



NOTICE

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

DATE: Wednesday, March 5th, 2025

TIME: 6:00 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, March 5th, 2025, at 6:00pm

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 February 19th, 2025
6. Business Arising from Minutes
7. Correspondence:
 - a. Email from Minister John A. Lohr Regarding Resource Development
8. Presentation: Nancy O'Regan, Director of Community First Guysborough Housing Association
9. Other Matters of Business
 - a. Appoint a Member of Council to Smart-Go Board
 - b. 2025-2026 General Government Grants
 - c. 2025-2026 Capital Budget Draft 1
 - d. 2025-2026 Operating Budget Draft 1 Recap
 - e. 2024-2025 Projected Operating Surplus
 - f. Interactive Panel Project
 - g. FCM Conference Attendance
 - h. ATV Club - Council follow up February 19 COTW

10.In-Camera: Contract Negotiations

Adjournment



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Committee of The Whole (COTW) Meeting

Wednesday, February 19th, 2025,

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

1. Meeting, Date & Time:

Deputy Warden Malloy called the COTW Meeting of the St. Mary's Municipal Council to order on Wednesday, February 19th, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Sherbrooke, N.S.

2. Attending:

Deputy Warden Beulah Malloy
Councillor Dana O'Connell
Councillor Emma Tibbo

Absent with Regrets:

Warden James Fuller
Councillor Scott Beaver

Also Attending:

Doug Patterson, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
Marian Fraser, Director of Finance (DOF)
Jadzia Rudolph, Municipal Clerk

3. Additions to the Agenda:

- There were no additions to the agenda.

4. Approval of the Agenda:

On the motion of Councillor O'Connell and seconded by Councillor Tibbo, Council approved the agenda as presented.

Motion approved.

5. Approval of Minutes:

On the motion of Councillor Tibbo and seconded by Councillor O'Connell, Council approved the minutes of the COTW Meeting held February 5th, 2025.

Motion approved.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes:

- There was no business arising from the minutes.

7. Correspondence:

- There was no correspondence.

8. Presentation:

- a. St. Mary's ATV Club – Milton Gallant
- Please see the Agenda/Package for the presentation.

- Milton Gallant from the St. Mary's ATV Club provided Council with a presentation on the current status of the St. Mary's ATV Club. Mr. Gallant informed Council that there was \$417.8 million for trail maintenance and upkeep.
- Mr. Gallant notified council that there are 3 asks for council; written letters of support for the road trail act, approval of the district grant, and council communicating that the St. Mary's ATV Club is an asset to the community and operating businesses within.

9. Other Matters of Business:

a. 2025-2026 Low Income Property Tax Exemption

- Please see the Agenda/Package for the report.
- Marian Fraser, Director of Finance provided Council with a report on the 2025-2026 residential low-income tax exemption. Marian presented 4 options; Council may decide which option they deem most efficient for residents.

On recommendation of Councillor O'Connell seconded by Councillor Tibbo, Council approve the 2025/2026 Application for Residential Low Income Property Tax Exemption with the annual household income range threshold as laid out in the table below and the tax exemption credit amount with the corresponding range, all other eligibility requirements to remain the same as outlined in the application.

Household Income Range	Tax Exemption Amount	Average number of applications based on 2024-2025 municipal data	Cost to Municipality
\$25,001-\$29,000	\$200	60	\$12,000
\$20,001-\$25,000	\$250	31	\$7,750
\$15,001-\$20,000	\$300	5	\$1,500
\$0-\$15,000	\$350	15	\$5,250
Total		111	\$26,500

Recommendation adopted.

b. Operating Budget Presentation: First Draft 2025-2026

- Please see the Agenda/Package for the report.
- Marian Fraser, Director of Finance provided Council with a presentation on the 2025-2026 operating budget.

Adjournment

On motion of Councillor Tibbo and seconded by Councillor O'Connell, there being no further matters of business, Council adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Motion approved.

Recorded By
Jadzia Rudolph, Municipal Clerk

Approved By
Deputy Warden Malloy



**Municipal Affairs
Office of the Minister**

PO Box 216, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2M4 • Telephone 902 424-5550 Fax 902 424-0581 • novascotia.ca

February 11, 2025

Dear Mayors and Wardens:

Recent events in our world are changing the landscape of our province and country. We are experiencing new fiscal challenges that will have a significant impact on our economy. It is clear we need to become more self-reliant. And, at the same time, we need to better integrate our economy with other Canadian provinces and territories.

Our Government has recently announced that Nova Scotia must say “yes” to both a reduction in inter-provincial trade barriers, and to resource development within our province. Both steps need to be taken carefully and in consultation with our communities. Resource development, in particular, is of incredible importance.

If you are supportive and agree, I am asking for you and your council to signal your support for greater resource development within our province - by letter or press release.

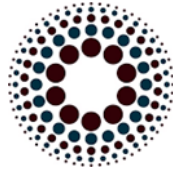
Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Lohr'.

Honourable John A. Lohr
Minister of Municipal Affairs

c: Chief Administrative Officers
Juanita Spencer, NSFM



Delivered via email

February 12, 2025

RE: Letter from Honourable John Lohr (February 11)

Hello Elected Municipal Officials,

With regard to the letter received by Mayors and Wardens from the Honourable John Lohr, Minister of Municipal Affairs, dated February 11 (a copy is enclosed for your reference), we recognize that this letter raises important questions and want to let you know that we are actively seeking clarity on these matters. Our goal is to provide you with the insights needed to make informed decisions on these complex issues.

NSFM is aware that there are possible impacts on each municipality, and on you as elected officials, and that more information is needed before you can respond to the request put forth. Know that we are working with the Province to gather that information. Specifically, we are focused on the call for greater resource development within Nova Scotia and the reduction of inter-provincial trade barriers and what this means. We know both are important as we move forward as a province. With regard to the resource development, it is imperative we are clear on the ask and that the Province is aware of limitations, for example, on protection of our watersheds and other water sources, so that we can all move forward together in the best way.

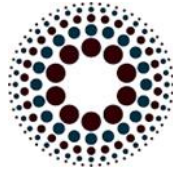
We remain committed to supporting all Nova Scotia municipalities. Through collaboration and open communication, we can leverage our collective strength to navigate these challenges in a way that benefits our communities and benefits the province as a whole. A win-win.

We will reach out as we have further information.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us at info@nsfm.ca. Hoping this helps!

Sincerely,

Pam Mood
President
Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities



NOVA SCOTIA
FEDERATION OF
MUNICIPALITIES

1809 Barrington Street Suite #1304 Halifax NS B3J 3K8 Tel: (902) 423-8331 E-mail: info@nsfm.ca

Delivered via email

February 21, 2025

RE: Pending Legislation

Dear Members,

As you are aware, the provincial government initiated a new session of the legislature on February 14th. NSFM has been following this sitting very closely and we have already seen some legislation introduced that could impact municipalities. We also believe there is more to come, and that government will be active with legislation on a number of files that will be of interest to you, as elected municipal leaders, and to your municipalities.

We want to assure you that, as your representative organization, we are very active on these matters. Juanita Spencer, CEO, and I have been meeting daily with provincial officials to ensure a municipal lens is provided on any files or initiatives that may be contemplated by the province, as it enacts its legislative plan.

We remain committed to supporting our members. There is no question that as municipalities, we know our communities best and therefore our voices and expertise must be part of the conversations as decisions affecting our communities are brought into play. The best results will happen with collaboration and open communication between our levels of government. With the strength of our members, we, as an organization, can navigate these challenges in a way that benefits our communities and the province as a whole. That is the goal.

We will reach out as we have further information. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us at info@nsfm.ca. Thank you for all you do as we navigate these challenging times!

