

We Live It!

MUNICIPALITY OF EAST HANTS NEWSLETTER



EAST HANTS

SPRING/SUMMER 2022



Cover, above, and below images: Burntcoat Head Park. Photos by Len Wagg. Plan your ocean floor adventure at burntcoatheadpark.ca

HELLO, EAST HANTS!

Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2022 edition of *We Live It!* - the Municipality of East Hants' newsletter sharing exciting news, helpful tips and much more with our residents.

Spring has sprung, summer is around the corner, and residents all over the Municipality are ready to get out and enjoy everything our region has to offer. This issue features a guide to Recreation Month to get your planning started!

The warm weather also means spring cleaning and home improvement season. This edition has information on new opportunities to increase the efficiency of your home, as well as tips on how you can prepare for the next storm season, now.

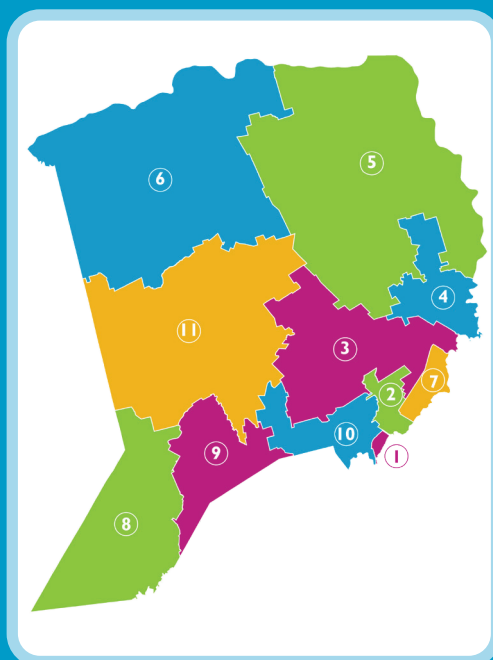


2022 POLLING DISTRICT REVIEW

The Municipality is required to conduct a review of its polling districts every eight years. The current review is taking place in 2022 in preparation for the next municipal election in 2024. The first phase of the review is to determine if the current 11 Districts are still the appropriate number. The second part of the review will look at the proposed districts to ensure there are similar numbers of voters in each district. The target is for districts to be within +/-10% of each other.

Public meetings will be held in both phases of the review, with the dates to be announced when they are available.

LEARN MORE



COUNCIL CORNER

Council is back to in-person meetings in Council Chambers. Meetings will continue to be livestreamed to the Municipal YouTube page. Council welcomes everyone to join the meetings in-person or virtually, to learn more about Council's projects and decisions. There will be no Executive Meeting or Regular Meeting of Council in the month of August.

[LEARN MORE](#)

GET INVOLVED WITH THE MUNICIPALITY

If you are a community-minded person looking to make a difference in the lives of your fellow residents, consider joining a municipal committee! Committees work directly with Council and other community stakeholders to help inform decisions and improve services in East Hants. We are seeking residents to join the:



ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This committee works to address accessibility related to municipal services, buildings and infrastructure. We are actively recruiting public members including persons with a disability and/or representatives from organizations representing persons with disabilities.

[APPLY NOW](#)

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	\$25,948
2 adults	\$31,582
1 adult + 1 child	\$39,280
3 persons	\$48,345
4 persons	\$58,618
5 persons	\$66,474
6+ persons	\$74,934

