

# We Live It!



EAST HANTS

Municipal Newsletter  
Spring/Summer 2026

# Hello, East Hants!

Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2026 edition of our community newsletter! In this issue, you'll find updates on the 2026/2027 budget, information on the Community Plan Update and how to participate, and places to explore this season.

## Council Corner

East Hants Council approved the Growing Stronger, Together 2025 - 2029 Strategic Plan, building on our mission and vision for the next four years. Our priorities are Sustainable Infrastructure, Economic Prosperity, Strong Community and Corporate Excellence. Council is also updating the East Hants Official Community Plan, which guides growth, land use and community design, making sure it reflects changing needs and community priorities.



## Growing Stronger, Together

As we grow, our focus is on key priorities like preparing our communities for the impacts of climate change, supporting more affordable housing, and making sure our decisions reflect what residents need to live and thrive.

We are adapting to changes in emergency management across Nova Scotia, while continuing to improve programs and services so they are accessible and fair for everyone. We also remain committed to supporting local businesses and helping our economy grow.

Our vision for East Hants is that we are a vibrant, welcoming community that embraces rural and urban living. In order to achieve this vision, Council will focus on building out our current infrastructure and planning new infrastructure and servicing for areas like Mount Uniacke and North Lantz. Vibrant communities also need recreation infrastructure and programming with places to play and connect, which are key priorities in our Plan.

Other priorities include planning for our business parks, completing the 10-year review of the East Hants Community Plan and updating our Climate Change Action Plan, which will include preparing a flood mitigation strategy for our Growth Management Areas.

Council has established several objectives for the next 4 years. To read the full Strategic Plan, visit: [easthants.ca/strategic-plan](https://easthants.ca/strategic-plan)

# What We Heard in the 2025 Climate Survey

East Hants is updating our Climate Change Action Plan to better respond to changing weather and build a safer, more resilient community. We asked residents what concerns them most and what actions they'd like the Municipality to take.

**What we heard:** Most residents are concerned about climate change, many are looking for more information about local risks and emergency preparedness, and only about one-third feel ready to protect their homes from climate and weather impacts. Survey respondents were most concerned about drought, wildfires, inland flooding, and the increasing spread of pests and diseases.



You can still share your input. If you, your business, or your community group would like to help shape a more climate-ready East Hants, call **902-883-6178** or email [climateactionplan@easthants.ca](mailto:climateactionplan@easthants.ca). Visit [easthants.ca/climate-action-plan](https://easthants.ca/climate-action-plan) to learn more.

## East Hants Well & Septic Program

Well or septic concerns? Check out the East Hants Well and Septic Loan Program!

The Well and Septic Loan Program helps eligible homeowners repair or improve their well or septic system. Funding is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

To qualify, you must own and live in your home for at least six months of the year, have a household income under \$102,600, and have no outstanding municipal taxes or charges.

For more information or to apply, visit: [easthants.ca/well-and-septic-loan-program](https://easthants.ca/well-and-septic-loan-program)



**Report An Issue | Fast, Simple & Online**

Use the tool to report road issues: [easthants.ca/report-an-issue](https://easthants.ca/report-an-issue)

# East Hants Official Community Plan

Last fully reviewed in 2016, the Official Community Plan has had updates along the way — but as our community continues to grow, new land use challenges and opportunities have emerged. It's time to take another look and plan for the future.

East Hants is hosting Community Visioning meetings, so residents can share ideas and help shape future growth. After this process, Council will use feedback to create a vision and guiding principles to inform future land use planning.

## Upcoming Community Visioning Meetings

- May 6 - Rawdon Fire Hall
- May 7 - Uniacke Fire Hall
- May 11 - Milford Recreation Centre
- May 12 - Maitland Fire Hall
- May 13 - Walton Fire Hall
- May 26 - Enfield Fire Hall

## Take the Public Surveys

Share your thoughts by completing two new online surveys.

### Plan Review Survey | The Future of Land Use

Share your thoughts and ideas on how land should be used and developed in the future.

### Visual Preference Survey

Help guide community design by rating images of streetscapes, architecture, landscaping, and different land-use scenarios.

Survey and meeting feedback will be summarized in a **“What We Heard”** report for the Planning Advisory Committee. For details, visit: [easthants.ca/community-planning-update](https://easthants.ca/community-planning-update)



Council is investing in stronger communities through grants for local non-profits and community groups. Find the right fit for your organization at [easthants.ca/grants](https://easthants.ca/grants)

# New Budget & New Goals

East Hants Council has approved an overall municipal operating budget of \$56.9 million for this fiscal year. The 2026/2027 Operating Budget, Five-Year Capital Budget and the Water Utility Operating Budgets came into effect on April 1, 2026.



