

Municipality of East Hants



EAST HANTS

Annual Report 2025/2026







We respectfully acknowledge that we are in Mi'kma'ki and the District of Sipekne'katik, the ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

East Hants further acknowledges the 50 African Nova Scotian communities whose 400-year history have contributed to the province's culture, history and legacies. We are all Treaty people.

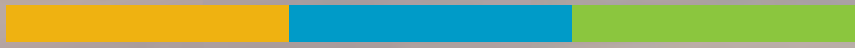


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Our Municipality





About East Hants

The Municipality of East Hants is a picturesque region, centrally located in mainland Nova Scotia. It is known for its vast forested areas with small communities, a vibrant business scene and a scenic shore. East Hants has three unofficial regions: the Corridor, Central and Fundy Shore, and Uniacke and Rawdon.

As a community, East Hants provides a renowned quality of life where people can enjoy the perfect blend of rural and urban lifestyles. The estimated population in East Hants reached 26,960 in 2025 (Statistics Canada. Population estimates, July 1, by census subdivision, 2021 boundaries). The population of Sipekne'katik is estimated at 1,225 for 2025.

East Hants continues to experience steady residential and commercial growth, supported by one of the youngest and fastest-growing populations in Atlantic Canada. The region continues to attract new investment and business activity, supporting job creation and contributing to a diverse and expanding economy. From a strong and thriving agricultural sector and small locally owned businesses to larger industrial and commercial operations, East Hants offers a dynamic environment for economic growth and long-term development. The close proximity to Halifax and Truro gives East Hants the advantage of a large workforce within a short commute and provides local businesses with access to highly skilled professionals.

The Municipality owns and operates the East Hants Aquatic Centre, the East Hants Waste Management Centre, the East Hants Sportsplex, Fundy Tidal Interpretive Centre, Burntcoat Head Park and multiple parks, playgrounds and trail systems.

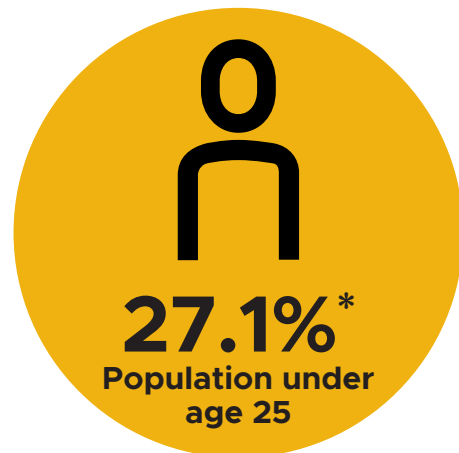
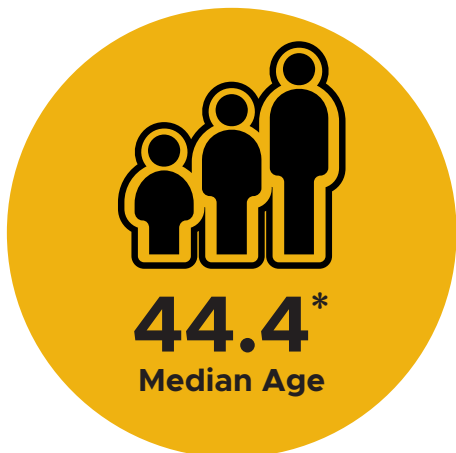
East Hants is defined by its natural beauty, strong sense of community, economic potential, and welcoming attitude. It's a place where residents can work, play, raise families, and grow businesses within a supportive environment.





Our Mission

Through program and service excellence, we are building strong, thriving communities.



*Data from the 2021 Census.



Our Vision

East Hants is a vibrant, welcoming community that embraces rural and urban living.



*Data from the 2021 Census.



Message from the Warden

On behalf of East Hants Council, I am pleased to present the Municipality of East Hants' 2025–2026 Annual Report, highlighting our key achievements and the progress we've made over the past year. This report offers a moment to reflect on both the challenges we've navigated and the successes we've shared as a community. As Warden of East Hants, I continue to appreciate the dedication to our communities shown by our Council, as well as the hard work of our staff that brings our plans and visions to life!