Sincerely,

Pam Mood
President
Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities



Presentation to the District of St. Mary's Municipal Council
March 5th, 2025

Organizational Update

- ▶ July 2025 - Incorporation with the Registry of Joint Stocks
- ▶ Board of Directors - 14 members - both individuals and organizations
- ▶ Service Provider Network - 25 members
- ▶ Fall 2025 - Policy development, established committee structures - project opportunities, finance, policy, with focus on anti-racist approach
- ▶ October to February - Board capacity building, courses on affordable housing development through CBU microcredits, CAHDCO
- ▶ Active membership in NSNPHA, two-day gathering in November, working with government and collaboration with real estate and construction sectors
- ▶ November - Consultation on Remedy Report, partnership development
- ▶ Regional Network meetings - focus on policy, advocacy and networking
- ▶ November 2025 - Signed agreement of purchase and sale for Anderson Property in Sherbrooke
- ▶ February 2025 - Purchased six-unit apartment building in Boylston NS

Sherbrooke Seniors Project

- ▶ We used seed funds from St. Mary's Council (\$8,000) as follows:
- ▶ \$5,000 downpayment on land purchase. Closing date February 28th (after several extensions)
- ▶ Hired consultant to begin looking at re-zoning and identifying architects/designer - \$1,152
- ▶ Completed Environmental Assessment Phase 1 on property - no issues - \$2,900
- ▶ Total expenditures on Sherbrook Project to date: **\$9,052**
- ▶ Applied for funding to purchase the land through CMHC SEED Loan program. Completed application, provided required documentation.
- ▶ Challenges - they require 3-year audited financial statements, full project cost estimate and co-borrower
- ▶ Application rejected

Project Capital Costs

- ▶ We are applying for funding from the **Centre for Community Housing Transformation** for **pre-development costs** - architect for preliminary design consultant/project manager to lead feasibility for infrastructure, zoning and procurement of services, site preparation costs, consultations with community. \$50,000
- ▶ **Project construction costs** - will apply for funding from **Federation of Canadian Municipalities** to support net-zero construction, **NS Affordable Housing Programs** for rental subsidy, **CMHC** for construction costs.

Options for Moving Forward

- ▶ Wait until St. Mary's community concept project is developed and request land from council to build there - *longer time frame*
- ▶ Seek private mortgage from landowner - *higher costs and interest*
- ▶ Establish St. Mary's Housing Advisory Committee to fund raise in the community - *not enough time or capacity to raise funds. There will be a community contribution needed as part of capital construction project. Not advisable to go to the community for funding twice.*
- ▶ Seek business partner or foundation grants or donation - *not enough time*
- ▶ Request Council purchase the land and transfer to Community First with condition that if we do not build within 5 years, it reverts back to St. Mary's ownership - *best path forward*

Request to Council

- ▶ The closing date for purchasing the property has been extended to March 10th
- ▶ Community First is requesting capital funding for the purchase of the property.

Expense	Amount	Notes
Land	\$80,000	<i>Signed purchase and sale agreement</i>
Soil Test	\$2900	<i>STRUM completed Dec 2025</i>
Survey	0	<i>Completed by owner</i>
Title/Recording	\$1,200	<i>Deed Transfer tax</i>
Appraisal	0	<i>Completed by owner</i>
Consultants	\$1,152	<i>Brighter Planning Ltd</i>
Legal Fees	\$1,600	<i>MacGillivray Law</i>
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT COST	\$86,852	
Less St. Mary's seed funds	-\$8,000.00	
TOTAL CAPITAL REQUEST	\$78,852	

Thanks for your support

► Questions?



SMART-GO

ST. MARY'S ASSOCIATION FOR RURAL TRANSIT

January 14th, 2025

Dear Council for Municipality of the District of St. Mary's,

On behalf of SMART-GO, St. Mary's Association for Rural Transit, we are writing to express our strong interest in having a councilor join our team as a board member. In our efforts to further strengthen the collaboration between the SMART-GO Board and the Council, we believe that the active participation of a councilor in our discussions and decision-making processes would be highly beneficial for the community.

We kindly request your support and invite any interested Council members to apply. We look forward to working more closely with the Council in order to better serve the community of St. Mary's.

Sincerely,

Gary M. Mahar
GARY MAHAR TREASURER

Print Name & Position

Jan 15/2025

J. Cloutier
JERRY CLOUTIER

Print Name & Position

PRESIDENT.

Jan 15, 2025

2025-2026 General Government Grants

Department of Finance

SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

Annually, as part of the Municipal Operating Budget deliberations, Council reviews applications submitted (due February 15th) for Grants to Organizations in accordance with the *General Government Grants Policy*.

The policy provides direction on three types of grants which Council can provide to eligible recipients.

1. District Grants
2. Grants to Organizations (GTO)
3. School Scholarships

The total of the three grant categories are funded through the Municipal Operating Budget. In 2024-2025 the total budget for General Government Grants was \$45,000 (District Grant \$20,000, GTO \$22,000, and Scholarships \$3,000). In 2024-2025 an additional \$10,000 was added to this budget from the previous year.

DISTRICT GRANTS

Each Municipal Councillor will have an equal amount of funds per district to be allocated at their discretion in accordance with the policy throughout the fiscal year. In 2024-2025 each district was allotted \$1,428.57 prior to the election and \$2,000 post-election (5 districts), totaling \$20,000.

Total District Grant Funding Options	Per District - 5
\$20,000	\$4,000 per district
\$19,000	\$3,800 per district
\$18,000	\$3,600 per district
\$17,000	\$3,400 per district
\$16,000	\$3,200 per district
\$15,000	\$3,000 per district
\$10,000	\$2,000 per district

GRANTS TO ORGANIZATIONS

The following organizations have submitted applications for grants to organizations. Applications must comply with the municipal *General Government Grant Policy*.

Organization	Amount Requested	Notes/Last Rec'd	Reason for Grant Request
Liscomb Vol Fire Dept	\$2,000	Last received a general government grant in 2023-2024. Therefore, not eligible application based on policy.	The LVFD is also involved with the Liscomb Ballfield for the community. Application
St. Mary's ATV Club	\$4,500	Last received a general government grant in 2023-2024. Therefore, not eligible application based on policy.	Assist with trail maintenance and help leverage additional provincial grants.
St. Mary's Horse & Farm Club	\$2,000	New organization. Funds that are requested do not comply with policy as funds will be used for capital upgrades to a personal property.	To assist with electrical upgrades at the riding barn and development of a new outdoor riding ring.
Total Requested	\$8,500		

Eligibility requirements for Grants to Organization:

- Grants to Organizations focus on capital projects, program costs are eligible as long as they are not ordinary operating costs of an organization.
- Organizations are only eligible if they have not received the grant within the last two years.
- Funds are not to be used for any personal gain or for any commercial or private enterprise.
- There is a minimum total project cost of \$2,000 for the applicant with the potential to receive up to 50% funding from the Municipality.
- Any one group or project cannot exceed funding for more than 50% of the total funds allocated in the Grants to Organizations category.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR GENERAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Based on the current *General Government Grant Policy* none of the applications received are eligible. Council could consider not awarding any grants from the grants to organization section of the policy at this time but keep the funds within the budget. This would provide Council with the opportunity to review the policy and potentially consider amendments. If amendments are completed to the policy Council could then put out a new call for applications and award grants mid-way through the fiscal year.

SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

As per the *General Government Grant Policy* each year the Municipality provides a grant to the St Mary's Academy for scholarships to students who are residents of the Municipality graduating grade 12 and planning to further their post-secondary education. The annual grant amount is \$3,000, this amount has remained the last over the past number of years.

STAFF DIRECTION - TOTAL AMOUNT GRANTED FOR 2024/2025

At this point in the budget deliberations for 2025-2026 Municipal staff only require direction to take the information from this COTW onto the AGM, where a formal motion will be made at that time.

Municipality of the District of St. Mary's General Government Grants Policy



Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide Council, Municipal Staff and the public with a framework by which Municipality grants will be applied for, reviewed and awarded.

