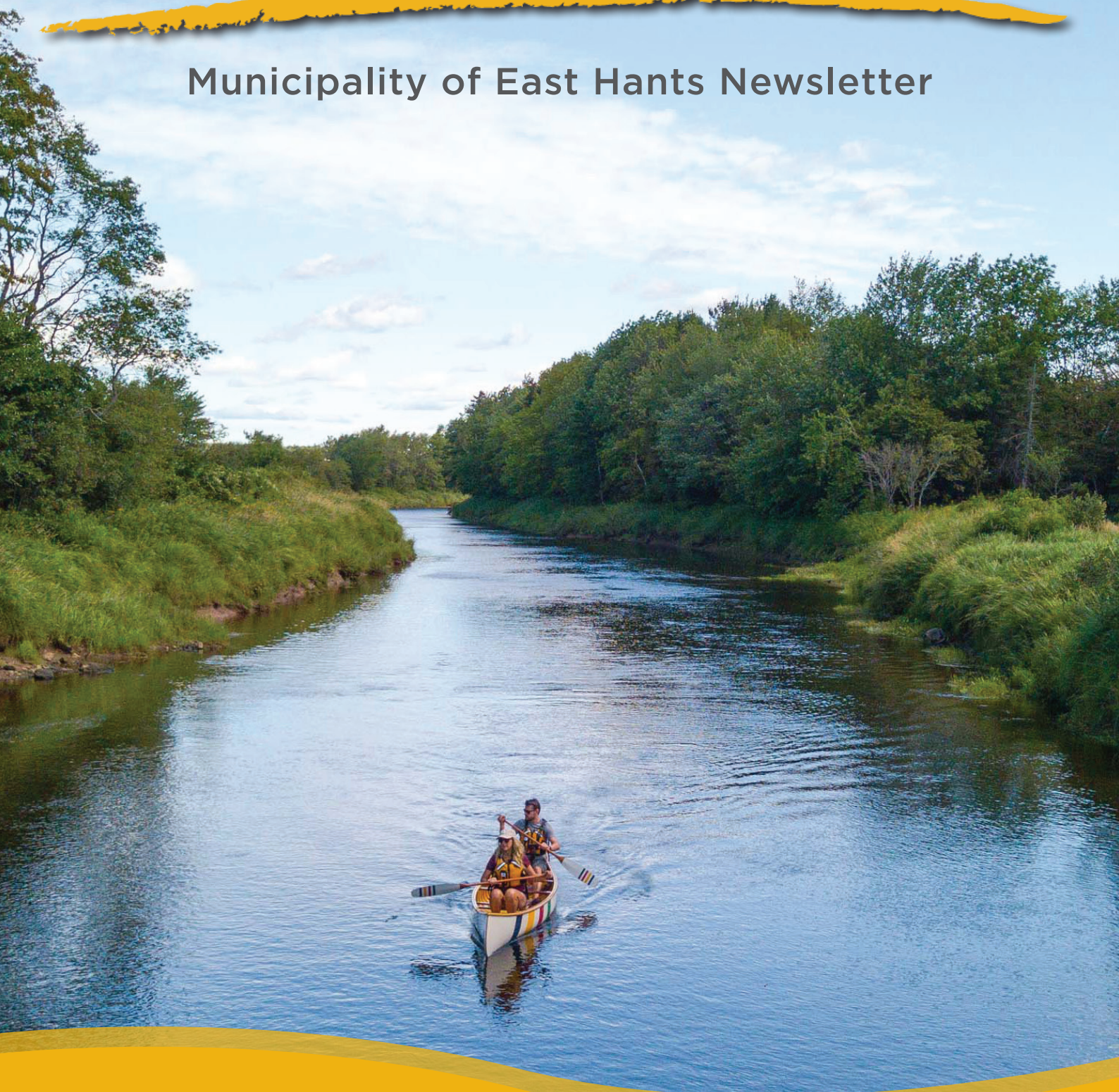


# We Live It!

Municipality of East Hants Newsletter



EAST HANTS

Spring/Summer 2023



# Hello, East Hants!

Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2023 edition of *We Live It!* You will find places to explore this spring and summer, an update on Council's strategic priorities and the investments being made in our communities.