Council remains committed to delivering greater value to our community by continually improving how the Municipality operates. We are focused on enhancing service delivery, strengthening policies, and fostering a culture of ongoing improvement. In October 2025, Councillor Cecil Dixon was elected Deputy Warden for a one-year term and I appreciate the support that he provides. I would also like to extend my thanks to former Deputy Warden Carl McPhee for his leadership and support the previous year.

A key accomplishment this year was the approval of a new Strategic Plan for 2025-2029. This plan provides a roadmap for Council and staff as we make decisions over the next four years that reflect the priorities of our growing community.



As we enter the next four years, we're building on a solid foundation of sound financial management and thoughtful governance. Key priorities will include strengthening climate resilience, expanding access to affordable housing, and making decisions that reflect residents' needs while helping our communities thrive. At the same time, we will respond to changes in Nova Scotia's emergency management landscape while ensuring our programs and services remain equitable, accessible, and supportive for all. We continue to value the efforts of our many volunteers who contribute so much to keeping our communities safe – in particular our Volunteer Fire Service who provide us with protection throughout the municipality.

East Hants Council approved a budget for 2026/2027 of \$56.9 million which allowed us to provide a one cent reduction in the general tax rate and a one cent reduction in the commercial tax rate. We are committed to providing necessary services to our residents and businesses while ensuring that East Hants continues to be an affordable place to live and work! This year we will continue to work on projects throughout the municipality – whether it be around new development, water and wastewater, tourism, recreation or any of the other responsibilities that fall within our area of jurisdiction.

East Hants Municipal Council is proud to represent the many vibrant and diverse communities, both urban and rural, that make this municipality such a great place to call home. We look forward to another year of success which balances affordability, prudent fiscal management and the needs of the residents who make our community what it is!

Eleanor Roulston

Eleanor Roulston
Warden & District 11 Councillor



Key to the Municipality – Wyatt Sanford

The Municipality was proud to present Wyatt Sanford with the Key to the Municipality in recognition of his outstanding achievements as an Olympic boxer and his positive representation of the community.

Wyatt earned a bronze medal in boxing at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.

Congratulations Wyatt! (pictured above)



Message from the Chief Administrative Officer

In September 2025, Council approved *Growing Stronger, Together – Strategic Plan 2025-2029*. This Plan reflects the needs of the communities we serve and maintains a culture of planning and preparedness to move our communities forward. The Plan identifies four key strategies that guide our work: Sustainable Infrastructure, Corporate Excellence, Economic Prosperity and building Strong Community. These pages highlight the work that supported the Plan's goals.

Infrastructure development continues to be an important part of managing growth. With the new treatment plant in Shubenacadie up and running and a number of important wastewater studies complete, the focus in 2025 was on moving key wastewater projects forward in Lantz and Elmsdale. Desludging the Lantz lagoon, a forcemain project along Hwy 214, wastewater collection upgrades for Lantz and the Brookside wastewater revitalization project were all advanced in 2025-2026. These projects not only build capacity for growth, they provide more reliable and climate resilient services to our existing businesses and residents.

East Hants is doing some really interesting work with asset management, GIS integration and internal process automation. In 2025, we finalized the collection of data for our linear water and wastewater infrastructure, as well as GPS data for valves, manholes and service points. As we build out our asset management function, this information will be used to inform future infrastructure planning, preventative maintenance and related budgets. At the same time, we streamlined and automated key internal processes to save time and improve document control.

Council approved the East Hants Housing Strategy in October and has done some significant real estate transactions this year. The Housing Strategy, along with the Housing Accelerator Funding, has driven innovation in our online building permit services and our planning policies around additional dwelling units. Council purchased land for recreational, tourism and business park planning and made headway in the future development of the DAR line as a future multi-modal trail. Significant open space negotiations, tenant leases and leasehold improvement projects, a review of municipal land for surplus and continuing to plan for the development of the former Lantz and Elmsdale school properties were a focus of this past year.

Our programs continue to grow with the needs of the community. The East Hants Sportsplex is undergoing revitalization while continuing to add programs that bring the building to life.



While we continue stormwater management upgrades to fortify the facility against future floods, our Aquatics programs are back to full capacity and are flourishing!