General Stipulations to Policy

- General Government Grants are not to exceed 1.5% of the current year's operational budget minus any transfer needed from surplus.
- During an Municipal election year District Grants (#1) cannot be allocated or spent three months prior to the election date and only 50% of the total district grant can be spent per Councillor by such date

Grant Categories

The Municipality may provide three types of grants through this policy:

1. *District Grants* - Each Municipal Councillor will have an equal amount of funds per district to be allocated at their discretion in accordance with the policy throughout the fiscal year.
2. *Grants to Organizations* – During annual budget deliberations Council will review completed applications and allocate grants.
3. *School Scholarships* – Grants provided to St. Mary's Academy for scholarships to students who are residents of the Municipality graduating grade 12 planning to further their post-secondary education.

Description of Grant Category & Criteria

1. *District Grants* –
 - A demonstrated need must be shown to exist, and shall be the deciding factor for approval. Need shall be defined as a situation where applicant does not have sufficient resources to carry out a particular activity, task or service to the community.
 - Grants are meant to be of a specific nature and shall not be construed as being annual operating funds.
 - Funds are not to be used for any personal gain or for any commercial or private enterprise.
 - Community Centers and Religious Organizations are not eligible unless for a specific event or purpose benefiting residents of the Municipality.

Adopted: April 14, 2016

Amended: September 16th, 2019

2. *Grants to Organizations* -

- A demonstrated need must be shown to exist, and shall be the deciding factor for approval. Need shall be defined as a situation where applicant does not have sufficient resources to carry out a particular activity, task or service to the community.
- Grants are meant to be of a specific nature and shall not be construed as being a regular or annual occurrence.
- Anyone group or project cannot exceed funding of more than 50% of the total funds allocated in the Grants to Organizations category.
- Funds are not to be used for any personal gain or for any commercial or private enterprise.
- Grants to Organizations focus on capital projects, program costs are eligible as long as they are not ordinary operating costs of an organization.

3. *School Scholarships* -

a. Youth Advisory Committee Member Scholarship:

- One member of the Youth Advisory Committee will be eligible for a municipal scholarship of \$500.

b. General School Scholarships:

- School Administrations at St. Mary's Academy administers the criteria for all other municipally sponsored scholarships.

Eligible Applicants

1. *District Grants* – Nonprofit Organizations/Community Groups must be within the Municipality or serve/benefit residents within the Municipality, examples include but are not limited to; Students (St. Mary's Education Centre/Academy), Sport Groups, Provincial/National Recognition, Community Groups, Youth groups.

2. *Grants to Organizations* –

- Organizations must be active with registry of joint stocks - or – Provide evidence of incorporation under the Societies Act of Nova Scotia and identify how long the applicant organization has existed, or if co-sponsored similar proof from the co-sponsoring organization. Organization must be within the Municipality or serve/benefit residents within the Municipality.
- Organizations are only eligible if they have not received the grant within the last two years.
- There is a minimum total project of \$2000 for the applicant with the potential to receive up to 50% funding from the Municipality.

3. *School Scholarships* –

a. Youth Advisory Committee Member Scholarship:

- Applicant must be an active member of the Youth Advisory Committee within the year they are graduating.

b. General School Scholarships:

- School Administration at St. Mary's Academy administers eligible applicants.

Application Process

1. *District Grants* - All grant requests should be received in writing and are to be approved at the discretion of the district Municipal Councillor in consultation with the CAO and/or Finance Officer in accordance with this policy. A Councillor can approve a grant without having it in writing from the organization providing the Councillor supplies the grant requests to municipal administration in writing. District grants can be requested throughout the year providing funds are still available.
2. *Grants to Organization* – Organizations must complete an application form, see attached form. Deadline for completed application form must be received by February 15th each year for the upcoming fiscal year. Financial information must be included as outlined in application form.
3. *School Scholarships* –
 - a. Youth Advisory Committee Member Scholarship:
 - Eligible committee members must complete an application. The applications are reviewed by Council who will choose the successful recipient. If there are no graduating Youth Advisory Committee members in the given year, the scholarship will go to the General School Scholarships.
 - b. General School Scholarships:
 - School Administration at St. Mary's Academy administers the application process.

Reporting Requirements

1. *District Grants* - No reporting requirements exist.
2. *Grants to Organization* –
 - Requests may require the organization/group to make a presentation to Council.
 - Successful organizations will receive 80% of the funding up front. The remaining 20% will be released after reporting all expenses of the project and completing the Grants to Organization Funding Evaluation form. If the form is not completed the organization/group will not be eligible for a grant in the following year of eligibility.
 - The Grants to Organization Funding Evaluation Form must be completed by February 15th of the current fiscal year.

3. *School Scholarships* –

Adopted: April 14, 2016

Amended: September 16th, 2019

a. Youth Advisory Committee Member Scholarship:

- School Administration at St. Mary's Academy administers reporting requirements.

b. General School Scholarships:

- School Administration at St. Mary's Academy administers reporting requirements.

Council Approval of Policy

The amount for general government grants will be considered as part of the Municipality annual budget process. Council may allocate funds over and above the amount approved in the budget process when request for grants of an emergency or pressing nature are received that exceed the budget. Council reserves the right to grant or reject any application for funding that may or may not qualify in accordance with the guidelines set out in this policy.

M. Jordan

Municipal Clerk

September 16, 2019

Date

Adopted: April 14, 2016

Amended: September 16th, 2019



2025-2026 DRAFT #1 CAPITAL BUDGET

FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1st, 2025 TO MARCH 31ST, 2026
The Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

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Municipality of St. Mary – 2024-2025 Capital Projects Status Update

Description	Total Cost	Update
I&I Recommendation Phase 1&2	\$86,036	Project is mostly completed, will continue into 2025-2026. Funded partially through grants.
Accessibility – Library/Recplex	\$75,638	Completed planned components, looking at use for residual funds. Majority funded through grants.
Dry Hydrants (2)	\$0	Will continue into 2025/2026.
Recplex Siding Phase 2 – Siding & Flooring	\$106,034	Project is mostly completed to date, project partially funded through grants.
Flushing Hydrant (Cameron Rd.)	\$973	Will continue into 2025/26.
Water Treatment Plant Saturation Tank (DAF)/Filter	\$80,417	Project is complete. Majority funded through grants.
Sewer TP-Outer Rails/Grating	\$81,724	Project complete, funded partially through grants
Sewer TP- Inner Rails/Grating	\$0	Determine not required at this time.
Sewer Lift Station- Hospital Rd.	\$20,836	Project complete and funded solely by grants.
Port Bickerton Lighthouse Rd.	\$3,650	Project complete.
Sewer Testing Equipment	\$7,500	Project partially complete, will continue in 2025-2026. Funded through grants.
Water Treatment PLC/Auto Control System	\$0	Project will continue into 2025-2026 and partially funded through grants.
Upgrades to Municipal Facilities	\$17,167	Project complete.
WTP Upgrades – Sustainable Service Growth Fund	\$5,624	Project completely funded through grants.
Housing Project - Neighborhood Concept Plan and Supporting Plans	\$55,130	Funded completely through grants. Project is ongoing with completion this spring.
Active Transportation Project	\$0	Will continue into 2025/2026.
Recplex Ice Re-surfacer	\$109,501	Project complete.
Water Treatment Pl. Access Hatch	\$4,450	Project complete.
EMO Emergency Shelter – Recplex	\$107,377	Project complete. Funded solely through grants.
Total	\$762,057	