## Making it Easy to Shop Local

The Municipality has a business directory that makes it easy to find a wide variety of products, services and facilities conveniently close to home. From contractors to crafts and chocolate treats, there's nothing sweeter than shopping local! Visit [shopeasthants.ca](https://shopeasthants.ca) or scan the code below to start exploring your local options.

East Hants business owners can add themselves to the directory via the button to the right.

[Add Listing](#)



## Council Corner

East Hants Council works diligently each year to ensure the Municipality is run in a responsible and transparent way. Council approved the 2023/2024 budgets with 4¢ and 3¢ reductions in the residential and commercial tax rates, respectively, on February 22, 2023. The overall municipal operating budget for 2023/2024 is \$41.9 million.

Budget Highlights:

- New Solid Waste Contracts
- Initiatives to improve the accessibility of municipal programs and services
- Planning strategies for North Lantz and Mount Uniacke
- RCMP Policing Model Update
- Traffic Calming Program, Year 1 Initiatives

Click "Learn More" to view the 2023/2024 budget documents.

[Learn More](#)



# Investing in Stronger Communities

## Shubenacadie Waste Water Treatment Plant Update

The existing waste water treatment plant in Shubenacadie was built in 1974 and is operating beyond its capacity. The new treatment plant being constructed to accommodate the growth in this area will replace the existing oxidization method and use new state of the art technology. Once completed, the new plant will have capacity for new development options and growing the local economy.

The first building on-site is called the Process Building and is on schedule to be completed in June 2023. Construction of the Wastewater Treatment Building and the holding tanks will begin in May. The full project is on track to be completed by the end of 2023 and landscaped in 2024.

Total project costs are estimated at \$9.54 million.

- Federal funding: approximately \$1.9 million
- Provincial funding: approximately \$1.5 million
- Municipal funding: approximately \$6.14 million

Have questions about the new treatment plant?

Contact:

Jesse Hulsman, Director of Infrastructure & Operations  
jhulsman@easthants.ca



## New Playgrounds Across East Hants

There will be more places to play in East Hants this year! New playgrounds are coming to the Walton Fire Department, Dawson Dowell Park in Maitland and John Murray Drive in Enfield. These locations were identified as areas that needed a place for families and neighbours to gather. Stay tuned for playground openings by Fall of 2023!

Developing new playgrounds is part of the East Hants Playground Development Strategy to provide engaging play for as many children as possible. When creating playgrounds, East Hants considers how to build spaces that accommodate a range of abilities and help engage the senses of children.

Have questions about the new play spaces?

Contact:

Evan MacDougall, Manager of Parks & Buildings  
emacdougall@easthants.ca





# East Hants is Hiring

The Municipality is growing – which means the team that serves it is too! Keep an eye on our website for seasonal opportunities, part-time aquatics roles and some exciting new permanent positions.

East Hants is an employer of choice offering diverse career growth, modern facilities, commitment to work-life balance and a fun, innovative continuous improvement culture.

[View Opportunities](#)



## Explore East Hants

East Hants has a one-stop shop to explore the Municipality with a series of interactive maps. These maps will guide you through everything from outdoor fun, to heritage sites, to planning applications. Click the button to the right to visit Interactive East Hants and access the maps.

[Visit Interactive East Hants](#)

## Planning Applications

Curious about what developments are happening in East Hants? Look no further than the Planning Applications map to discover open, approved and refused development proposals.

## Heritage

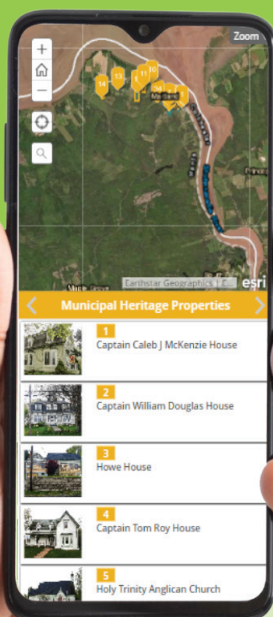
East Hants is rich with heritage! Visit the Heritage Properties map to learn more about the Provincially and Municipally Registered Heritage Properties in East Hants, and the Maitland Heritage Conservation District.