We have completed public engagement on our recreation master planning and our climate action planning, with both of these documents well underway.

East Hants' focus on public safety, including senior safety and supporting our police, fire and emergency management staff, has been a large portfolio this year. We have been key participants in consultation engagements on the legislation, regulations and standards coming as a result of the Provincial Policing Review, the Provincial Fire Service Review and for the new Department of Emergency Management. Having these three portfolios in flux is challenging all municipalities in Nova Scotia.

The important day-to-day work that keeps the servers running, wastewater flowing, water potable and garbage collected, is not reflected in these pages. We are proud to do this work and are dedicated to ensuring our community continues to grow and thrive. Team members have been invited to speak at local and national conferences this year, a testament to the high quality of our people, programs and services. I am very honoured to lead our staff team; they are an incredible group of people with a lot of passion for community development, environmental stewardship and integrity in public systems.



Kim Ramsay, CPA, CMA,
Chief Administrative Officer



Municipal Council 2025/2026



Warden Eleanor Roulston
District 11 - Rawdon-Kennetcook



Deputy Warden Cecil Dixon
District 10 - Enfield-Grand Lake



Sandra Garden-Cole
District 1 - Enfield Centre



Norval Mitchell
District 2 - Elmsdale



Eldon Hebb
District 3 - Nine Mile River– Belnan



Carl MacPhee
District 4 -Shubenacadie-
Indian Brook



Keith Rhyno
District 5 - Maitland-Noel Shore



Craig Merriam
District 6 - North Lantz-Milford



Walter Tingley
District 7 - South Lantz



Michael Perry
District 8 - Mount Uniacke -
South Rawdon



Elie Moussa
District 9 - South Uniacke

Municipal Governance

East Hants Council provides a range of services to residents and businesses through six municipal departments and relationships with partners at local, provincial and federal levels. Meetings of Council are open to the public every month and live streamed on the Municipal YouTube channel. All are welcome to attend.

Council governs through a policy-based structure, continuously updating and improving its bylaws and policies. The 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, adopted in September 2025, is the roadmap that guides decision making and provides a balanced approach to achieving long-range goals and ongoing delivery of services to our communities.

This past year, Council welcomed presentations from the following community organizations about the services they provide to East Hants:

- Colchester-East Hants Public Library
- Shubenacadie Cenotaph (residents)
- East Hants Family Resource Centre
- East Hants Farmer's Market Cooperative Ltd.
- Enfield Volunteer Fire Department
- East Hants Ground Search and Rescue

The following bylaws and policies were created/ amended in 2025/2026:

- A-300 — Encroachment on Municipal Real Property
- P-1000 — Dog Bylaw
- P-1200 — Lot Grading and Drainage
- A-200 Well & Septic Bylaw
- Municipal Fee Policy
- Solid Waste Tipping Fee Policy
- Municipal Tax Assistance Program (MTAP) Policy
- Council Remuneration & Travel Reimbursement Policy
- Council Procedural Policy
- Council Code of Conduct (Provincial Legislation)
- Financial Guidelines – Volunteer Fire Departments
- Business Parks Sale of Land Terms and Conditions
- Procurement Policy
- Fire Service Funding Policy



Municipal Staff

Municipal staff at East Hants make up six departments that deliver services in: Financial Management, Infrastructure & Operations, Parks, Recreation & Culture, Corporate Services, Planning & Development and the Chief Administrative Office. Staff use the Strategic Plan to implement and prioritize initiatives in the organization's business plan.

As of March 31, 2026, East Hants had 105 full-time equivalent positions. The average age of a municipal employee is 44 years old with 28% of the employees being 50 years or older.

The East Hants Aquatic Centre employs approximately 84 casual staff including Customer Service Representatives, Lifeguards, Trainers and Swim Instructors. The East Hants Sportsplex employs approximately 23 casual and term staff across a variety of roles, including ice technicians, facility operators, customer service representatives, café staff, and custodial staff.

The seasonal staffing complement for Summer 2025 was 24 seasonal workers in the Parks and Tourism departments and we employ a number of casual recreation programming staff throughout the year for children, youth, adult, family and senior programming.