Municipality of St. Mary's - Multi Year - Summary of Capital Projects							
	2025-2026						
Opening Balance Est. > + Rev 25/26	568,719	293,109					
Project	Capital	CCBF	Grants	Project Total	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
I&I Recommendations Phase 2	-	31,025	31,025	62,050			
I&I Recommendations Phase 3		43,339	43,339	86,678			
Dry Hydrant - Fishermans Hrb/PB		12,500		12,500			
Dry Hydrant - Liscomb		12,500		12,500			
Recplex -RFD - Compressors/Paint	18,527		37,054	55,581			
Recplex -RFD - Washroom Renos					\$		
Hydrant for line Flushing - Cameron Road	5,000			5,000			
Accessible Public Washrooms - 16 Main St.	23,287		43,263	66,550			
Water Tr Plant - Heating & Cooling System		20,000		20,000			
Public Works Garage - power/electrical connection	6,500			6,500			
Sewer - Hospital Rd Lift St Pump/Pipe				-			
Port Bickerton Lighthouse Road	5,000			5,000	\$	\$	\$
Sewer Testing Equipment/Blower		7,500		7,500			
Water Tr PL - PLC/Auto Control System		57,357	57,357	114,714			
Sewer Equalization Pump Motor Drive		15,000		15,000			
Water Meter Upgrades		10,000		10,000	\$	\$	
Admin Bldg Recpt. Area Privacy	25,000						
Sewer Tr Plant - Cross Supports Rebuild		75,000		75,000			
Low Carbon Communities Solar Program	25,000			25,000	25,000		
Water Tr Plant - Bubble Traps for Filters		7,000		7,000	-		
Roof on Water Pump House	5,000			5,000			
Connect 2 - Multi Use Feasibility Study	10,375		31,125	41,500	\$	\$	
Sewer Treatment Plant Screener				-	\$		
Total	123,689	291,221	243,163	633,073	25,000	-	-
Ending Balance	445,030	1,888					

2025 2026 Municipal Operating Budget Draft #1 Recap

Department of Finance

SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

Draft #1 of the Municipal Operating Budget was presented to council at a committee of the whole meeting on Wednesday, February 19th, 2025. At that time municipal staff reviewed the major expenditure changes from the previous years budget along with the projected shortfall within draft #1. Staff reviewed options for increasing tax revenue to balance the update along with noting additional needs to be further analyzed prior to annual general meeting and final approval.

NEW ITEMS/MAJOR CHANGES

1. Education and RCMP increases
2. Low Income Rebate
3. Municipal Transfer Station/Construction & Demolition/Extended Producer Responsibility
4. Fire Department Grants
5. Public works maintenance staffing/vehicle
6. Project management assistance
7. Emergency managements services

REVENUE SUMMARY

Revenue Options -Draft #1 Shortfall \$92,109

Revenue Item	Current	Proposed	Revenue Impact
Increases to Tax Rate			
Residential/Resource	\$0.96 per \$100 of assessment	\$0.99 per \$100 of assessment	\$68,081
Commercial	\$2.27 per \$100 of assessment	\$2.30 per \$100 of assessment	\$7,679
Street Light Area Rate	\$88.48	\$93.72	\$4,795
Solid Waste Fee	\$110.82	\$116.63	\$11,554
Sewer Unit Rate	\$220 per unit	\$220 per unit	\$0

TAX RATE EXAMPLES

Municipal property tax rates vary throughout the province of Nova Scotia. A sample of residential tax rates was researched for 2024/2025 across various municipalities within the local region. Those rates ranged from \$0.77 to \$1.15 per \$100 of assessment. Below are charts to show the average residential assessment vs the impact of increasing the tax rate.

	2024/2025 \$0.96 per \$100 of Assessment	2025/2026 \$0.96 per \$100 of Assessment	\$0.99 per \$100 of Assessment	\$0.98 per \$100 of Assessment	\$0.97 per \$100 of Assessment
Average Residential Assessment of Cap and Non-Cap Properties	\$66,586	\$70,805	-	-	-
Tax Bill prior to area rates	\$639.22	\$679.73 (increase \$40.51)	\$700.97 (increase \$61.75)	\$693.89 (increase \$54.67)	\$686.81 (increase \$47.59)

Residential Examples in CAP	2024/2025 \$0.96 per \$100 of Assessment	2025/2026 \$0.96 per \$100 of Assessment	\$0.99 per \$100 of Assessment	\$0.98 per \$100 of Assessment	\$0.97 per \$100 of Assessment
Residential property assessment at \$100,000 within <i>Cap</i> program - 2024/25 vs 2025/2026	\$100,000	\$101,500	-	-	-
Tax Bill prior to area rates	\$960.00	\$974.40 (\$14.40 Increase)	\$1,004.85 (\$44.85 Increase)	\$994.70 (\$34.70 Increase)	\$984.70 (\$24.55 Increase)
Residential property assessment at \$50,000 within <i>Cap</i> program - 2024/25 vs 2025/2026	\$50,000	\$50,750	-	-	-
Tax Bill prior to area rates	\$480	\$487.20 (\$7.20 Increase)	\$502.43 (Increase \$22.43)	\$497.35 (Increase \$17.35)	\$492.28 (Increase \$12.28)

**Increases are calculated using the base of the 2024/2025 taxes bill*

CONSIDERATIONS

1. Is council satisfied with the overall budget and funding options provided?
2. Is council satisfied that all services they wish to provide to the public are included in the budget?
3. Additional items:
 - a. Is council interested in creating a user fee for summer day camps?
 - b. Would Council like to see changes to travel expenses?
 - i. Federal floating rate for mileage- changes quarterly
 - ii. Meal per diem

RECOMMENDATION

For information purposes only and to provide council with the opportunity to revisit items presented within draft #1 prior to the presentation of draft #2.

2024 2025 Projected Operating Surplus

Department of Finance

SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

Annually prior to the end of the fiscal year the Department of Finance presents options to Municipal Council based on if there is projected surplus being considered for the municipal operating budget. In the past Council has used any operating surplus to rebuild the municipality's capital reserve.

For the 2024-2025 fiscal year it is projected the operating surplus for the municipality will be approximately \$200,000. This projected surplus is largely contributed to increased revenue from deed transfer tax, interest on investments/bank accounts and vacancies within municipal departments.

At the beginning of 2024-2025 the Municipal Capital Reserve had a balance of \$752,526, after the budgeted projects including purchasing of a ice re-surfacer for the St. Mary's Recplex. The Municipal Capital Reserve has a projected year end balance at March 31st, 2025 of \$568,719.

CONSIDERATIONS

Below is a list of potential options for allocating the projected Municipal Operating Surplus for 2024-2025:

1. Repay capital reserve for the full expense of the ice re-surfacer. When approving the purchase of the Ice Re-surfacer for the St. Mary's Recplex St. Mary's Municipal Council made a motion to finance the purchase from the capital reserve account. That expense would then be repaid from future operating budgets over a seven-year period. The total cost of the machine plus the ice leveler attachment net of HST was \$109,500.80. By repaying the full purchase amount from the 2024 2025 operating surplus to the capital reserve it would alleviate financial and budgeting pressures for future operating budgets/fiscal years.
2. Establish a Fire Service Capital Reserve. Municipal Council recognizes the importance of fire services within the municipality and the need that exists for upgrading ageing infrastructure. By establishing a Fire Services Capital Reserve it would provide Council with the opportunity to support fire departments in the future. It is recommended for Council to create and adopt a policy to accompany the reserve account which will help determine eligibility and an application process for departments to access the funds for capital infrastructure purchases/projects. It is recommended to transfer \$75,000 of the projected 2024-2025 operating surplus into a new Fire Service Capital Reserve.
3. Transfer any remaining balance of the 2024-2025 municipal operating surplus after the repayment of the ice re-surfacer and transfer to the Fire Services Capital Reserve. This transfer would assist with future capital projects and leveraging grant opportunities to improve municipal infrastructure.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Recommend that Municipal Council transfer the 2024-2025 Municipal Operating Surplus at March 31st, 2025 to the following;
 - a. Repay the Municipal Capital Reserve \$109,500.80 for the Recplex ice re-surfacer
 - b. Transfer \$75,000 into the newly established Fire Service Capital Reserve
 - c. Transfer any remaining surplus funds into the Municipal Capital Reserve
2. Recommend that Municipal Council direct staff to develop a Fire Service Capital Reserve Policy that would outline eligibility requirements for a Municipally registered Fire Department servicing the Municipality of St. Mary's to access funds within the reserve and develop a corresponding application and scoring process.

