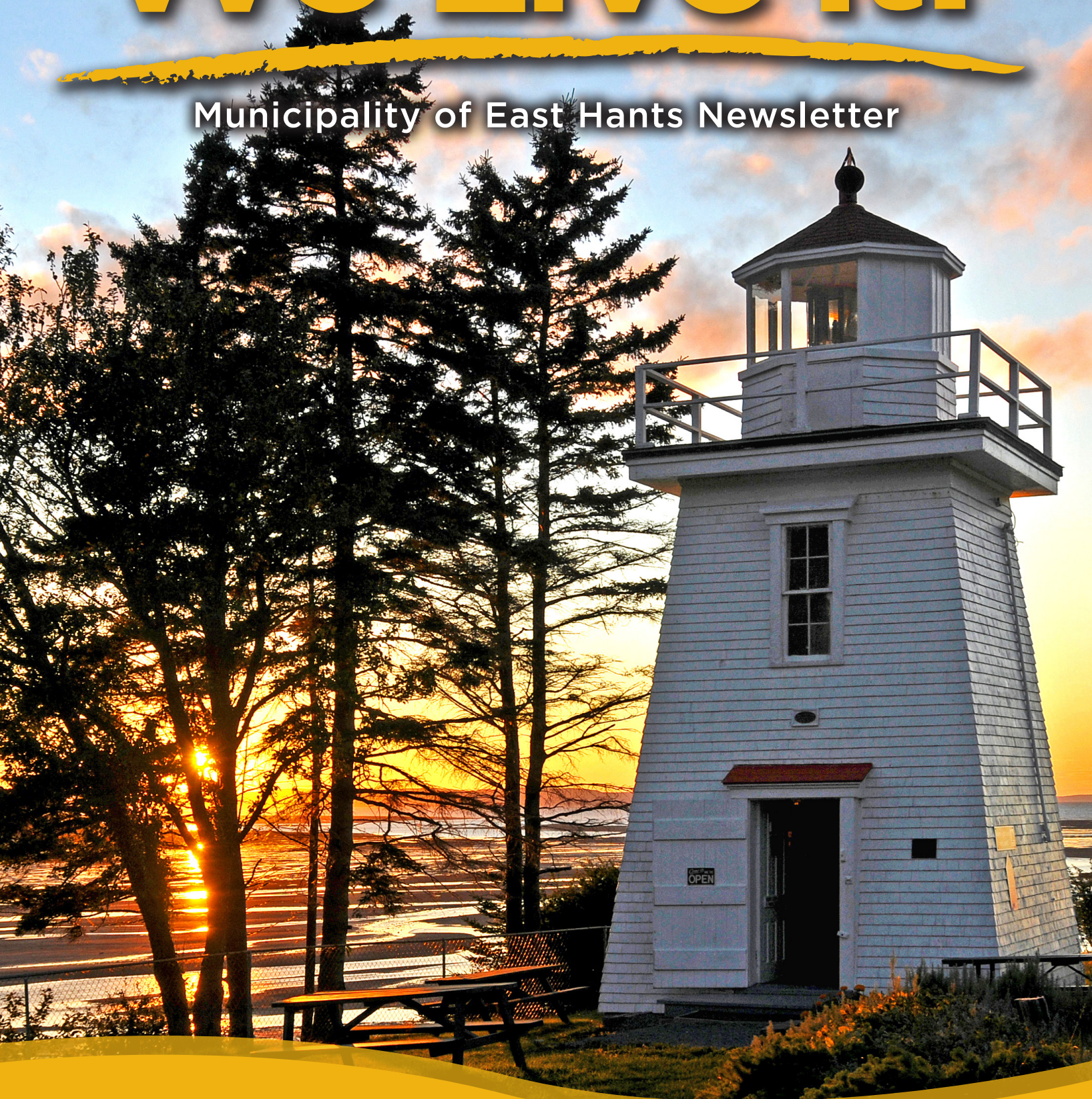


# We Live It!

Municipality of East Hants Newsletter



EAST HANTS

Fall 2023/Winter 2024



# Hello, East Hants!

Welcome to the Fall 2023/Winter 2024 edition of *We Live It!*

In this edition, we will highlight upcoming initiatives, projects and great things happening with our community.

Cover photo: Walton Lighthouse, by Dennis Jarvis. The Walton Lighthouse is the last remaining original lighthouse in Hants County and celebrated its 150th Anniversary in August 2023. The Municipality of East Hants owns the Walton Lighthouse and supports its maintenance and caretaking by the Walton Area Development Association through our Municipal Grant Program.



## Flood Recovery Assistance

Was your property, business or nonprofit negatively impacted by the July 2023 floods? The Government of Nova Scotia has Disaster Financial Assistance programs available to assist with recovery costs. Click “Learn More” to find out if you’re eligible and to apply.

[Learn More](#)



## Thank You, East Hants Heroes

Impacts of the devastating flood event in July 2023 were felt across Nova Scotia.