The Municipality hosted 24 learning events for staff and partners in 2025/2026 and supported many instances of individual training for job-specific skills development. This included specific training in the Tourism department and our Aquatics and Recreation teams.



Senior Management Team



Kim Ramsay, Chief Administrative Officer

Full Time Staff = 7

Core Services: Organizational leadership, legislative support to committees of Council, Council support & special research, human resources, occupational health & safety, communications, policy/procedure development (Council & Administrative), FOIPOP & privacy, issues management.



Adam Clarkson

Director of Corporate Services | Full Time Staff = 16

Core Services: Administrative support to volunteer fire departments, procurement & risk management, economic & business development, technology, records & information management, policy & real estate, emergency management, asset management and sustainability.



Wade Tattrie

Director of Finance | Full Time Staff = 15

Core Services: Financial management, treasury, budget & business planning, tax & water billing/collection, payroll, municipal fire levies & bookkeeping service for volunteer fire departments.



Jesse Hulsman

Director of Infrastructure & Operations | Full Time Staff = 29

Core Services: Solid waste management & education, road, sidewalk & streetlight maintenance, engineering services, capital project planning & management, environmental compliance reporting & optimization, water & wastewater management.



Alana Tapper

Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture | Full Time Staff = 22.35

Core Services: Policy development for aquatics, recreation, tourism, culture, parks & trails, recreation & aquatics programs & service delivery, community development & grants administration, tourism & events management, properties & facilities management, custodial services.



John Woodford

Director of Planning & Development | Full Time Staff = 15.65

Core Services: Planning & land use policy, regulation & applications, development control, permitting, fire & building inspection, bylaw enforcement, geographic Information System services & animal control.



2025-2029 Strategic Plan Progress



Key Strategies

Growing Stronger, Together. The 2025–2029 Strategic Plan guides Council and staff decisions over the next four years, reflecting the priorities of our growing community.



Sustainable Infrastructure

Infrastructure represents the foundation of any community. It includes roads, facilities and systems which keep the community functional and people moving. Our goal is to provide resilient infrastructure that addresses the needs of our growing community.



Corporate Excellence

Success of the Municipality depends on public trust. This relationship with the public is achieved through open, transparent and fair decision-making, effective public policy, responsible financial management, exceptional service delivery and effective communications. Our goal is to provide value to the community by continuously improving our governance, the way we do business, honouring our values and supporting one another.



Strong Community

A strong community is where people feel a sense of pride, are safe, connected and active. This is achieved through long-range community planning and by supporting those who live, work and visit in East Hants. Our goal is to provide services, programs and facilities, through direct service delivery and collaboration with others, that allow people and businesses to thrive.



Economic Prosperity

A strong, competitive economy encourages a thriving and growing community with vibrant commercial districts and a robust, skilled workforce. Fostering further economic growth in East Hants will require a focus on growing investment and supporting workforce development. Our goal is to grow investment by attracting new businesses to the area, supporting existing local businesses and attracting and developing workforce talent.



Sustainable Infrastructure



Strategic Goal: Provide resilient infrastructure that addresses the needs of our growing community.

Objectives:

Plan for and create transportation infrastructure that improves the connectivity and accessibility of roads, tourism routes, multi-use trails and active transportation networks.

- Received a \$100,000 Provincial Connect2 Grant to support an active transportation connection from Highway 214 to Kiln Creek.
- Council continued to support development of the former Dominion Atlantic Railway (DAR) line, a trail extending from South Maitland to Stanley.
- Completed installation of new streetlights in Mount Uniacke.
- Continued design work for the intersection of Highway 1 and James Boyle Drive in Mount Uniacke.

Build infrastructure that positions the municipality to provide accessible and sustainable services while accommodating growth.

- Advanced the Brookside Wastewater Revitalization project that includes: lift station upgrades, permanent backup generator installations, and new sanitary, storm, and sewer infrastructure in Lantz.
- Completed design and began construction of the Wastewater Collection Upgrade in Lantz.
- Secured easements for the next phase of the Highway 214 Wastewater Forcemain project.
- Began the Sludge Management Program at the Lantz Wastewater Lagoon.
- Completed the Shubenacadie Water Treatment Plant Backwash Storage System project.
- Addition of new water well in Shubenacadie.