Stone Wall Park

Interactive Panel Project

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information researched for the Interactive Panel Project. The "Panel Project" is a community-focused initiative designed to raise awareness about the diverse species of St. Marys, particularly highlighting native species, endangered species, and those that thrive in the Municipality. The project will feature a large, billboard-style display and a series of smaller panels to educate the public on the importance of protecting and preserving local wildlife. Each panel will showcase specific species, providing images and educational information to engage and inform visitors and residents alike.

The project will target a wide audience, including:

- **Local Residents:** Providing valuable education on the species they share their community with, fostering a sense of pride and responsibility.
- **Tourists and Visitors:** Offering informative and engaging content to those interested in learning more about the local flora and fauna.
- **School Groups & Environmental Educators:** Providing an accessible resource for educational activities and discussions on local biodiversity and conservation efforts. (Recreational enthusiasts, St. Mary's River Association, St. Mary's Trails Association, etc.)

BACKGROUND

On February 10th, 2025, Council meeting, Council made the following motion:

On motion of Councillor Beaver seconded by Councillor O'Connell, Council direct staff to explore and validate available funding and terms of funding applicable to the proposed Stonewall Park Tourist Interactive Panel Project and report back to council with an implementation plan.

Motion approved.

Staff have applied for funding from "Ocean's North" in the sum of \$25,000.00 for this project.

The goal of the project is to:

- Promote environmental education and awareness regarding the native species of St. Marys.
- Highlight endangered species to encourage conservation efforts.
- Celebrate the thriving species of the region and their role in maintaining local ecosystems.
- Provide an informative and visually appealing display that encourages community involvement and stewardship of the environment.

CONSIDERATIONS

1. **Large Billboard-Style Display**
 - The central feature of the project will be a large, billboard-style panel that will serve as the focal point for the exhibition.
 - This display will feature a broad overview of the species to be highlighted in the project, including native species, endangered species, and thriving species.
 - The design will be visually striking, using vibrant images of the species, educational graphics, and concise text to inform viewers about the importance of these species and their roles in the local ecosystem.
2. **Smaller Informational Panels**
 - Accompanying the larger display will be a series of smaller panels, each dedicated to specific species.
 - Each panel will feature a high-quality image of the species, with accompanying educational content such as habitat information, conservation status, and interesting facts about the species.
 - The panels will provide insights into the species' significance in the local ecosystem and offer tips on how community members can support their preservation.
3. **Design & Aesthetics**
 - The design of both the large and small panels will emphasize the beauty and uniqueness of the species featured.
 - The color palette and layout will be carefully chosen to enhance the visual appeal of the project while maintaining clarity and readability for all viewers.
 - Natural materials and textures may be incorporated to evoke the feel of the local environment, connecting the project to its natural setting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council authorizes staff to work with local artists, environmental organizations and other stakeholders to design, and produce the panel project contents.

Further, that staff will report back with key milestones including design, installation, to ensure the project stays on track and within budget.

Further, all work on the project shall be within the \$25,000.00 applied for from Oceans North including all taxes.



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's Interactive Panel Project - Stonewall Park



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's Interactive Panel Project - Stonewall Park



Canada Warbler



Mainland Moose



Fresh Water Mussels



Boreal Owl



Bicknell's Thrush



Wood Turtle



Atlantic Salmon





The Wood Turtle

The wood turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*) is a species of turtle native to eastern North America, including Nova Scotia. In the St. Mary's area of Nova Scotia, these turtles are considered a species at risk, with their populations facing several threats.

Physical Characteristics and Habitat:

Wood turtles are medium-sized, with adults typically measuring between 14 to 20 centimeters in length. They are distinguished by their "sculpted" shells, featuring raised, pyramid-like shields, and the distinctive orange coloration on their legs and neck. In Nova Scotia, wood turtles inhabit slow-moving streams with sandy bottoms and heavily vegetated banks, which are ideal for nesting and overwintering. They also utilize adjacent forests, fields, and wetlands during warmer months.

Conservation Status:

The wood turtle is listed as a species of concern both nationally in Canada and provincially in Nova Scotia. In Nova Scotia, the species is designated as vulnerable under the Endangered Species Act.

Threats:

Habitat Destruction and Fragmentation: Alterations to river and stream habitats, such as road and bridge construction, can disrupt their natural environments.

Human Disturbance: Activities like mowing and farming can destroy nests and harm hatchlings.

Vehicle Strikes: Turtles crossing roads are at risk of being hit by vehicles, especially during nesting seasons.

By supporting conservation efforts and being mindful of these turtles' needs, we can help ensure the survival of wood turtles in the St. Mary's area.



How You Can Help

If you encounter a wood turtle in the St. Mary's area:

Do Not Disturb: Avoid handling or moving the turtle unless it is in immediate danger.

Report Sightings: Inform local conservation groups or the Nova Scotia Species at Risk Recovery Team to aid in monitoring efforts.

stmarysriverassociation.com

Drive Carefully: Be vigilant for turtles crossing roads, especially during nesting seasons.



Atlantic Salmon

The Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) is a species of anadromous fish native to the North Atlantic Ocean. In Nova Scotia, the St. Mary's River is renowned for its significant role in the life cycle of these salmon, serving as a critical spawning and nursery habitat.

Physical Characteristics and Habitat:

Atlantic salmon are known for their streamlined bodies, which aid in their migratory lifestyle. They exhibit a silvery coloration in the ocean and develop darker hues with distinctive spots on their backs and tails when they return to freshwater to spawn. The St. Mary's River, stretching approximately 250 kilometers, is one of Nova Scotia's longest rivers and provides essential habitats for these salmon.

Conservation Status:

The Atlantic salmon is classified as endangered in Nova Scotia, with populations having declined significantly over the past decades. The St. Mary's River, however, has been identified as home to one of the healthiest populations of Atlantic salmon in mainland Nova Scotia.

Threats:

Habitat Degradation: Pollution, sedimentation, and alterations to river habitats can negatively impact salmon spawning and juvenile development.

Climate Change: Changes in water temperature and flow patterns can affect salmon migration and survival rates.

Overfishing: While recreational fishing is regulated, illegal poaching and bycatch in commercial fisheries continue to pose threats.

By actively participating in these conservation efforts, we can help ensure the survival and prosperity of Atlantic salmon in the St. Mary's River



How You Can Help

To support the conservation of Atlantic salmon in the St. Mary's River:

Participate in Local Conservation Programs: Engage with organizations like the SMRA to contribute to habitat restoration and monitoring efforts.

Practice Responsible Fishing: If you fish, adhere to all regulations, practice catch and release, and report any illegal activities.

Support Sustainable Practices: Advocate for policies that protect water quality and river habitats.



Fresh Water Mussels

Freshwater mussels are vital components of aquatic ecosystems, playing significant roles in water filtration, nutrient cycling, and providing habitat for various species. In the St. Mary's River area of Nova Scotia, these mussels are not only ecologically important but also face conservation challenges.

Physical Characteristics and Habitat:

Freshwater mussels are bivalve mollusks with elongated, asymmetrical shells that vary in color from yellow to brown. They inhabit rivers, streams, and lakes, burrowing into the substrate to filter feed on plankton and organic particles. The St. Mary's River, with its diverse habitats, supports several mussel species, including the brook floater (*Alasmidonta varicosa*), which is native to northeastern North America.

Conservation Status:

The brook floater is listed as a species of special concern in Canada. In Nova Scotia, its distribution is scattered across the southern and central parts of the province, with sub-populations reported from several disjunct watersheds, including the St. Mary's River.