## Zoning Look Up

Looking to buy, sell, or build on property in East Hants? Use the Zoning Look Up map to determine what land use bylaw regulations apply to a property of interest.

## Outdoor Fun

It's time to get outside! Check out the Outdoor Fun map to discover the parks, trails, playgrounds, splashpads and water access points across East Hants!





## Programs for Seniors

The Municipality is happy to provide and support programs for seniors across East Hants. Check out these upcoming opportunities:

**Senior Social:** A free drop-in monthly gathering with refreshments, socializing and various activities. Occurs on the first Tuesday of each month from 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. in the East Hants Aquatic Centre Community Room.



**Seniors Police Academy:** A free four-week course presented by Hants County Senior Safety for ages 55+. Topics include presentations by the RCMP, East Hants Crime Prevention, Hants County Senior Safety, Caregivers NS and more. Occurs Wednesdays from 1 – 3 p.m. from May 3 – 24, 2023 at the Noel New Horizon Centre. Space is limited, email [hantsseniorsafety@gmail.com](mailto:hantsseniorsafety@gmail.com) or call 902-798-7173 to reserve your spot.

## East Hants Summer Adventures Await

Mark your calendars! Burntcoat Head Park and the Fundy Tidal Interpretive Centre open for the season on May 17, so it's time to start planning your 2023 visits. Also mark the date for Explore Your Own Backyard - our annual event for East Hants residents to enjoy Burntcoat Head Park, happening this year on Saturday, September 23.

East Hants tides are named one of the Seven Natural Wonders of North America and attract over 60,000 visitors from around the world every year! From tidal adventures, historic museums and unique places to stay, you can play tourist in your own backyard this season.

Check out [visiteasthants.ca](http://visiteasthants.ca) and follow Burntcoat Head Park and the Fundy Tidal Interpretive Centre on Facebook to get inspired.





# The Rec Room

## Grant Support for Local Athletes

The Municipality has funding for East Hants athletes under 25 to attend sporting events of a provincial, national and international calibre. Congratulations to the 2022/2023 recipients on their accomplishments!

**Hants North Jays U18AAA:** Represented Baseball Nova Scotia at the National U18 Baseball Championships, August 18-21, 2022 in Fort McMurray, Alberta.



**Nova Scotia Canada Games Men's Fastpitch:** Silver medalists at Canada Games 2022, August 16-21, 2022 in Grimsby, Ontario.

**Jonah Priddle (Inner Strength TKD):** Silver (Jr.) and Bronze (Sr.) Medalist at Canadian National Taekwondo Championships, January 3-7, 2023 in Toronto, Ontario

Click the button to the right to learn more about the Community Grant Program and to submit an application.

[Community Grants Program](#)

## Launch a River Adventure!

Spring has sprung which means our Municipal docks are coming out of hibernation for another great year of paddling fun. Look for them soon on the banks of the Shubenacadie River in Brickyard Park, Wickwire Station Park and Shubie River Park. There are also water access points on the Herbert River and Lewis Lake. Find a place to launch near you by clicking the button above right.

[Public Water Access Points](#)

East Hants has an EZ Launch system (pictured) at the Wickwire Station Park dock in Milford. This system helps small vessels get out onto the water easily and safely!





# 2023 ParticipACTION Community Challenge

East Hants is preparing to compete in the ParticipACTION Community Challenge again this year. In 2022, we finished in fourth place in Nova Scotia, which is pretty awesome for our first try. For 2023, we have our eyes on the prize and want to take home the title of Canada's Most Active Community – but we need your help to win!

Joining the East Hants team is simple:

1. Download the ParticipACTION app on your smartphone.
2. Register for the Community Challenge. Make sure your location is set to East Hants to be added to our team.
3. Track your physical activity all June long.



[Learn More](#)

Help us go the extra mile by signing up your whole family or sports team! Click “Learn More” to the left to learn more about the challenge and to download the ParticipACTION app.

