some of the highlights include prioritizing certain goals that are achievable, review of the funding, “SMART” goals, and responsibility.

On recommendation of Councillor Baker, and seconded by Councillor Mailman, Council request that staff (1) review changes to Provincial & Federal legislation & Municipal Planning

Strategy & commitments and update the 2021 Climate Change Action Plan accordingly; (2) create SMART goals for the 2021 Climate Change Action Plan priorities including a complete corresponding action plan for each goal; (3) add "Biodiversity" under the Climate Change Risk priority. Further, that council will approve goals and corresponding action plans per item as presented.

Recommendation adopted.

f. Memorandum of Understanding (ECRL & MODSM) Eastern Counties Regional Library & Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

- See the attached report.
- Doug Patterson, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) advised Council of the MOU between Eastern Counties Regional Libraries (ECRL) and Municipality of the District of St. Mary's (MODSM).
- Council will see the Memorandum of Understanding in a finalized form that includes any further adjustments in January with a recommendation for acceptance.

g. Clean Foundation Funding Opportunity

- See the attached report.
- Denise Dunn, Economic Development Officer (EDO) has reviewed the Clean Foundation Funding and informed Council that the Municipality could apply for it to aid in sustainability projects.

On recommendation of Deputy Warden Fuller, and seconded by Councillor Malloy, Council agree to direct Staff to submit an application to the Clean Foundation's Community Climate Capacity Program by the December 13 deadline.

Recommendation adopted.

h. First Responders Day

- See the attached report.
- Deputy Warden Fuller requested the Municipality look into First Responders Day.
- May 1st, 2024 is designated First Responders Day by virtue of acts of Parliament and the Nova Scotia Legislature.
- Council asks that the Municipality Publicly recognize May. 1st as First Responders Day, establish a system of tiered recognition for First Responders, and the Municipality sponsors an event to present specific awards.
- Suggested awards can be as follows:
 - Valour:** for any first responder who, at the risk of personal danger, commits an act, either attempted or successful, of rescue, aid, or other lifesaving procedure within the scope of their duties.
 - Exceptional Service:** For any first responder who goes above and beyond the normal scope of duties. This can involve community service, special programs, and other community activities outside of first responder service.
 - Service Awards:** For any first responder who has completed a certain number of years (10, 20, 30+) in service to the community. Prior service to neighbouring communities can be counted to newer resident first responders.
- Nominations for awards can be made no later than March 30th of each year, an approved nomination form will be made available both online and by mail to appropriate department chiefs.
- All nominations will be collected and approved by Council at the first available COTW meeting in April, appropriate certificates and awards will be produced as well as an invitation for an award ceremony to be held on May 1st of each year.

On recommendation of Deputy Warden Fuller, and seconded by Councillor Malloy, Council agree to recognize May 1st of each year as First Responders Day and hold a ceremony to honour their hard work.
Recommendation adopted.

i. Cellular Service

- See the attached report.
- Deputy Warden Fuller informed Council of the dangers faced by a lot of the Districts with no cellular service.
- Council agreed to send a letter to the local MLA in support of getting Cellular Service in all of the Municipality's Districts.

On recommendation of Councillor Mailman, and seconded by Councillor Malloy, Council agree to send a letter to our local MLA in support of Cellular Service for all of the Municipality's Districts
Recommendation adopted..

j. Digital Content Marketing Program

- See the attached report.

On recommendation of Councillor Baker, and seconded by Councillor Malloy, Council supports the municipal application to the Tourism Nova Scotia digital marketing program to seek assistance in digitally marketing content produced with the support of Tourism Nova Scotia.
Recommendation adopted.

Denise Dunn left the meeting at 5:18 p.m.

9. In Camera: Personnel

On motion of Councillor Baker, and seconded by Deputy Warden Fuller, Council agree to move In-Camera for Personnel at 5:20 p.m.

Motion approved.

On motion of Councillor Malloy, seconded by Councillor Zinck, Council agree to reconvene to regular session at 5:50

Motion approved.

On recommendation of Deputy Warden Fuller, and seconded by Councillor Zinck, Council approve the new staffing structure within the Public Works Department.

Motion approved.

Adjournment

On motion of Councillor Mailman, and seconded by Councillor Baker, there being no further matters of business, Council adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Motion approved.