Threats:

Habitat Degradation: Pollution, sedimentation, and alterations to river habitats can negatively impact mussel populations.

Climate Change: Changes in water temperature and flow patterns can affect mussel survival and reproduction.

Invasive Species: The introduction of non-native species can disrupt local ecosystems and compete with native mussels.

By actively participating in these conservation efforts, we can help ensure the survival and prosperity of freshwater mussels in the St. Mary's River.



How You Can Help

To support the conservation of freshwater mussels in the St. Mary's River:
Participate in Local Conservation Programs: Engage with organizations like the SMRA to contribute to habitat restoration and monitoring efforts.

Practice Responsible Recreation: Avoid disturbing riverbeds and banks, and dispose of waste properly to prevent pollution.

Support Sustainable Practices: Advocate for policies that protect water quality and river habitats.



Boreal Owl

The Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*) is a small, elusive nocturnal bird native to the boreal forests of North America. In Nova Scotia, including the St. Mary's area, this species is considered rare and has been the focus of various conservation efforts.

Physical Characteristics and Habitat:

Boreal Owls are compact, with a large, flat-topped head and a distinctive gray face framed by black markings. Their plumage is mottled brown and white, providing excellent camouflage in their forested habitats. They primarily inhabit boreal, highland, and mixed woodlands, favoring areas with dense coniferous trees and a well-developed understory. These owls are cavity nesters, utilizing tree cavities for breeding.

Conservation Status:

In Nova Scotia, the Boreal Owl is considered a rare species. The first confirmed nesting record in the province was documented in 2004 within the southwestern corner of Cape Breton Highlands National Park. This discovery highlighted the importance of preserving suitable habitats for their survival.

Threats:

- **Logging and Development:** Boreal Owls depend on mature forests, especially coniferous and mixed woodlands. Logging and land development can lead to habitat destruction and fragmentation, making it harder for the owls to find suitable nesting sites and prey.
- **Climate Change:** As temperatures rise and weather patterns shift, Boreal Owls may experience changes in their habitat. The warming climate could cause shifts in vegetation and prey availability, potentially affecting their survival.

By actively participating in these conservation efforts, we can help ensure the survival and prosperity of Boreal Owls in the St. Mary's area.



Habitat Loss and Fragmentation

Logging and Development: Boreal Owls depend on mature forests, especially coniferous and mixed woodlands. Logging and land development can lead to habitat destruction and fragmentation, making it harder for the owls to find suitable nesting sites and prey.

Climate Change: As temperatures rise and weather patterns shift, Boreal Owls may experience changes in their habitat. The warming climate could cause shifts in vegetation and prey availability, potentially affecting their survival.

Prey Scarcity

Rodent Populations: Boreal Owls primarily hunt small mammals like voles and mice. If these populations decline due to changes in land use or climate, it could directly impact the owl's ability to find food.

Disturbance from Human Activity

Recreational Activities: Hiking, camping, and other human activities in forested areas can disturb Boreal Owls, especially during their nesting season. Excessive noise or human presence near nesting sites can cause them to abandon their nests.

Invasive Species

Competition and Predation: Invasive species like larger owls or raccoons could compete for nesting sites or prey. Additionally, introduced predators may pose a direct threat to Boreal Owls, particularly young or vulnerable individuals.

Pollution

Pesticides and Contaminants: The use of pesticides and other chemicals can reduce prey availability and impact the health of owls. Accumulation of toxic substances in their food chain can lead to reproductive issues or death.



Mainland Moose

The Mainland Moose (*Alces alces americana*) is a distinctive subspecies native to mainland Nova Scotia, including the St. Mary's area. Once abundant, their numbers have significantly declined, leading to their classification as an endangered species.

Physical Characteristics and Habitat

Mainland Moose are the largest members of the deer family, with males (bulls) weighing between 400 to 600 kilograms and females (cows) around 300 to 400 kilograms. They possess long legs, a humped back, and a distinctive dewlap (skin flap) under the throat. Their dense fur and long legs are adapted for navigating the forested and wetland habitats they prefer.

Conservation Status

In 2003, the Mainland Moose was listed as endangered in Nova Scotia, with an estimated population of approximately 1,000 individuals. Conservation efforts are ongoing to protect and restore their habitats.

Threats:

Habitat Loss and Fragmentation: Logging, land development, and other human activities have led to the destruction and fragmentation of the moose's natural habitats, making it challenging for them to find food and shelter.

Vehicle Collisions: Moose are often involved in vehicle collisions, especially during dawn and dusk, leading to injuries and fatalities.

Climate Change: Alterations in climate can affect the availability of food sources and the quality of habitats, further stressing moose populations.

By participating in these conservation efforts, we can help ensure the survival and prosperity of the Mainland Moose in Nova Scotia.



How You Can Help

To support the conservation of the Mainland Moose:

Report Sightings: If you encounter a moose, report your sighting to local wildlife authorities to assist in monitoring and research efforts.

novascotia.ca

Drive Safely: Be vigilant, especially during dawn and dusk, to reduce the risk of vehicle collisions with moose.

Support Conservation Organizations: Engage with and support groups dedicated to wildlife conservation in Nova Scotia.



Canada Warbler

The Canada Warbler (*Cardellina canadensis*) is a small, vibrant songbird known for its distinctive appearance and migratory patterns. In Nova Scotia, including the St. Mary's area, this species is considered endangered, with significant declines observed in recent decades.

Physical Characteristics and Habitat

Canada Warblers are small, well-proportioned birds with a straight, sharp bill. Compared to other warblers, they have a slightly longer tail with a fuller chest. They are typically found in low vegetation, especially wet woods and thickets. They nest on the ground and feed on insects. One of the longest-distance migrant warblers, they winter in South America.

Conservation Status

In Nova Scotia, the Canada Warbler is listed as endangered. The Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas found significant declines between 1986-1990 and 2006-2010, indicating a greater decrease in Nova Scotia compared to other regions.

Threats:

Habitat Loss and Fragmentation: Logging, land development, and other human activities have led to the destruction and fragmentation of the warbler's natural habitats, making it challenging for them to find food and shelter.

Climate Change: Alterations in climate can affect the availability of food sources and the quality of habitats, further stressing warbler populations.

By actively participating in these conservation efforts, we can help ensure the survival and prosperity of the Canada Warbler in the St. Mary's area.



How You Can Help

To support the conservation of the Canada Warbler:

Report Sightings: If you encounter a Canada Warbler, report your observation to local conservation groups or the Nova Scotia Species at Risk Recovery Team.

Support Habitat Preservation: Engage with organizations dedicated to preserving natural habitats in Nova Scotia.

Practice Responsible Recreation: When exploring forested areas, minimize disturbances to natural habitats and avoid disturbing nesting sites.



Bicknell's Thrush

The Bicknell's Thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*) is a small, elusive songbird native to northeastern North America, including parts of Nova Scotia. In the St. Mary's area, this species is considered endangered, with its population facing significant threats.

Physical Characteristics and Habitat

Bicknell's Thrushes are medium-sized birds with brown upperparts and a spotted breast. They are often found in dense, stunted spruce forests at high elevations, typically above 1,150 meters. In Nova Scotia, they breed in the Cape Breton Highlands, including areas near St. Mary's.

Conservation Status

The Bicknell's Thrush is listed as endangered in Nova Scotia. Conservation efforts are ongoing to protect and restore their habitats, which are crucial for their breeding and survival.

Threats

The primary threats to the Bicknell's Thrush include:

Habitat Loss and Fragmentation: Logging and land development have led to the destruction and fragmentation of the bird's natural habitats, making it challenging for them to find food and shelter.

Climate Change: Alterations in climate can affect the availability of food sources and the quality of habitats, further stressing bird populations.