## Art Programs with Quentin Syliboy

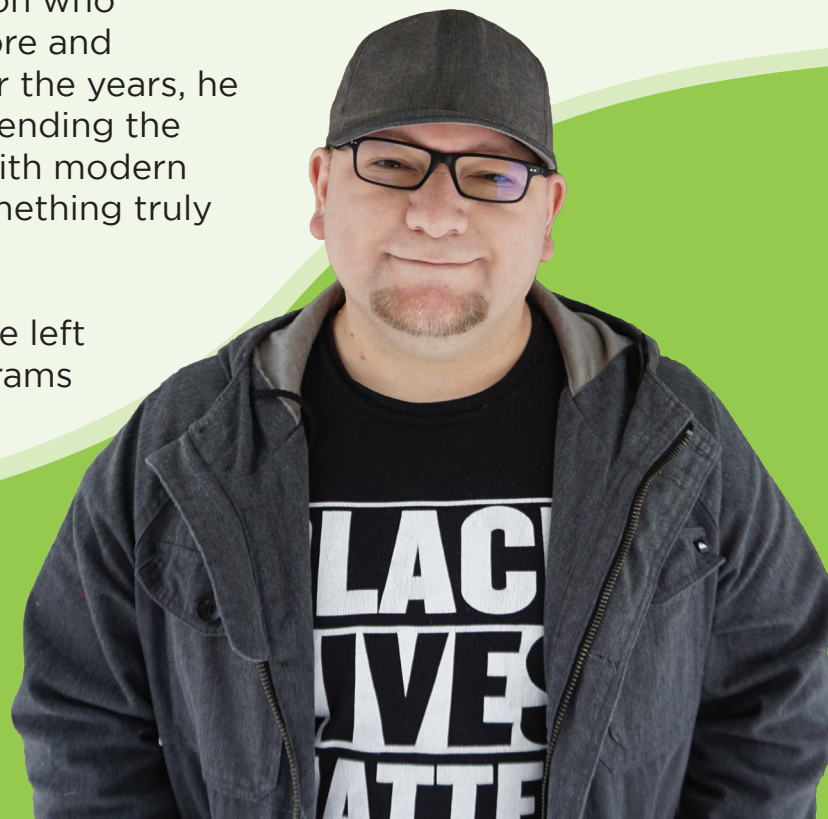
East Hants is excited to provide art programming throughout the Municipality with local Indigenous artist Quentin Syliboy!

Quentin is a self-taught Neo-traditional Indigenous artist from the Sipekne'katik First Nation who is following his personal quest to explore and rediscover his culture through art. Over the years, he has developed his own unique style, blending the traditional art styles of his ancestors with modern techniques and influences to make something truly his own.



[Learn More](#)

Scan the code to the left to register for programs with Quentin!





# Financial Assistance for Your Family

The Municipal Tax Assistance Program (MTAP) and Recreation Access (RecAccess) programs can help East Hants residents each year. These programs can benefit taxpayers whose household taxable income falls within the thresholds below:

Family Size	Family Taxable Income
1 adult	\$27,946
2 adults	\$34,014
1 adult + 1 child	\$42,305
3 persons	\$52,067
4 persons	\$63,132
5 persons	\$71,592
6+ persons	\$80,704

**Note:** Taxable income is less than total income. Deductions such as childcare and RRSP and union dues are deducted to calculate taxable income. You may qualify and not realize it.

For 2023/2024, the exemption for MTAP is a minimum of \$255 or up to 20% of the applicant's annual tax bill, whichever is the greater amount.

[Learn more](#)

## Get to Know East Hants

We see growth and development everywhere in East Hants! We issued a record-breaking **456** municipal development permits in 2022/2023. The information below gives a snapshot of the most recent Census (2021) and helps tell the story of how our communities are flourishing:



- **Population of East Hants (including Indian Brook 14): 24,853**  
East Hants (including Indian Brook 14) has seen a growth of 5.6% percent since 2016.
- **Median Individual Total Income (before tax): \$41,600**  
The median income for individuals in East Hants is up from \$35,658 in 2016, and \$3,600 higher than the provincial median.
- **Labour Force (ages 15+): 64.8% participation rate, 57.8% employment rate, 10.8% unemployment rate**  
Unemployment is about 2% lower than the provincial unemployment rate.

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population and municipal records. Population values based on amendments by Statistics Canada, November 2022.