Thank you to the first responders and volunteers in East Hants who worked tirelessly to support our communities and beyond in response to the floods. Volunteers from the East Hants Fire Service, Ground Search and Rescue and other emergency response teams dedicated their time and resources to provide mutual aid to the areas that were most affected by the floods. Many of our contractors also acted quickly and efficiently when called upon. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to you all!

As our community knows, the East Hants Aquatic Centre was significantly impacted by the storm and we anticipate a lengthy closure. Updates on the facility restoration progress and re-opening will be posted to our social media accounts and on our website.



Pictured: Nine Mile River Volunteer Firefighters Jillian Parsons, David Densmore and Cameron Anderson rescue residents stranded by the flood.

# Increasing Water & Wastewater Capacity

East Hants is committed to meeting the needs of our growing population. Our 2021-2024 Strategic Plan includes goals for Sustainable Infrastructure, including updating existing water and wastewater plants to meet community needs for years to come. We have two exciting projects currently underway to meet this goal:

The **Enfield Water Treatment Plant** serves the communities of Enfield, Lantz and Elmsdale. Work began over the summer to add another treatment tank and filter unit to the plant. This allows for more water to be treated each cycle and therefore more users to be included in the system. The update will progress into the testing and launching phases during the fall months.



The **Shubenacadie Wastewater Treatment Plant** upgrade project passed several exciting milestones over the summer. Construction of the process building was completed in June and work to install the control system is currently ongoing. Construction of the main treatment and holding tanks, grit chamber and screening building began with a targeted completion date of Spring 2024. The new plant will significantly increase the facility's capacity and open doors for new development opportunities in the community.



# Investing in Stronger Communities

The Municipality of East Hants recognizes the importance of community-based organizations. Council allocated over \$1.2 million in community grants in 2022-2023. Of that amount, over \$110,000 went to District Recreation Funds - grants for nonprofit organizations to assist with maintenance, enhancement and/or upgrades of their spaces. Here are two recently completed recipient projects:

## **Nine Mile River Community Hall: Solar Project**

The Nine Mile River Community Hall provides residents with a full-service multi-functional indoor and outdoor recreation space to gather. The organization installed a Solar Energy system to reduce annual energy costs and carbon footprint.



## **East Gore Community Hall: Roof Replacement**

The East Gore Community Hall is a space for the entire community to use! The organization used District Recreation Funds to replace the asphalt shingle roof with a metal roof. Keeping the building in great shape means this space will be ready for community activities for years to come!





## Get to Know East Hants

East Hants is a haven for many creatures, great and small! Read on to learn more about some of our region's most environmentally important areas.

Burntcoat Head Park is home to a federally protected mollusk species called the Atlantic Mud-piddock. It is a unique species that burrows into the red mudstone in the Minas Basin and lives in one small burrow for its entire adult lifespan. You can help protect the mud-piddocks living in the ocean floor mudstone by staying to the right of Burntcoat's Flowerpot Island (pictured above), during your park visit.

East Hants is also home to two Nova Scotia Treasured Wetlands: South Maitland Marsh, located beside the Fundy Tidal Interpretive Centre, (designated in 2020) and Lock 6 Park in Enfield (designated in 2023, pictured right). Both of these sites have walking trails and interpretive panels highlighting their unique ecosystems. Click "Learn More" to watch a video about the South Maitland Marsh.



## East Hants Staff Named 2023 Safety Hero

Municipal Solid Waste Magazine has recognized one of our own as a 2023 Safety Hero! Mike Brown, Foreman of the East Hants Waste Management Centre, was named a safety hero for leading by example while ensuring his staff feel comfortable doing their jobs and reporting incidents, including near misses. Mike coaches staff and contractors in all parts of their work and keeps our facility safe for resident use. Congratulations Mike and thank you for all you do!



### Our Household Hazardous Waste & Paper Shred Events are back again!

Saturday, October 21, 2023

9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Mount Uniacke Fire Hall Parking Lot,  
654 Highway #1, Mount Uniacke

Saturday, October 28, 2023

9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Nova Centre (Old Elmsdale School),  
224 Highway 214, Elmsdale

# Be Weather Ready!

The weather in Nova Scotia can be unpredictable, so the best way to prepare for storms is to plan ahead! Here are some ways to be weather ready:

## Emergency Kits

Ensure you have adequate supplies to support every member of your household for a minimum of 72 hours without power. Don't forget to have a kit for your vehicle as well!

## Protect Your Home

Make proactive weather-smart changes to your home and property. There are many simple, cost effective options to mitigate risks. Click the links to the right to access helpful resources to guide you through the weather prepping process:

## Keep Informed

During weather events, East Hants keeps residents updated via our Storm Centre web page: [easthants.ca/storm-centre](http://easthants.ca/storm-centre). For important information before, during and after major weather events, visit the Nova Scotia Emergency Management Office website: [novascotia.ca/emo](http://novascotia.ca/emo).

### Emergency Kit Essentials

- Water (1L/person per day)
- Non-perishable food
- Can opener
- Pet food & water
- Medications
- First Aid Kit
- Batteries & charging banks
- Important documents (licenses, certificates, etc.)

[Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction](#)

[Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation](#)

# 2022-2023 Annual Report

Our Annual Report is now available. The document gives a snapshot of the programs, services and accomplishments of East Hants throughout 2022/2023. Some highlights include:

- Expanding community service capacity through water, wastewater and transportation infrastructure projects.
- Bringing more playgrounds and playboxes to communities across our region.
- Completing the Phase 2 expansion of the Uniacke Business Park.
- Launching dedicated Inclusion programming.
- Welcoming over 55,000 visitors to our tourism sites.

The report also has detailed financial reports and consolidated financial statements for those who like to dig into details! Click "Learn More" to read the report now or contact us to access a print copy.



[Learn More](#)



# The Rec Room

## Walk the Track at the Senior Social

The popular Senior Social program is back! Join us for our Senior Social on the first Tuesday of each month starting October 3, at the East Hants Sportsplex. From 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. you can walk the track with friends and stay afterwards for a tea, coffee and occasional special guest. No registration required - just make sure to bring your walking shoes!



## 2023-24 School In-Service Camps

Sign your child up to spend an in-service day at camp! Each camp will have games, activities, crafts and outdoor play. Open to ages 6-11. Cost is \$35. Upcoming dates and locations:

### East Hants Sportsplex

- October 27
- November 10
- November 24

### Uniacke District School

- October 27
- November 10

[Register](#)



# Volunteers - Mark Your Calendars!

## Volunteer Recognition

Each year, East Hants recognizes the invaluable contributions of volunteers through our Volunteer Awards. Doug Taylor was the deserving honouree of the 2023 Model Volunteer of the Year Award. Doug has been volunteering in East Hants for over 30 years with many organizations including East Hants Minor Hockey, Soccer, East Hants Tennis Club and most recently, pickleball! Thank you Doug, for all you do!



Nominations for the 2024 East Hants Volunteer Awards will open in December 2023. Keep an eye on our website and social media for the nomination package.

## Volunteer Networking Event

Join us on Wednesday, November 15, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Rawdon Fire Hall to meet other East Hants volunteers and learn about upcoming opportunities. Click the “Register” button now!

[Register](#)



## Free Checks for Volunteers

If you're looking to volunteer in the school system, coach a team or lead a program in your community, you may need a criminal record check. The East Hants RCMP provides criminal record checks and vulnerable sector checks, at no cost to East Hants residents, at the following detachments. You will need to bring a letter from the organization requesting the check(s) and two pieces of government ID (one with your photo).

### Enfield

136 Highway 2  
Enfield NS  
902-883-7077

### Mount Uniacke

555 Highway 1  
Mount Uniacke NS  
902-632-2424

### Rawdon (Tues/Wed/Thurs)

3945 Highway 14  
Upper Rawdon NS  
902-632-2424

## Welcome, District Commander Balmaceda!

Join us in welcoming Staff Sergeant Michael Balmaceda as the new East Hants RCMP District Commander. S/Sgt. Balmaceda has 25 years of service with the Nova Scotia RCMP and brings a diverse portfolio of experience to his new role.

When off duty, S/Sgt. Balmaceda is an engaged volunteer with Special Olympics Nova Scotia, serving as the Vice Regional Coordinator for the Sackville/Bedford region and as a swim and basketball coach.

“I am extremely excited to have been selected as the District Commander for East Hants and look forward to moving policing forward in the area through engagement with the community.”





# Council Corner

## Truth & Reconciliation

September 30 is the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation. It is also known as Orange Shirt Day. The day honours the children who never returned home and Survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. Shubenacadie was home to the only residential school in the Maritime provinces. The school closed in 1967.



Pictured: East Hants Council wearing their Every Child Matters orange shirts to their September 2022 meeting in honour of Truth & Reconciliation Day.

The Municipality of East Hants recognizes Truth & Reconciliation Day by raising the Survivors flag at the Lloyd E. Matheson Centre for Truth & Reconciliation Week (September 25-30) until the end of October.

[Learn More](#)

The National Residential School Crisis Line is 1-866-925-4419. Click “Learn More” for more information about Truth & Reconciliation Day.

## Mi'kmaq History Month

October is Mi'kmaq History Month and it begins with Treaty Day on October 1. The month is an opportunity to learn more about this region's first people. Sipekne'katik Cultural and History Teachings are free events led by Mi'kmaq elders and educators that take place Wednesdays & Sundays all autumn long. All are welcome. Bring your own chair. Click “Learn More” to visit the Facebook group.

[Learn More](#)

## Join a Committee of Council

Are you a member of the farming community in East Hants? Get involved by joining the Source Water Protection Advisory Committee as an Agriculture Representative.

This committee develops and maintains a Source Water Protection Plan and provides the Municipality with advice on topics like land-use, water quality and levels in the Source Water Protection areas, such as the Grand Lake watershed. Interested? Contact us by email for more information: [water@easthants.ca](mailto:water@easthants.ca)



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