Recorded By
Jadzia Graham, Interim Municipal Clerk

Approved By
Warden Wier



2024 Communities in Bloom Atlantic Edition Invitation

December 2023

Honourable Mayor, Council and Municipal Staff,

Communities in Bloom is a non-profit, charitable, Canadian organization committed to fostering civic pride, environmental responsibility, and beautification through community engagement and the challenge of friendly competition.

The program nurtures involvement and action by citizens of all ages, municipal governments, local organizations, institutions and businesses. It strives to improve the tidiness, appearance, and visual appeal of our neighborhoods, parks, open spaces, and streetscapes through the imaginative use of flowers, plants and trees.

A focus on environmental awareness and the preservation and conservation of the cultural, natural, and built heritage elements are also integral pillars to the success of the program.

We invite your community to experience and enjoy the benefits of people, plants and pride...growing great places together by participating in the 2024 Communities in Bloom program.

In the past few years, significant changes have occurred in society's expectations for, and usage of, our outdoor environments. We encourage you to join communities across the Atlantic provinces and Canada to develop:

- **civic pride**
- **mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change**
- **enhance green spaces**
- **strengthen neighborhoods and**
- **increase investment opportunities and tourism**

Your community will receive **invaluable feedback from a professional team of experienced, volunteer judges** who will provide you with a comprehensive report of observations and recommendations to serve as a **template for continuous improvement** following their visit.

Your community will also be invited to submit for special achievement awards and to apply for grants offered by our sponsors and partners.

Your community has the option to participate in one of the following categories (please see the [How to Participate](#) guide for more information):

- **Population Category (community is evaluated):**

Two volunteer judges visit and evaluate the community to provide a detailed report, including any special mentions and an overall bloom rating (from 1 to 5 blooms) The evaluation visit will be scheduled for two days with accommodation provided by the host community.

2024 Registration fees are as follows, by population size:

Population size	Price
1 to 1,000	\$425.00
1,001 to 5,000	\$495.00
5,001 to 10,000	\$595.00
Over 10,001	\$775.00

or

- **Friends Category (community is not evaluated):**

Community is not evaluated: becomes part of the Communities in Bloom network, able to access educational, idea sharing for community improvement, and an invitation to attend the annual symposium. The registration fee is \$250.00 CAD

Participating in the CiB program has proven, **positive benefits!** While impacting all sectors of your municipality, CiB will help to encourage and enhance community involvement, improve green infrastructure, and become more environmentally sustainable. The very high Return on Investment that has been noted by other communities make CiB **one of the best investments** you can make for your hometown!

Check out the video below that features information and testimonials from Mayors, community leaders and partners who have seen the benefits of participating in Communities in Bloom.



CiB Atlantic is challenging and inviting your community to act early and REGISTER for the 2024 Atlantic Provincial Edition!

The registration form can be completed directly on-line, click below

[CiB ATLANTIC ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM](#)



2024 Colour of the Year

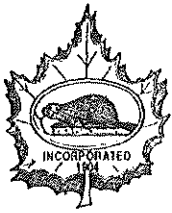
At the request of our communities, we decided to continue with a **colour theme for 2024**. This year's colour will be **ORANGE**. We invite everyone to plant orange in honour of our Indigenous communities as we celebrate all the ways Plants Love You.

For more information about how Communities in Bloom can **help your community** become a **Greener and Healthier** community, please contact:

Sonia Parrino - CiB Program Specialist

Phone: (514) 694-8871 email: bloom@cib-cef.com

Sincerely,



TOWN OF OXFORD

5201 MAIN ST.
P. O. BOX 338
OXFORD, NOVA SCOTIA
B0M 1P0

PHONE: 902-447-2170
FAX: 902-447-2485

November 27, 2023

Honourable Steven Guilbeault
1010-800 Maisonneuve Blvd East
Montreal, Quebec
H2L 4L8

Email: Steven.Guilbeault@parl.gc.ca

Dear Honourable Guilbeault,

RE: Exemption of Volunteer Emergency Service Providers from New Fuel Charges

This letter is to acknowledge and support the Municipality of Barrington in their letter dated July 27, 2023, and the Municipality of the District of Yarmouth in their letter dated November 1, 2023, regarding the request for carbon tax exemption for volunteer emergency service providers.