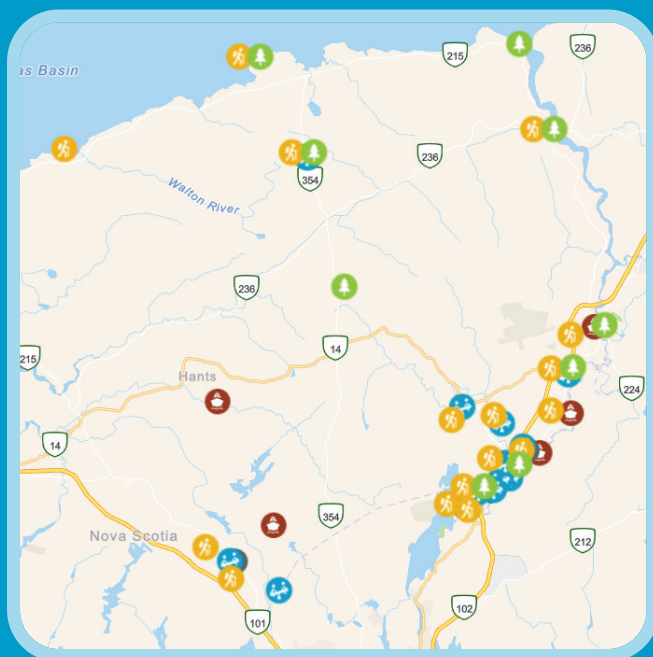
Note: Taxable income is less than total income. Deductions such as childcare and RRSP and union dues are deducted to calculate taxable income. You may qualify and not realize it.

For 2022-2023, the exemption for MTAP is a minimum of \$237 or up to 20% of the applicant's annual tax bill, whichever is the greater amount. Please call **902-883-2299** to find out if you qualify.

GET ACTIVE FOR RECREATION MONTH

June is Recreation and Parks Month and East Hants has tons of ways for you to celebrate! Our Municipality is home to active trails, water access points, playgrounds and parks. Make time in June for activities that promote a healthy and balanced lifestyle:

- ❑ Visit Burntcoat Head Park
- ❑ Scale the stairs to the top of the Walton Lighthouse
- ❑ Bike or hike the Nine Mile River Trail (pictured right)
- ❑ Paddle the Shubie River from our water access points
- ❑ Spend an afternoon at the South Uniacke Road Park
- ❑ Check out the Edmond Chater Memorial Skate Park
- ❑ Cool off at the Findley Park Splash Pad



EAGER FOR MORE ADVENTURES?

Use our interactive **Outdoor Fun Map** to discover all the places you can go to enjoy Recreation Month in East Hants! Search your local area or explore the entire Municipality and find a new favourite spot to get active.

[VISIT THE MAP](#)

SUMMER DAY CAMPS

Games! Arts & Crafts! Play! Our camps have it all!

There will be lots of day camps happening all over the Municipality this summer. Our program guide with dates, locations and more will be launching in early May. Registration for all summer programs opens on May 25 at noon.

[SEE PROGRAMS](#)



PRIVATE CAMPGROUNDS IN EAST HANTS

The development of private campgrounds in East Hants has sparked many inquiries over the past several years. Council has heard the concerns of residents and has discussed how campgrounds are operated and the impacts on neighbouring property owners. The Municipality will be adopting new ways to address some of these concerns.

To learn more and provide feedback, send an email to planning@easthants.ca



TRANSITIONS & THE SHUBIE RIVER

Transitions is a three-year project from the Shubenacadie Canal Commission working to increase awareness of the cultural heritage of the Shubie River, and to create opportunities for access and sustainable usage of the waterway.

[LEARN MORE](#)

The first year of Transitions saw four pilot projects funded that offered new ways to learn about or experience the Shubenacadie waterway. As Year 2 begins, there are more upcoming projects focused on exploring the diverse cultural heritage of the waterway.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1867, East Hants residents petitioned to have the canal locks removed because they were obstructing the passage of fish. In November 1884, a fisheries officer inspecting the Shubenacadie Canal reported that locals had taken it upon themselves to cut away a portion of the Elmsdale Lock!

Photo: Swim the Shubie Canal, A for Adventure

COMING SOON: HOME ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS THAT SAVE YOU MONEY

One of the key objectives in the East Hants 2021-2024 Strategic Plan is to invest in energy initiatives that support the sustainability of our community - which is why the Municipality has partnered with **Clean Energy Financing** to help residents make affordable and impactful changes to their homes.