By actively participating in these conservation efforts, we can help ensure the survival and prosperity of the Bicknell's Thrush in the St. Mary's area.



How You Can Help

To support the conservation of the Bicknell's Thrush:

Report Sightings: If you encounter a Bicknell's Thrush, report your observation to local conservation groups or the Nova Scotia Species at Risk Recovery Team.

Support Habitat Preservation: Engage with organizations dedicated to preserving natural habitats in Nova Scotia.

Practice Responsible Recreation: When exploring forested areas, minimize disturbances to natural habitats and avoid disturbing nesting sites.



Other Endangered Species:

Conservation efforts are ongoing to protect these species and their habitats.

- **Blanding's Turtle** - Recognized as endangered in Nova Scotia, this turtle faces threats from habitat fragmentation and destruction, as well as predation by introduced species.
- **Atlantic Whitefish** - Endemic to Nova Scotia, this fish species is critically endangered, with its population confined to a few freshwater lakes within the province.
- **Piping Plover** - This bird species is endangered in Nova Scotia, facing threats from habitat loss and human disturbance.
- **Canada Lynx** - Considered endangered in Nova Scotia, the Canada lynx is threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation.
- **American Marten** - This mammal is endangered in Nova Scotia, facing threats from habitat loss and fragmentation.
- **Eastern Ribbon Snake** - Listed as endangered in Nova Scotia, the eastern ribbonsnake is threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation.
- **Peregrine Falcon** - This bird species is considered endangered in Nova Scotia, facing threats from habitat loss and human disturbance.
- **Roseate Tern** - This bird species is endangered in Nova Scotia, facing threats from habitat loss and human disturbance.

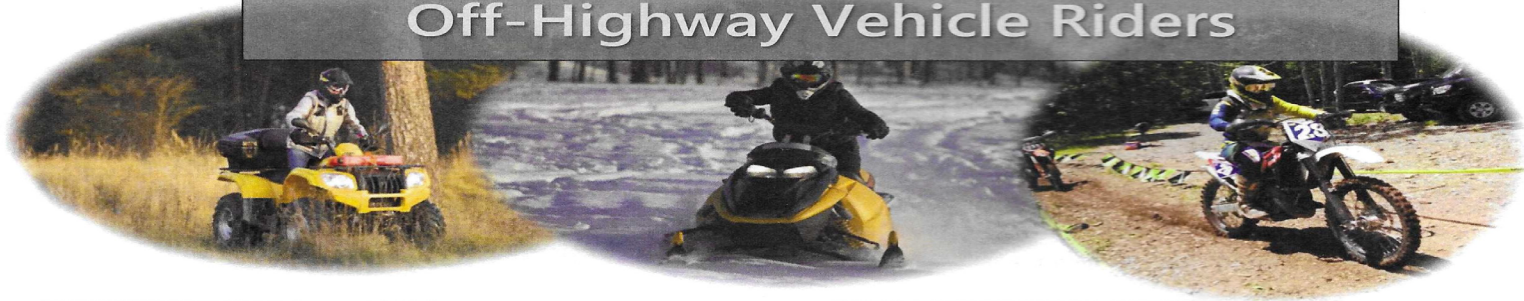
ST. MARY'S ATV CLUB

FEBRUARY 2025

ST. MARY'S ATV CLUB

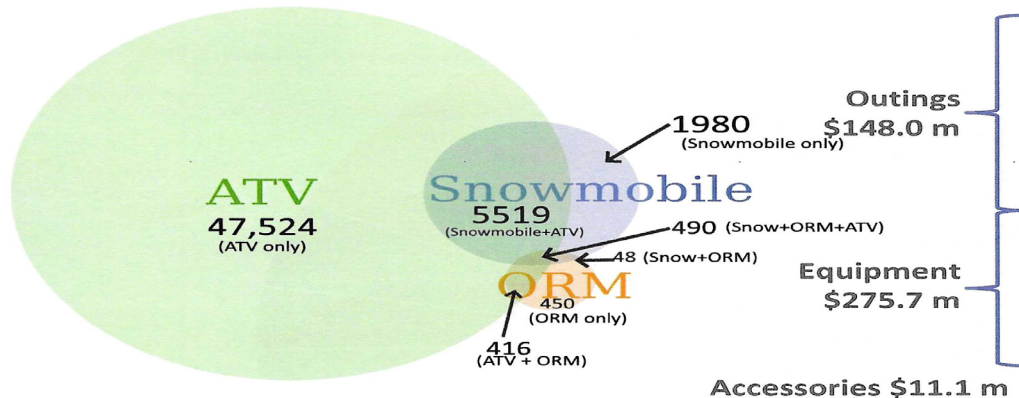
- 1 OF 41 ATV CLUBS – UNDER UMBRELLA OF ATVANS
- CURRENT MEMBERSHIP 85 (↑ OVER PRIOR YEARS)
- WE INVESTED IN EXCESS OF \$200,000 IN TRAIL CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE IN 2023-24

Off-Highway Vehicle Riders



Population of Riders N=56,428

12-Month Spending



Median Household Income \$87,500

Median Age: 52

Female **41%**

Male **59%**

Outings
\$148.0 m

Equipment
\$275.7 m

Accessories \$11.1 m

Admin
\$19.4 m

millions

Fuel	\$41.9
Food and beverage	\$26.9
Entertainment	\$10.9
Lodging	\$24.6
Outing fees	\$43.7
Equipment	\$212.2
Equipment accessories	\$20.0
Repairs	\$14.8
Trailers	\$38.7
Wearable accessories	\$11.1
Plates, permits, OHV fund	\$5.7
Insurance	\$13.7

Total Spending

\$464.1 million

Components may not add to total due to rounding

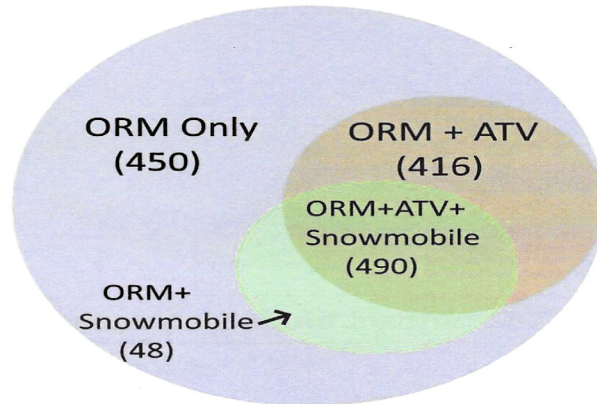
A sample of 1820 households were interviewed online between August 11 and September 27, 2022. These respondents reported on 3,831 riders within their households. The median length of interview was 13-minutes, covering demographics, riding habits, spending by category on regular outings, spending by category on special outings, and expenses not directly related to specific outings.

ORM Riders



Population of Riders **N=1,404**

12-Month Spending



Outings
\$1.95 m

Equipment
\$20.0 m

Accessories \$869 k

Admin
\$1.24m

Fuel	\$417 k
Food and beverage	\$324 k
Entertainment	\$220 k
Lodging	\$443 k
Outing fees	\$548 k
Equipment	\$11.2 m
Equipment accessories	\$4.9 m
Repairs	\$1.2 m
Trailers	\$2.7 m
Wearable accessories	\$869 k
Plates, permits, OHV fund	\$471 k
Insurance	\$769 k

Median Household Income: \$110,000

Median Age: 39

Female

23%

Male

77%

Total Spending

\$24.1 million

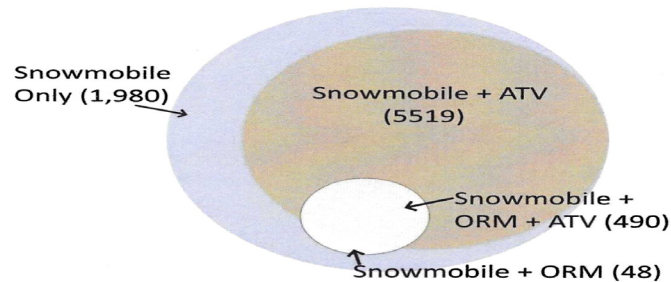
Components may not add to total due to rounding

A sample of 1820 households were interviewed online between August 11 and September 27, 2022. These respondents reported on 3,831 riders within their households. The median length of interview was 13-minutes, covering demographics, riding habits, spending by category on regular outings, spending by category on special outings, and expenses not directly related to specific outings.