Oxford Town Council understands the importance to reduce and eliminate the use of fossil fuels as it is destroying our climate, but we are concerned with the extra financial burden on the volunteer emergency service providers as they are on a limited and fixed budget to protect our Town.

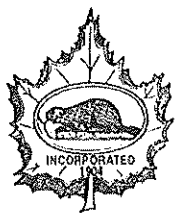
To reiterate Warden Cunningham's letter, The emergency service providers are "volunteers, sacrificially working out of their desire to make communities safer, selflessly putting their lives at risk in times of crisis; working tirelessly to fund training and equipment purchases; all of which is enough of a price to pay to keep our residents safe."

Oxford Town Council shares the same request as the Municipality of Barrington and the Municipality of the District of Yarmouth to also ask that the application of the carbon tax on volunteer emergency service providers be removed.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss this further, my email is ghenley@oxfordns.ca and phone number is 902-397-2785

Kind Regards,

Greg Henley
Mayor



TOWN OF OXFORD

5201 MAIN ST.
P. O. BOX 338
OXFORD, NOVA SCOTIA
B0M 1P0

PHONE: 902-447-2170
FAX: 902-447-2485

cc. Oxford Town Council
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities
Zach Churchill, MLA Yarmouth
Nova Scotia Municipalities



**Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage
Office of the Minister**

1741 Brunswick Street, PO Box 456, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2R5
Telephone 902-424-4889 • Fax 902-424-4872 • novascotia.ca

File Number:
5028369

December 12, 2023

Tyler MacLaughlin
Municipality of the District of St. Mary's
8296 Highway 7
Sherbrooke NS B0J 3C0

Dear Tyler MacLaughlin:

I am pleased to advise you that your application for funding under the Active Communities Fund program has been approved. The Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage will invest \$18,450 supporting the active communities initiatives outlined in your application.

Investing in communities by increasing access to physical activity opportunities for Nova Scotians is a vital part of *Let's Get Moving Nova Scotia, an action plan for increasing physical activity in Nova Scotia*.

A Terms and Conditions document will be sent to you. Once received, please sign and return it to the regional office email address. If you have any inquiries pertaining to your project, please contact Rae Gunn, Highland Regional Manager, at (902) 338-0659 or by email at Rae.Gunn@novascotia.ca.

Best wishes to your organization for continued success and thank you for your efforts to provide sport and recreation opportunities that contribute to strong, vibrant communities.

Sincerely,

Allan MacMaster
Minister
Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage

c. Rae Gunn, Highland Regional Manager

ACTIVE COMMUNITIES FUND



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

PROJECTS

- FITNESS CENTRE
- PIONEER PARK
- ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION
- EQUIPMENT LOAN
- NATURE BASED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
- ST. MARY'S RECPLEX





Communities, Culture and Heritage

ACTIVE COMMUNITIES FUND

The Active Communities Fund supports community-wide initiatives to encourage less-structured physical activity and movement.

The Active Communities Fund helps communities encourage physical activity and movement through policies, social initiatives or physical environments.

Increasing Support for Fitness Based Programming

This initiative will consist of getting our Active Living Coordinator certified to be a personal trainer

This will improve access to all members, but especially those who require medical clearance



canfitproTM

Increasing Sustainability of Fitness Centre

This initiative will help to replace older equipment and increase accessibility at the Fitness Centre

- Purchase new elliptical from Spartan Fitness
- Install our own WiFi at the Fitness Centre



Enhancement of Low Structured Programming at Pioneer Park

This initiative will promote the use of Pioneer Park through:

- Installing a community play box with various equipment
- Installing two disc golf baskets



Increase Active Transportation Participation in St. Mary's

This initiative will consist of an online walking challenge through World Walking

The goal is to increase active transportation and physical activity within St. Mary's



Equipment Loan Enhancement

This initiative will consist of continuing to update the equipment loan program

This will help to improve accessibility of equipment and increase family participation in self-directed physical activity



Increasing Nature Based Physical Activity Opportunities in St. Mary's

This initiative will consist of geocaching events throughout the Municipality

This will help to increase the use of trails in St. Mary's and increase the amount of time spent in nature