## Key highlights of the budget include:

- A one cent reduction in the general tax rate (from 79.5 cents to 78.5 cents per \$100 of assessment).
- A one cent reduction in the commercial tax rate (from \$2.57 to \$2.56 per \$100 of assessment).
- Building a new playground for the Belnan Avenue area and continuing to plan for the future of Lakelands Regional Park.
- Work on active transportation will focus on creating a connection from Highway 214 (beside Starbucks) to the Kiln Creek development.
- Upgrades are underway for wastewater collection in the serviced area, including the start of a \$12.6 million improvement to the Brookside system in Lantz.
- Updates at the Georgefield Waste Management Centre include a new scale, road and ditch work, and a \$2 million expansion of the Construction & Demolition area to increase capacity for years to come.
- Repairs and upgrades at the East Hants Sportsplex include the parking lot, security system, kitchen, signage, score clock, rink improvements and a roof replacement.
- Two studies are planned to better understand flood risks and stormwater management in Elmsdale and Shubenacadie.
- Storm water upgrades and improvements at the East Hants Aquatic Centre.
- The Uniacke Business Park entrance will be upgraded for smoother traffic, and planning continues for Phase 7 of the Elmsdale Business Park expansion.

To see the budget, visit: [easthants.ca/municipal-budget](https://easthants.ca/municipal-budget)

Join us at the Uniacke & District Fire Hall for Ready East Hants, an emergency preparedness and safety day! | May 9, 2026 | 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. | [easthants.ca/events](https://easthants.ca/events)

# The Rec Room

Follow East Hants Recreation on Facebook for our latest news!

## East Hants Learns to Skate

This winter, the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department helped Grade 2 students across East Hants hit the ice and learn the fundamentals of skating.

Over 200 students took part in three one-hour sessions at the East Hants Sportsplex and Sackville Arena, where they built confidence on the ice through fun skill-building activities and games. The program focused on helping kids learn new skills while encouraging lifelong physical activity in our communities. Skates and helmets were provided at no cost to students who needed equipment.



A big thank you to our instructors, schools, teachers, staff, volunteers and bus drivers who helped make the program such a success.

## Summer at the Sportsplex

Keep the fun going this summer at the Sportsplex! Stay active, stay cool, and keep your favourite activities going all season long. Spaces available to rent include Ice Pad B, Keith Miller Arena Dry Pad, Field House, and Community Rooms.

To learn more and to book, visit: [easthants.ca/sportsplex](http://easthants.ca/sportsplex)

## Waste Adventures & Touch-a-Truck: Open House

From the curb to clean! Come explore the trucks and equipment that help keep our community clean, including garbage and recycling vehicles, loaders, and more!

Chat with staff, get answers to all your sorting questions and learn about our environmental protection efforts.

**Date:** June 6, 2026

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**Location:** Waste Management Centre, 1306 Georgefield Road, Upper Kennetcook

**Details here:** [easthants.ca/event/waste-adventures-touch-a-truck-open-house](http://easthants.ca/event/waste-adventures-touch-a-truck-open-house)



# Explore East Hants this Summer!

East Hants welcomes thousands of visitors from around the world each year, drawn by the incredible tides of the Bay of Fundy.

Two of our area's most popular attractions — Burntcoat Head Park and the Fundy Tidal Interpretive Centre — will be open for the season from May 15 to October 15, 2026.

Visitors can learn about the world's highest tides at free daily talks at the Fundy Tidal Interpretive Centre, and join guided ocean floor tours at Burntcoat Head Park—book early as spots fill quickly.

Be sure to follow both sites on social media to stay up to date on special events throughout the season.

## Explore Your Own Backyard!

Join us at Burntcoat Head Park on September 19 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a BBQ, lawn games and exploring the ocean floor. Details here: [easthants.ca/event/explore-your-own-backyard](https://easthants.ca/event/explore-your-own-backyard)

Follow us for updates!

Burntcoat Head Park:  
[facebook.com/burntcoat.head.park](https://facebook.com/burntcoat.head.park)

Fundy Tidal Interpretive Centre:  
[facebook.com/fundytic](https://facebook.com/fundytic)



## New Community Spaces to Enjoy

We're excited to highlight three new community assets supporting active and connected living: **Kiln Creek Community Park** in Lantz (with support from the Province through the Strategic Funding Investment program), **Paley Brook Community Park** in Lantz, and the **Walton Slipway** in Walton.



Spring and summer are made for adventure! Explore day camps, aquatics programs and local water access points.

For more, visit: [easthants.ca/recreation-programs-activities](https://easthants.ca/recreation-programs-activities)

# 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 residents whose household taxable income falls within the thresholds below:

Family Size	Family Taxable Income
1 adult	\$30,034
2 adults	\$36,555
1 adult + 1 child	\$45,465
3 persons	\$55,957
4 persons	\$67,848
5 persons	\$76,941
6+ persons	\$86,734

**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 2026/2027, the exemption for MTAP is a minimum of \$274 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!

## Create More Space with an Accessory Dwelling Unit

Looking for a flexible way to add more living space to your property? Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) offer a practical option for homeowners.

ADUs are small, self-contained homes built on the same lot as your main house. They can provide a cozy home for aging parents, give adult children a bit of independence, or even generate extra income as a rental to help with your mortgage or other expenses.

East Hants is making it easier than ever to add an ADU by waiving building permit fees until December 31, 2026.

If you've been thinking about adding extra space to your property, there's never been a better time to explore this opportunity.

To learn more, visit: [easthants.ca/accessory-dwelling-units](https://easthants.ca/accessory-dwelling-units)

