

We Live It!



EAST HANTS

Municipal Newsletter
Spring/Summer 2025

Hello, East Hants!

Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2025 edition of our community newsletter! In this issue, you'll find updates on the 2025/2026 budget, helpful information about municipal services and lots of great programs.



Strengthening Our Community

In 2024, the Municipality hired Calvin Byard as our new Manager of Protective Services to help support our volunteer fire departments, improve oversight of the East Hants police contract, strengthen Emergency Management Operations (EMO) and develop senior safety programming. Here are some exciting new ways Calvin is working to improve safety and education in the community:

East Hants Community Safety Day

Saturday, May 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
East Hants Sportsplex Parking Lot, 1076 Hwy 2, Lantz
This free event is a go, rain or shine!

Join East Hants EMO, the East Hants Fire Service, RCMP, Ground Search & Rescue and others for demonstrations, education, touch-a-truck and much more!



June Senior Safety Fair

Wednesday, June 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Uniacke & District Royal Canadian Legion,
18 Veterans Ln, Mount Uniacke

Featuring guest speakers and booths from senior serving organizations. A light lunch and snacks will be provided.



Visit easthants.ca/events to learn more about these upcoming events.

Community Senior Engagement Through 211

If you have questions about programs and services available to seniors in Nova Scotia, simply call 211. They also provide support for senior abuse concerns. If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse, or if you need information on available resources, call 211. Your call is confidential, except where required by law.

Have a question or a concern? Call 902-883-6175 or email cbyard@easthants.ca

Council Corner

With each new Council comes the responsibility to adopt an updated Strategic Plan. The 2025-2029 Strategic Plan builds on Council's mission and vision for the community for the next four years. Our priorities continue to be: Sustainable Infrastructure, Economic Prosperity, Strong Community and Corporate Excellence. This plan will be finished in the fall of 2025 and will be featured in our next newsletter.



Your 2024-2028 East Hants Council

New Budget & New Goals

East Hants Council has approved an overall municipal operating budget of \$51.1 million for the upcoming fiscal year. The 2025/2026 Operating Budget, Five-Year Capital Budget and the Water Utility Operating Budgets came into effect on April 1, 2025.

The 2025/2026 budget focuses on essential services, infrastructure improvements and recreation projects. Key highlights of the budget include:

- Reducing the general tax rate from \$0.80 to \$0.795
- Holding the commercial tax rate at \$2.57
- A new playground on Mariah Dr Extension in Lantz
- The first phase of a new park at Kiln Creek in Lantz that includes a playground, sport courts, picnic shelters and walkways
- Improvements in the Uniacke Business Park
- Streetlights in Mount Uniacke
- Expanding the Construction & Demolition landfill at the Waste Management Centre in Georgefield
- Creating a centralized parking lot in Shubenacadie
- Replacing and resealing the roof at the East Hants Sportsplex, repaving the parking lot and improving Roxie's
- Constructing a public water access point in Walton

Learn more about the changes to tax rates and see the full business plan and capital budget at easthants.ca/budget.



How We'll Thrive in 2025 | Budget Presentation

Join Warden Eleanor Roulston and Chief Administrative Officer Kim Ramsay for a presentation on the new budgets and business plan!

When: Tuesday May 20 at 6:30 p.m. | **Where:** Lloyd E. Matheson Centre, Room 168

Protecting Your Water Supply

East Hants is always working to safeguard our water supply for residents. Here are the ways we're maintaining the health of our water and what you can do to promote responsible water management in our communities.

Aquatic Invasive Species: Stopping the Spread

Red Swamp Crayfish (pictured right) have been spotted in the Grand Lake Watershed, specifically in Waverley. This species is not native to the area and could harm local ecosystems.



Crayfish are a problem because they dig burrows along the shoreline, which can cause erosion and damage the land. They also destroy habitats for native species and compete with them for food, space and calcium in the water.

Crayfish go through a wandering phase in their life, meaning they can travel long distances on land and move to other bodies of water. The Shubenacadie Canal is close enough that these crayfish could easily spread further.

What can you do to help? Report any crayfish sightings to Fisheries and Oceans Canada at 1-888-435-4040.

Mowing 101: Protecting Waterways Through Better Lawn Care

How and when you mow your lawn can help keep our waterways safe and clean. Here are some tips to follow during mowing season:

Increase the height of your lawnmower - longer grass grows deeper roots, helping absorb more water and reduce runoff.



Leave grass clippings on your lawn - clippings return nutrients to the soil, which keeps harmful chemical fertilizers out of runoff and waterways.

Slow your mow - mowing less often means longer grass and a thicker, more resilient lawn that absorbs more rainwater.

Cross Connection Control Program

The Province now requires Backflow Prevention Devices on water service lines in all commercial, industrial, institutional and large residential buildings. Affected property owners will receive details by mail. The Municipality is offering a \$400 credit for installation and testing. [Visit our website](#) to learn more.

PACE Program Making a Difference in East Hants

The Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program, administered by the Clean Foundation, provides low interest financing for eligible homeowners in East Hants to perform clean energy upgrades to their homes. Here's how the program helped one resident:

“As the owner of a 160-year-old home heated with oil, I'm always looking for ways to improve energy efficiency. When I heard about this program, I applied immediately and, after six months on the waitlist, had an energy audit with Steve from Efficiency NS. He assessed my home, provided a detailed report on potential savings and helped me secure a \$20,000 low-cost loan.