Enhancing Facility Access at the St. Mary's Recplex

This initiative will enhance facility access at the St. Mary's Recplex

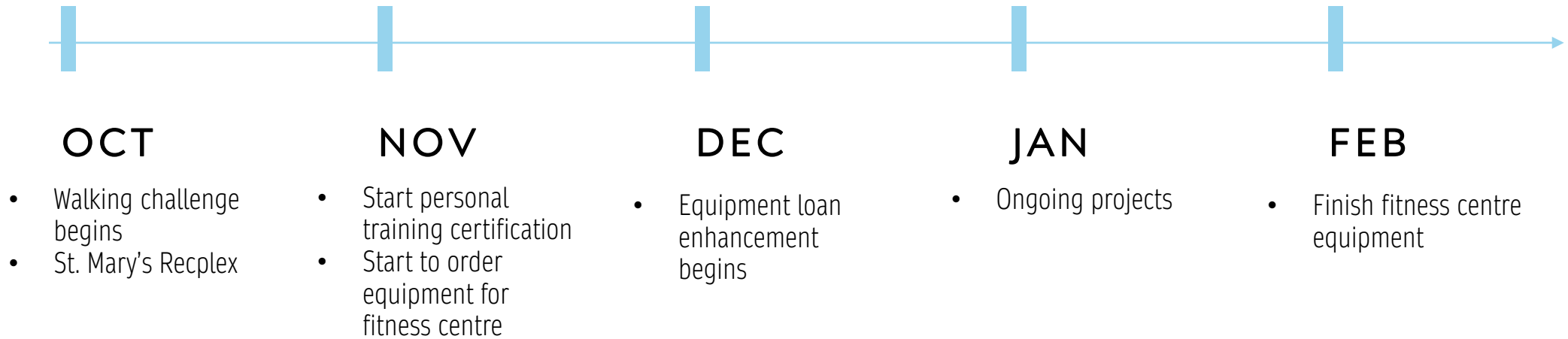
This will increase accessibility to family-based, self-directed physical activity



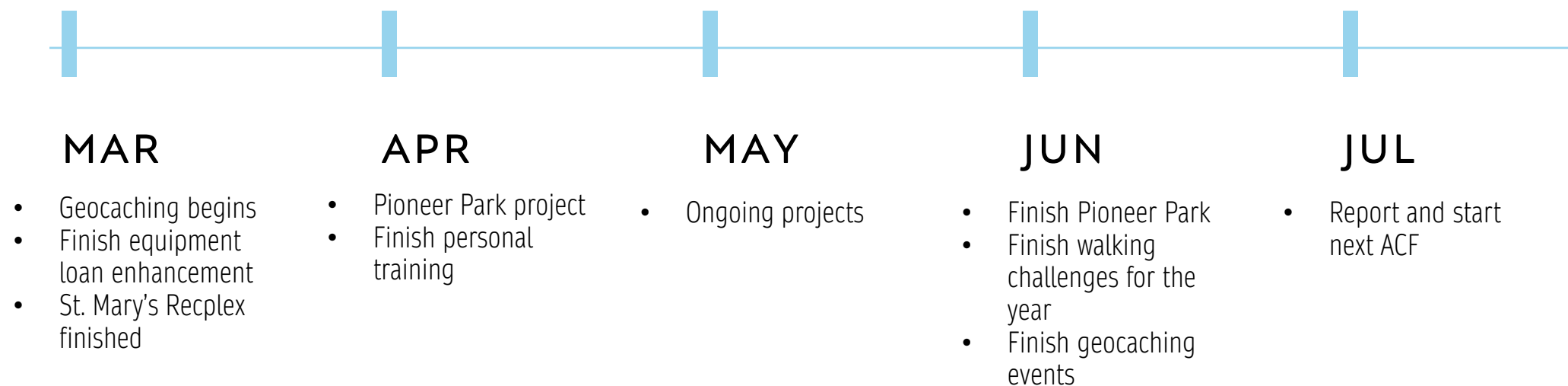
Cost Breakdown

	Project Description	Total Project	In Kind	Municipal Cash	Grant Request	Total Cash to Spend
A	Personal Trainer Certification	1,500	-	-	1,500	1,500
B	Fitness Center Equipment	6,950	-	1,200	5,750	6,950
C	Pioneer Park	3,400	300	1,000	2,100	3,100
D	Prizes for Active Living Initiatives	1,150	-	500	650	1,150
E	Equipment Loan Program	940	-	300	640	940
F	Geocaching	460	250	-	210	210
G	Recplex Facility Access	10,600	2,300	550	7,750	8,300
	Total	25,000	2,850	3,550	18,600	22,150





TIMELINE



TIMELINE



THANK YOU

TYLER MACLAUGHLIN
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Volunteer Awards

Tyler MacLaughlin, Interim Director of Community Development and Recreation

SUMMARY

The Volunteer Awards are an annual event to showcase all the volunteerism that occurs in St. Mary's. This event also highlights the Volunteer of the Year for the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's. This year's recipient is Michael Porter.