Invest in energy initiatives that support the sustainability of our organization and the community we serve.

- The Municipality's Water Supply and On-Site Sewage Disposal System Upgrade Lending Program (Well and Septic Loan Program) assisted 12 residents in upgrading septic systems and six residents in improving private wells.
- Partnered with Efficiency Nova Scotia's Roving Municipal Energy Manager (RMEM) program to conduct energy audits of key facilities and infrastructure and identify opportunities to reduce operating costs and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Completed an inventory of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from municipal operations and the community to create a baseline for measuring future emissions reductions from energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy projects.

Identification of future water sources and related master planning for the East Hants Water Utility.

- Initiated the Grand Lake Water Withdrawal Study to evaluate sustainable water supply options, treatment needs, water quality, and regulatory requirements.

Integrate a Corporate Asset Management Program to guide planning and decision making, risk management and funding for the built and natural infrastructure needs of the community.

- Finalized asset inventories for linear water and wastewater infrastructure, including asset age and forecasted replacement timelines.
- Asset Data Summer Student collected over 4,000 high-accuracy GPS points for water valves, sewer manholes, and service points.
- Supported the setup of digital field data collection processes for water line repairs and lift station inspections.
- Presented on asset management in East Hants at the Atlantic Infrastructure Management Conference and the Municipal Public Works Association of Nova Scotia Conference.

Plan for the future use of key municipal land holdings throughout the Municipality.

- Council acquired approximately 34 acres of land for long-term municipal needs.
- Project planning started for the next phase of the Elmsdale Business Park.
- Council extended the Memorandum of Understanding with the Lantz Volunteer Fire Department to explore mix use development at the former Lantz school site.
- Council acquired close to 3 acres of land around Burntcoat Head Park to enhance tourism land holdings in January 2026.



Corporate Excellence

Strategic Goal: Provide value to the community by continuously improving our governance, the way we do business, honouring our values and supporting one another.



Objectives:

Identify opportunities to improve service delivery.

- Continued expanding online building permit services, making it easier for residents and businesses to complete permit applications online.
- Implemented a new agreement that provides the Municipality with expanded access to GIS mapping software, tools, and licenses, enhancing staff's ability to create, analyze, and manage spatial data across departments.
- Launched an automated process for our internal Procurement Verification process, tying in with our records management system.
- Created an internal Communications Support Request Form that made it easier to submit requests and ensured all necessary information was provided upfront.
- A Council chamber conference system was installed for more effective meetings.

Maintain a high level of uninterrupted service for internal and external customers through succession planning, process documentation, recruitment, development and retention of a diverse, high performing workforce.

- Successfully recruited and transitioned 7 roles due to employee leaves, with 2 internal term hires and 5 external term hires.
- Successfully recruited and transitioned 2 roles due to internal promotions, and 2 roles due to internal transfers. Two roles were filled with internal employee hires, and 2 roles were filled with external hires.

Advance the goals of Equitable East Hants Plan through service delivery, policy review and training and education.

- Our Internal Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee developed an action plan to support the implementation of the objectives outlined in the Equitable East Hants Plan.

Advance the goals of the Accessibility Plan by improving the accessibility of municipal information, facilities, programs and services.

- The East Hants Outdoor Fun Map now includes information on accessibility features at parks, playgrounds and trails.

- We continue to offer the Municipal Tax Assistance Program and the RecAccess Program
- Inclusive and sensory-friendly programming was offered at recreation facilities.

Enhancements to the financial framework that supports the long-term sustainability of the Municipality.

- Filed an application with NS Regulatory Appeals Board to change the East Hants Water Utility rates effective April 1, 2026. The request was approved by the NSRAB and sets rates for the next three years.

Proactively manage organizational risk through tools and education of staff and Council.