Homeowners can apply to a program that helps with access to clean energy upgrades that should pay for themselves over time.

What upgrades are available in the program?

- Insulation & draft-proofing
- Exterior doors & windows
- Heat pumps
- Solar panels

Experienced Energy Advisors will recommend upgrades that maximize your long-term savings potential.

To register, visit cleanenergyfinancing.ca/easthants or call, toll free: 1-844-727-7818.

LEAD & COPPER SAMPLING PROGRAM

The Municipality of East Hants is continuing the drinking water testing program for municipal water utility customers in 2022. In addition to regularly sampling for lead and copper within our water distribution system, all water utilities in Nova Scotia have been mandated by the Department of Environment and Climate Change to collect samples within customers' homes.

Lead and copper are more likely to be present in drinking water within older homes due to the use of certain construction materials at the time they were built. If your home is older, you may be selected to take a sample. A door tag, sample kit and instructions will be delivered to properties between May 1 - September 30, 2022. All sample results will be communicated to participants.



If you are interested in having your home sampled or have questions about the program, please contact: water@easthants.ca

MILFORD RECREATION ASSOCIATION GOES NET ZERO

The **Milford Recreation Association** has recently made several energy upgrades to their space, with the goal of becoming net zero by the end of 2022! An energy audit performed by Efficiency Nova Scotia identified the key areas needing improvement. After securing funding, upgrades were made to the electrical system, lights were changed to energy efficient LEDs, heat pumps were added, windows were replaced and waterproofing and insulating work was done.

In addition, two solar panel areas were installed - a 15kW behind the hall and 30kW beside the tennis courts. The solar panels will be up and running by the end of 2022.

This project was made possible through funding from the Province of Nova Scotia and the Municipality of East Hants.



[LEARN MORE](#)

GET READY FOR EXTREME WEATHER

Our province saw an extreme winter in 2021 and 2022, with many weekend storms, heavy rain, snow and high-powered winds. Preparing your property in the warmer months can help prevent potential damage in the next storm season. Below are some tips to add to your Spring To Do List around your home.

FLOODING BASEMENT?

- Install a backwater valve in your sewer/floor drain
- Correct grading around foundation
- Potential install of a sump pump
- Extend downspouts at least 2m away from foundation

[LEARN MORE](#)

FLOODING PROPERTY?

- Clear debris out of culverts (before & after storms)
- Grade property for optimal runoff routes
- Consider installing french drains, a rain barrel or a 'rain garden' to help with runoff

[LEARN MORE](#)

MUNICIPAL BUDGET 2022-23

East Hants Council approved the 2022-2023 budgets at their meeting on February 23, 2022. Council worked diligently to ensure the Municipality is run in a responsible and transparent way.

The 2022-2023 budget came into effect on April 1, 2022. The approved budget and operational business plans are two of the guiding documents that will support the priorities of Council's Strategic Plan: Sustainable Infrastructure, Corporate Excellence, Strong Community and Economic Prosperity.

[LEARN MORE](#)

NEED A RIDE? CALL THE EAST HANTS COMMUNITY RIDER

The East Hants Community Rider is a cost-effective, community transportation service available to everyone. It covers East Hants and surrounding areas, including Fall River and Waverley. The Municipality of East Hants supports this organization through our community grant program.

TOP 3 REASONS TO BOOK:

Explore in Comfort! The Community Rider can get up to 8 passengers to and from your destination in comfort.

Get to Work! The Community Rider is happy to assist businesses with getting their employees to work. Many passengers receive rides to some or all of their shifts.

Get to the Airport! We can take you to the airport (or pick you up!), for a reasonable rate. Service is limited to standard hours of operation: 6 AM-7 PM, Monday to Friday.



For an up-to-date list of programs and events:

902-883-1608

communications@communityrider.com

[LEARN MORE](#)



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