BACKGROUND

For 47 years, ever since he moved to Nova Scotia, Michael Porter has been spreading joy throughout the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's with his music. In 2019, Michael would bring his guitar and equipment to play at the grassroots community market in Sherbrooke. As he played, he collected donations for the St. Mary's Food Bank. Over time, more musicians joined him, forming the group known locally as "Market Sound". Every week, 6-10 musicians now gather, and together they have raised almost \$10,000 for the food bank since 2019. Michael consistently volunteers his time and equipment, ensuring live music at the Sherbrooke Saturday Market, which has grown and relocated to the Heritage Park at the Historic Sherbrooke Village. Furthermore, he volunteers his musical talents for local benefit concerts, supporting those in need. Michael's gift of music has brought joy to the community and raised funds for worthy causes. The Municipality proudly recognizes Michael Porter as its Volunteer of the Year.

CONSIDERATIONS

The St. Mary's District Lion's Club is a central location in the Municipality, can hold a large event, and offers catering services. A program will be put together for the event, and the Warden will have the opportunity to speak to thank people for attending and provide some information about each of the nominees. Invites to the event would include all nominees, council, MLA Greg Morrow, our volunteer firefighters, Rae Gunn and Eric Lumsden from Community, Culture, Tourism and Heritage, as well as a general invite to the public. The Municipality will create and print certificates for all nominees. Due to the timing of the event, there will be a winter theme and slogan.

Canada Summer Jobs Grant Application

Tyler MacLaughlin, Interim Director of Community Development and Recreation

SUMMARY

The Canada Summer Jobs grant provides funding for the Community Development and Recreation Department (CDRD) to hire summer staff for our 2024 summer day camps. With this grant, the department is looking to hire three summer day camp leaders.

BACKGROUND

The Canada Summer Jobs grant is completed every year by a member of the CDRD to assist with the funding for summer day camp staff. The CDRD has been very successful in the past with receiving funding.

This covers an 8 week program called "Summer Day Camp" open to the public for people from 4 to 12 years old. The participants enjoy games and crafts. The daily events run Monday to Thursday. Times are approximately 8AM to 4PM.

The program is held at the RecPlex from early July to late August.

This program is free to the public.

The staff hired under this grant perform the daily support for participants including organization of games and crafts, assist participants, coordinate with presenters etc.

We have the staff here for 9 weeks including one week of training that includes first aid.

CONSIDERATIONS

The Canada Summer Jobs grant is a 50% funded grant. The department is applying to fund three people as day camp leaders for nine weeks at 34 hours per week, at an hourly wage of \$15.25 (minimum wage after April 1st, 2024). This equates to a total ask of \$7,004.34. The Municipality will be responsible for the equivalent amount, as well as Mandatory Employment Related Costs (MERCs), such as Employment Insurance, Canada Pension Plan and Vacation Pay.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the above considerations, staff are recommending that:

Staff Report



Recommendation: That Municipal council approve and support the application for the 2024 Canada Summer Jobs grant, as outlined in this report due to the significant public benefits provided by the Summer Day Camp Program.

2024-25 Community Infrastructure and Access-Ability Grants

Tyler MacLaughlin, Interim Director of Community Development and Recreation

SUMMARY

The Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage (CCTH) has opened its Community Infrastructure and Access-ability grants for the fiscal year 2024-25. This is a fantastic opportunity for local organizations and entities to enhance and improve community facilities, helping to support a more accessible and vibrant future for everyone. The Municipality of the District of St. Mary's will be hosting an information session for eligible applicants on January 15, 2024, in which a representative from the Department of CCTH will attend in-person (weather dependent).