- Presented an Incident Reporting and Claim process training session for I&O staff
- Began a review of incident risk and exposure to identify gaps in onboarding, document management, and records storage.
- Incident management was a key focus this year, resulting in an update to our incident management response tools and improvement of our major incident record-keeping.
- A staff member chaired the NSFM Municipal Insurance Committee, which monitors and supports the insurance program used by many municipal entities.
- Council participated in a familiarization tour of key municipal infrastructure and assets.
- Council participated in Conflict of Interest training in 2025.

Manage the evolution of solid waste service delivery.

- The key focus of our Solid Waste Program this year was the transition in December 31, 2025 to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). EPR makes those who produce and sell packaging and paper responsible for the recycling of those items, both financially and operationally. Our community transitioned to this new program well, with an additional 60 tonnes recycled within the first four months.



Strong Community

Strategic Goal: Provide services, programs and facilities, through direct service delivery and collaboration with others, that allow people and businesses to thrive.



Objectives:

Facilitate and advocate for the creation of community infrastructure and opportunities/ services that lead to a healthy, active and engaged community for all.

- Received a \$150,000 Provincial Recreation Facility Capital Grant to support the development of Kiln Creek Park.
- Received a \$100,000 Provincial Rink Revitalization Grant to support the East Hants Sportsplex roof replacement project.
- Council recieved a feasibility report on a splash pad in Mount Uniacke.
- Council supported the new East Hants Farmers Market cooperative to host three pop-up markets at the Sportsplex.

Support tourism, heritage, sport, social recreation and the arts, enriching the quality of life for residents and attracting visitors.

- Launched Roller Skate Disco Night, which quickly became a popular community event, supporting local recreation and social engagement.
- Held community engagement sessions as part of the Recreation Facilities Master Plan, providing opportunities for residents to share feedback and help inform future recreation planning.
- Provided grants to not-for-profit tourism operators and community-based organizations supporting tourism attractions and facilities.
- Hosted Minister Timothy Halman at the Walton Lighthouse to highlight the 2024 lighthouse relocation project.
- Hosted a Volunteer Fair to support volunteer recruitment for local community organizations.

Enable the growth of the affordable housing stock in East Hants.

- Council approved a Municipal Housing Strategy in October 2025.
- To support affordable housing and the Housing Accelerator Fund, East Hants is waiving building permit fees for accessory dwelling units (ADU's) until the end of 2026. ADU's provide flexible housing for family members or rental opportunity.
- Council made changes to the Land Use Bylaw to facilitate the construction of ADU's.

Support and deliver programs that enhance the pride of place felt by members of our community.

- Presented a Key to the Municipality to Wyatt Sanford in recognition of his achievements, including winning a bronze medal in boxing at the 2024 Summer Olympics.
- Supported the East Hants Wellness Expo, held in partnership with Nova Scotia Health at the East Hants Sportsplex.
- Hosted the annual Explore Your Own Back Yard event at Burntcoat Head Park, encouraging residents and visitors to discover local attractions and experiences.
- Celebrated Wetland Appreciation Day at the Fundy Tidal Interpretive Centre in collaboration with Ducks Unlimited, promoting awareness of local wetlands and their environmental importance.

Ensure the East Hants Official Community Plan is effective in managing growth and change in the community, reducing land use conflict and protecting both natural resources and community character.

- Advanced municipal planning for future growth and development through a comprehensive review of planning documents supported by public engagement and research, resulting in approvals of the Mount Uniacke and Lantz Secondary Planning Strategies.

Strengthen infrastructure resilience and align Emergency Management Operations planning with new provincial mandates to improve community preparedness.

- Organized a community event during Emergency Management Week to promote emergency preparedness, bringing together emergency response partners, local fire departments, and Sipekne'katik Emergency Management.
- Discussions are underway about East Hants joining the Colchester, Truro and Stewiacke Regional Emergency Management Organization in 2026.
- Supported further stormwater upgrades to safeguard the Aquatic Centre from future flooding.

Support the long-term planning of the East Hants Fire Service and policing services.

- Staff participated in quarterly meetings of the East Hants Fire Service Association Chiefs.
- Council provided each of the six rural departments with \$100,000 grants to support the purchase of new equipment. Maitland and Kennetcook were provided the grants in 2025/2026; with Noel and Gore in 2024/2025 and more will continue in 2026 and 2027.
- Council supported the Fire Training Facility in Elmsdale with a \$20,000 grant for painting of the facility.
- Council established the following policing priorities as part of its Annual Performance Plan: road safety, community engagement, proactive criminal and drug enforcement, and improved data to support decision-making.
- East Hants has supported our Police and Fire services as the Province conducts their comprehensive Police and Fire Service reviews. This work is ongoing.