Snowmobile Riders



Population of Riders N=8,037



Median Household Income: \$110,000

Median Age: 50



12-Month Spending

millions

Outings
\$32.4 m

Equipment
\$59.0 m

Accessories \$3.4 m

Admin
\$4.5 m

Fuel	\$7.7
Food and beverage	\$6.4
Entertainment	\$1.2
Lodging	\$5.0
Outing fees	\$12.1
Equipment	\$36.0
Equipment accessories	\$7.9
Repairs	\$3.6
Trailers	\$11.5
Wearable accessories	\$3.4
Plates, permits, OHV fund	\$1.9
Insurance	\$2.6

Total Spending

\$99.1 million

Components may not add to total due to rounding

A sample of 1820 households were interviewed online between August 11 and September 27, 2022. These respondents reported on 3,831 riders within their households. The median length of interview was 13-minutes, covering demographics, riding habits, spending by category on regular outings, spending by category on special outings, and expenses not directly related to specific outings.

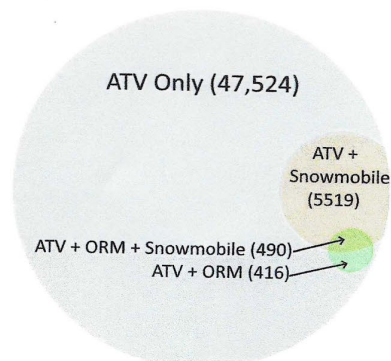


ATV Riders

Population of Riders **N=53,949**

12-Month Spending

millions



Median Household Income: **\$87,500**

Median Age: **52**

Female **41%**

Male **59%**

Outings
\$113.7 m

Equipment
\$275.2 m

Accessories **\$10.4 m**

Admin
\$18.6 m

Fuel	\$33.8
Food and beverage	\$20.2
Entertainment	\$9.5
Lodging	\$19.1
Outing fees	\$31.1
Equipment	\$206.1
Equipment accessories	\$19.0
Repairs	\$14.1
Trailers	\$36.0
Wearable accessories	\$10.4
Plates, permits, and OHV fund	\$5.3
Insurance	\$13.3

Total Spending

\$417.8 million

Components may not add to total due to rounding

A sample of 1820 households were interviewed online between August 11 and September 27, 2022. These respondents reported on 3,831 riders within their households. The median length of interview was 13-minutes, covering demographics, riding habits, spending by category on regular outings, spending by category on special outings, and expenses not directly related to specific outings.

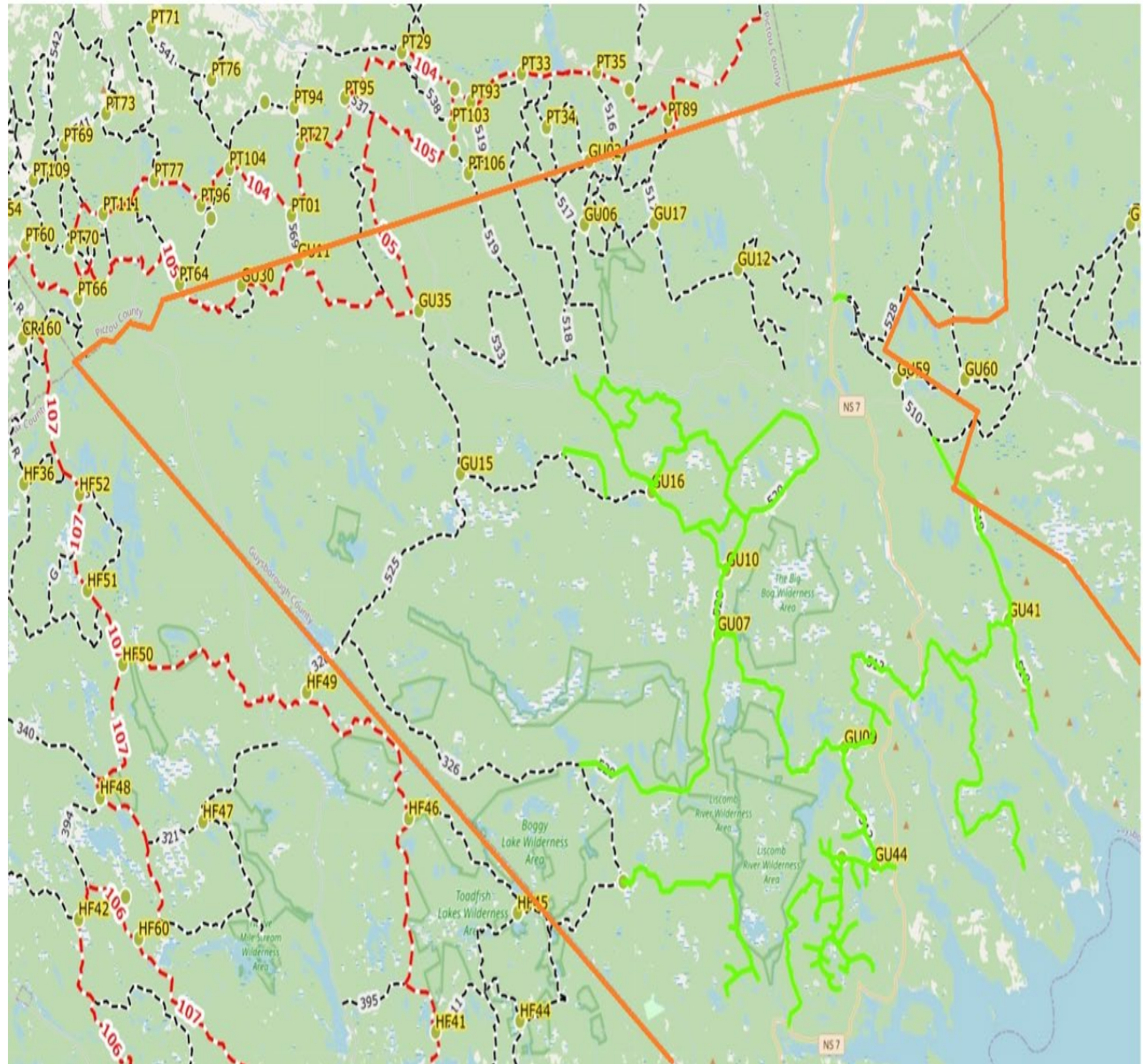
426 KMS MANAGED TRAILS

COUNTRY HBR – 30 KMS

SHEET HBR – 40 KMS

PICTOU COUNTY – 190 KMS

ST. MARY'S – 160 KMS



Nova Scotia ROAD TRAILS ACT

CONNECTING TRAIL TO TRAIL

CONNECTING TRAIL TO AMENITIES

OUR ASK OF COUNCIL TODAY . . .

1. WRITTEN LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE ROAD TRAIL ACT

- CONNECTING THE #7 UP TO THE TROUT LAKE ROAD
- CONNECTING THE SONORA TRAIL TO BUSINESSES IN PORT HILFORD
- BUSINESS IS ATV FRIENDLY – THEY CAN ADVERTISE ACROSS MULTIPLE MEDIUMS

2. APPROVAL OF DISTRICT GRANT APPLICATION

3. WE NEED COUNCIL SUPPORT IN COMMUNICATING WHO WE ARE AND THAT WE ARE AN ASSET TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE BUSINESSES OPERATING WITHIN.