BACKGROUND

Eligible applicants include Registered non-profit societies, Mi'kmaw Band Councils, Municipalities & villages, and schools & post-secondary institutions with facilities available for community recreation use. Applications opened on December 11th, 2023, and the deadline is February 14th, 2024.

Available Grant Programs:

1. [Community ACCESS-Ability Program](#) Supports renovations and improvements to make community buildings more accessible.
2. [Community Facility Improvement Program](#) Aids in repairs and upgrades to community facilities open for public use, such as community halls.
3. [Legion Capital Assistance Program](#) Assists Royal Canadian Legions with capital upgrades.
4. [Recreation Facility Development / Rink Revitalization Fund](#) Supports repairs and upgrades to community recreation facilities and rinks.

CONSIDERATIONS

The support of the Community, Culture, Tourism and Heritage in their application assistance event will provide a valuable opportunity for local groups to receive the benefits of related funding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

N/A, FYI

Update on Provincial Economic Development Tools Review

Economic Development

SUMMARY

On December 18, 2023, St. Mary's CAO and Economic Development Officer (EDO) met with the newly appointed Director of Community Economic Development from NS Dept. of Economic Development on request of the EDO to follow up on outcomes from the Tool Review and ensure St. Mary's' alignment with and discuss collaboration opportunities with respect to provincial economic goals.

BACKGROUND

In early 2023, the NS Department of Economic Development conducted a Tools Review with CAOs, Economic Development Officers, Regional Economic Networks, etc. The NS Department of Economic Development has a mandate to review Investment and Attraction mechanisms and structures to ensure they support our communities and deliver the most efficient and accountable format for economic development.

The 4 key pillars:

- 1. Grow Strategic Sectors**
 - a. Grow our share of high paying/productivity sectors
- 2. Increase Productivity**
 - a. Work with all sectors to become more productive/prosperous
- 3. Plant the Seeds**
 - a. Support/nurture innovation & entrepreneurship
- 4. Local Focus**
 - a. All communities experience growth and prosperity

Global trends include:

1. Workforce Shortages
2. Supply Chain and Regional Markets
3. Productivity: Automation and Technology
4. Green Economy and Climate Resilience

The NS Dept. of Economic Development wants to ensure the tools government uses to support business growth are as effective as possible. That's why they conducted a review of current programs and tools to explore if there are alternative approaches that can deliver greater opportunities for Nova Scotians. This review has helped identify new and innovative practices which will allow encouragement for more start-ups, attract new companies, grow companies already here, and will confirm what is working well.

St. Mary's Staff participated in this review in early 2023. Changes made to date include the creation of two new Crown Corporations namely, Invest Nova Scotia and Build Nova Scotia. The Province is supporting Nova Scotia

entrepreneurs through new funding for startup hub Volta. They provide a range of services to resident startups, including access to experienced advisors, a comprehensive performance framework, and a suite of tools and resources to help them grow their business.

The NS Department of Economic Development created a position for the Director, Community Economic Development which will foster collaboration and communication with RENs (Regional Enterprise Networks) and Municipalities across Nova Scotia.

The three (3) key focus areas for the Director, Community Economic Development are:

1. Full coverage across the province to support businesses
2. Consistency of product, delivery and service
3. Ease of navigation (i.e. municipal EDO, Invest NS, REN or ACOA, who to approach first and what each can provide)

CONSIDERATIONS

Considerations for Council specific to St. Mary's are:

- Aligning with federal and provincial promotion of Digital Nomads, particularly where visitor status is the only entry requirement for one to do work based in another Country while living/ travelling in Canada.
- Encourage fact based discussions about new ideas, products and businesses entering the community. It has been noticed that NIMBYism (Not In My Back Yard) not based on facts can negatively affect people, businesses or industry trying to come to Nova Scotia communities.
- Make contact with a connector program that assists newcomers to a Nova Scotia Communities.
- Discuss RENs (Regional Economic Networks) or Business Partnerships, what is different in today's business landscape, the constraints of the MGA for Municipal EDO and how being part of a REN or Partnership could benefit St. Mary's. Notable recent examples include:
 - the printed guide welcoming visitors and newcomers to the area by the Pictou County Partnership,
 - the strategic planning exercise undertaken by Guysborough Business Development Partnership with Doug Griffiths of 13 Ways, and
 - the business support and economic data available via Truro Colchester Partnership including downloadable guides for Relocation, Business Growth and Business Funding

RECOMMENDATIONS

None at this time

Update Phase 2 Flood Line Mapping Project

Economic Development

SUMMARY

Valuable input is requested from Council and the public on the Social Pinpoint Flood Mapping Tool for the Phase 2 of the Eastern Shore Flood Line Mapping project. This online platform offers you the opportunity to:

- **Engage in Interactive Mapping:** Share specific locations of flooding events and areas of concern.
- **Participate in the Survey:** Share your input and local knowledge through the short survey.