Strong Community Continued

Strategic Goal: Provide services, programs and facilities, through direct service delivery and collaboration with others, that allow people and businesses to thrive.



Objectives:

Develop a flood mitigation strategy for East Hants Growth Management Areas.

- The Paley Brook Flood Mitigation Study was finalized and presented to Council, while the Barney Brook Flood Mitigation Study was awarded and substantially completed. Together, these studies identify flood risk areas and provide recommendations for mitigation measures on public lands and within public spaces.

Create a Climate Action Plan for more resilient communities (prevention, adaptation and mitigation).

- Advanced a community-wide conversation as part of the Municipal Climate Change Action Plan Update on actions to protect people, property, and special places from extreme weather and climate change impacts.
- Participated in Clean Foundation's Community Climate Capacity Program Community of Practice, the Community Climate Capacity Summit, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Climate Ready Plans and Processes Community of Practice to support ongoing climate planning and capacity building.



Economic Prosperity

Strategic Goal: To grow investment by attracting new businesses to the area, supporting existing local businesses and attracting and developing workforce talent.



Objectives:

Attract, retain and support businesses, workforce and commercial investment.

- Attracted the Mass Timber Company to the Elmsdale Business Park, securing a \$215 million investment in a 170,000+ sq. ft. manufacturing facility that will create long-term jobs and strengthen Canada's mass timber and advanced construction sectors.
- Worked with over 56 prospective businesses looking to locate into East Hants.
- Staff supported 77 local businesses with business challenges or opportunities.
- Completed 18 Marketing and Advertising Campaigns focused on attracting business and investment into East Hants and supporting local businesses with access to programs, resources and support.
- Provided guidance and business planning support to 8 entrepreneurs, contributing to the successful launch of 3 new businesses in 2025.
- Hosted a Business Breakfast for the East Hants business community, where the Warden and Chief Administrative Officer shared updates on the municipal budget, Council priorities, and other municipal initiatives while connecting with local business leaders.

Plan for and develop future commercial, industrial and business park land.

- Completed conceptual planning for Phase 7 of the Elmsdale Business Park and initiated preliminary site work.

Explore investments in local and regional transit that support accessibility, workforce and investment attraction and connecting people to essential services.

- Council reviewed financial options for project implementation and directed staff to undertake public engagement across the Municipality to gather input on a proposed public transit service, to be completed in 2026-2027.

Ensure the East Hants Official Community Plan is effective in managing the transformation of the community in relation to commercial and residential growth.

- Finalized secondary planning strategies for the fast-growing communities of Mount Uniacke and Lantz to guide future growth, land use, development, and future service needs, providing a framework for how these communities may evolve over time.

Promote and grow commercial districts (village core, mixed-use zones, etc.)

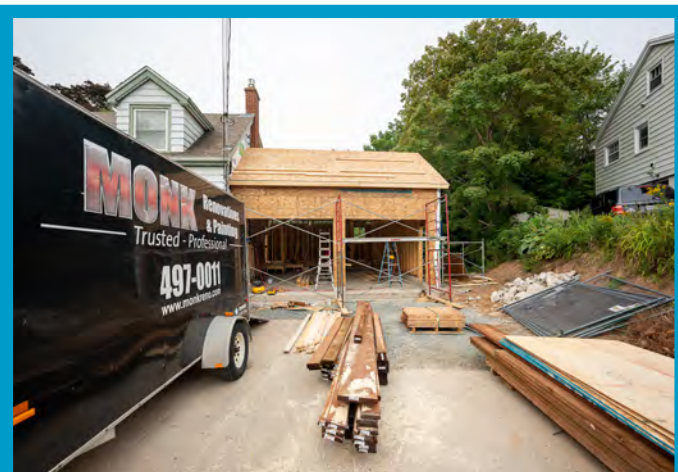
- Completed the first annual Business Climate Survey in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce to gather feedback from local businesses.
- To encourage commercial development and much-needed rental housing in village centres, Municipal Council approved amendments to the East Hants Official Community Plan in June 2025, allowing up to 16 as-of-right dwelling units when combined with commercial development.