Installing a heat pump was the clear choice. I got quotes from three companies, and Steve guided me in selecting the best option—a system with three heads to maximize rebates. A local company handled installation, and my payments are now just \$76 per month through my tax bill.

The results? My oil use has dropped by nearly a full tank, and the cooling has been a game-changer. The heat pump's dehumidifier keeps my two-story home cool and comfortable, all while saving me money!” - Madison Birse

The PACE Program could help you too. [Visit the Clean Foundation website](#) to learn more or apply!

East Hants Well & Septic Loan Program

East Hants is continuing to offer our Well and Septic Loan Program. If you live in East Hants and need to fix or improve your well and/or septic system, you can apply for a repayable loan up to \$25,000.

Eligibility Considerations:

- You must be a registered Property Owner
- The property must be occupied by the Property Owner for a minimum of 6 months of the year
- Properties must be an existing detached, semi-detached or row house style home within the East Hants municipal boundary
- The total taxable household income must not exceed \$100,000
- There must be no defaults on municipal taxes, rates or charges



To apply for the program or for details, [visit our website](#).

If you need a print copy of the program information, contact us at wellandsepticloans@easthants.ca or call 902-883-6138.

The Rec Room

Follow East Hants Recreation on Facebook for our latest news!

Community Grants in Action

The Tennycap Community Club, representing the communities of Tenecape, East Walton and Moose Brook, upgraded their hall as part of ongoing efforts to improve it for year-round use.

In August 2024, thanks to a generous ~\$2500 grant from East Hants District Recreation Funds, the group was able to tackle a long-needed insulation project. The grant covered 50% of the costs, making the hall significantly more comfortable and functional during colder months.

The hall hosts various events throughout the year and is seeking new members to help make them even stronger. Whether you're interested in volunteering, helping out with events or simply want to be a part of a close-knit community, the Tennycap Community Club is ready to welcome you! [Connect with them on Facebook](#) to learn more.



The Cape Debate

The spelling of "Tenecape" has sparked some friendly debate! The community signs vary between "Tennycap," "Tenecape," and "Tennecape," but officially, both the church and hall signs spell it "Tenecape" and this is the spelling used by the Municipality.

Summer at the Sportsplex

Keep things cool this summer with rink rentals at the East Hants Sportsplex! Ice Pad B is staying in all summer long, perfect for practices, parties and more!

Spaces available to book this summer:

- Ice Pad B
- Keith Miller Arena Dry Pad
- Field House
- Community Rooms

See availability, make bookings online and more [on our website](#).



Take a Tidal Road Trip this Summer!

Burntcoat Head Park, the Fundy Tidal Interpretive Centre and amenities at Dawson Dowell Park will reopen for the 2025 season on May 16 at 9 a.m.

Enjoy the wonder right here in East Hants and experience the world's highest tides to the fullest this year with a Tidal Road trip!

Start your trip off walking on the ocean floor at Burntcoat Head Park, where you can explore tide pools, snap stunning photos and climb to the top of the lighthouse.

Then take a scenic drive along the coast, stopping at Dawson Dowell Park for a picnic, play time and gift shopping, before watching the Tidal Bore from the wharf.

End your trip at the Fundy Tidal Interpretive Centre, where you can read all about the tides, learn about local wetlands and watch the tidal bore race down the Shubenacadie River from the observation deck!

**Save
the Date:
Explore Your
Own Backyard!**

Join us at Burntcoat Head Park on Sept. 13 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a BBQ, lawn games and exploring during low tide.



Protecting the Atlantic Mud Piddocks

The Atlantic Mud Piddock is a rare, endangered clam-like mollusk found along the shores of the Bay of Fundy, including Burntcoat Head Park. These fragile mollusks burrow into soft mudstone, creating tiny holes in the rocks that serve as their lifelong homes. Their habitat is at risk due to erosion and human activity, so to help protect the Atlantic Mud Piddock:

- **Watch Your Step** – Avoid walking on fragile mudstone where they burrow.
- **Leave No Trace** – Do not remove rocks or disturb their habitat.
- **Educate Others** – Share what you know and the importance of conservation.

By being mindful of where we explore, we can help ensure the Atlantic Mud Piddock thrives whenever you visit Burntcoat Head Park.

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	\$29,273
2 adults	\$35,629
1 adult + 1 child	\$44,313
3 persons	\$54,539
4 persons	\$66,129
5 persons	\$74,992
6+ persons	\$84,536

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

For 2025/2026, the exemption for MTAP is a minimum of \$267 or up to 20% of the applicant's annual tax bill, whichever is the greater amount. Call 902-883-2299 or email taxes@easthants.ca to see if you qualify!

2025 East Hants Design Awards

The East Hants Design Awards celebrate those who have taken the extra care and effort to make East Hants a more beautiful place to live by investing in our built environment. There are three categories and recipients of the awards are recognized at an event put on by the Municipality.

Shea Investments (pictured right above) and 432108 Nova Scotia (pictured right below) each received a **Certificate of Excellence** for their positive contributions to development.

Uniacke Lakes Animal Hospital, Bondi Developments Ltd., Sheep Dog Developments Ltd., Walton & Area Development Association and the Enfield & Elmsdale District Lions Club each received a **Certificate of Merit** for their recent projects.

Honorable Mentions were given to projects developed by Wingate Properties Ltd., Dr. Reena Kapadia Dentistry Inc., Maple Mews Ltd. and the Lions Memorial Park Society.

[Visit our website](#) to see photos and learn more about all this year's award winners.