The platform can be accessed at <https://cbcl.mysocialpinpoint.com/esw-flood-mapping>

BACKGROUND

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 issued in December 2022 was awarded to CBCL Engineering and Design Services in January. The project area with measuring, modeling and mapping will encompass the coastline of the Eastern Shore from Ecum Secum to the Canso Causeway.

A second phase of the Flood Line Map Project, which extends into the watershed level, has been recently announced by the province. Phase 2 is fully funded and lead by the province. CBCL Limited was awarded with the contract, a kick-off meeting was held July 27, 2023, and additional Stakeholders and Rights-holders have been determined and a link is now live for stakeholders and the public to add valuable input. Hydrological modelling of watersheds, along with precipitation and climate change analysis, model sensitivity analysis, Model Quality Assurance and Quality Control and relevant By-law review are underway.

CONSIDERATIONS

Stakeholders and the public are invited to join the interactive mapping tool to identify flood risk areas throughout St. Mary's on any road, property, stream, river, lake, etc. the mapping tool is hosted in an online platform (Social Pinpoint), including a questionnaire and mapping of:

- Areas where flooding was witnessed
- Areas of existing/past damage
- Areas of concern for the future

Staff Report



If photos are available, there is an option to upload and add further context.

Residents may require assistance if they do not have access to the online platform or have hard copy photos of flood events that require digitizing.

RECOMMENDATIONS

None at this time

Housing – NS Dept. of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Economic Development

SUMMARY

Adrian Mason, Director of Housing Development and Partnerships, and Ross MacDonald, Municipal Advisor, both with Nova Scotia Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing were invited to attend a meeting on December 19, 2023 with Deputy Warden Fuller from Council and CAO, Director of Finance, Economic Development Officer and Interim Municipal Clerk representing Staff from the Municipality.

BACKGROUND

The CAO requested a meeting with provincial representatives for NSDMAH to discuss programming, funding, and partnerships with the province regarding housing. In preparation for the meeting a background document was prepared to illustrate the work the Municipality has completed since 2020 to improve housing in St. Mary's and shared with the provincial representatives. The consensus was that St. Mary's is on the right track with pro housing changes made in the Municipal Planning Strategy Land Use By-law, Committee work and current actions to achieve an increase in housing.

CONSIDERATIONS

There are several options in moving forward with the development of the property currently reserved for housing in Sherbrooke. Partnerships will be essential to ensure appropriate funding is in place, skill sets are acquired, sustainability and equity goals are achieved. The type of neighborhood and the possibilities that it could contain is a once in a generation opportunity for St. Mary's.

Discussion with the province determined ways in which they can assist including:

- Proceeds of sale requirements and options under the MGA.
- Provincial programs are stackable with federal and CMHC programs.
- Ability to partner with the province for joint land development of Municipal and Provincial properties.
- Funding is available to Non-profit housing organizations in this area.
- New programming from Efficiency One is coming in 2024 that will be geared towards new construction.
- The province can assist the Municipality with developer agreements and processes. This includes conditional land commitments for the purpose of ensuring the original intent of housing is maintained.

Staff Report



RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council request staff to investigate and bring back to Council the best business practice options for the creation of a neighbourhood concept based on wellness, that could include a long-term care facility and a hospital.

Community Library Boxes

Tyler MacLaughlin, Interim Director of Community Development and Recreation

SUMMARY

The Community Development and Recreation Department (CDRD) had six community library boxes constructed as part of a municipality-wide initiative to have take-a-book, leave-a-book style boxes available to the public. The library boxes will be installed in late winter-early spring in various communities within St. Mary's.

BACKGROUND



CONSIDERATIONS

Signage and instructions will be developed for the boxes

RECOMMENDATIONS

N/A

FYI only