Build resilient communities through the encouragement of social and public infrastructure (education, health and community services).

- Council leased additional space in the Lloyd E. Matheson Centre to Nova Scotia Health services.
- Continue to promote and provide market information to government and community services to advance local opportunities.

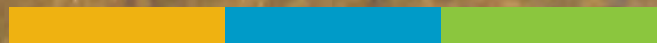
Support local businesses in the tourism industry grow their products, services and experiences.

- Hosted a tourism networking and development event in the Fundy Shore Region to promote industry connections and growth.





Municipal Operations



Infrastructure & Operations

Water & Wastewater

The East Hants Water Utility services customers in the Regional System (Lantz, Elmsdale and Enfield) and Shubenacadie. The Municipality also operates three wastewater treatment plants, serving the communities of Shubenacadie, Milford, Lantz, Elmsdale and Enfield.

Lead Sampling Program

In 2025/2026 14 water samples were collected from the Regional Water System and 8 from Shubenacadie. All samples were below the maximum acceptable concentration amounts for lead and copper, as outlined by Health Canada for drinking water.



1.2 billion litres of drinking water



1.8 billion litres of wastewater treated

Waste Management Centre

The Waste Management Centre (WMC) is open six days a week and welcomed over 14,000 residential vehicles in 2025/2026 (1300 more than the previous year) to dispose of garbage, recycling and organics.

The WMC managed 2,005 tonnes of organics this year. The majority of the material comes from our curbside green cart program. The material was then transported from the WMC to the GFL Cumberland composting facility.



2,000+ tonnes of organics

Recycling is collected curbside and transferred from the WMC by 53' transport trailers to the Municipality of Colchester's processing facility in Kemptown. Due to changes in Extended Producer Responsibility regulations for the blue bag program, East Hants material was moved to the Halifax processing facility in January 2026. This year over 1,070 tonnes were managed alongside 437 tonnes of recycled metal, which is sold to help offset operational costs.



1,000+ tonnes of recycling

Similar to recycling, our waste is collected curbside and taken to the WMC where it is transported to the West Hants 2nd generation landfill owned/operated by GFL. Only construction and demolition debris is permitted to be disposed of at the WMC, of which we managed 2565 tonnes in 2025/2026.



2,500+ tonnes of construction debris

Solid Waste Program

East Hants remains a strong leader in waste diversion, thanks to the ongoing efforts of both our solid waste team and our community. Each year, we share helpful tips and resources to make waste sorting and curbside collection easier for everyone. When we all do our part to recycle and compost, it adds up to a cleaner, greener East Hants—for today and for the future.

The Province's transition to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for printed and paper packaging as of December 2025 increased options for inclusion to the recycling system. Additionally, municipalities had the option to provide the services for collection and transportation under contract, or opt-out and allow the industry-led organization, Circular Materials to do so. East Hants opted to enter into a contract with Circular Materials to ensure a consistent and responsive system remained. Residents have responded positively to the changes with more than 60 tonnes of additional material processed in the first 4-months, compared with the same time the year prior.

In 2025, the Solid Waste team shared educational materials and hosted community events like the Household Hazardous Waste drop-off, Paper Shred Day, and the annual compost giveaway. Additionally, staff ensured 37 illegal dumpsites were cleaned-up, which included the removal of household waste and construction debris from properties across East Hants.

Education & Outreach in the Community

In 2025, the Solid Waste team focused on community education and outreach to promote responsible waste practices. Efforts included 12 exit ramp litter clean-up challenges, school presentations for Grades 5–8, and community talks at seniors' workshops and Futureworx events. The team also hosted the annual compost giveaway, and set up educational booths at local grocery stores. More than 40% of households use Waste Wizard reminders, and residents searched the “What Goes Where” tool 24,300 times in 2025/2026.



Planning & Development

In January 2026, Council initiated the 2026/2027 review of the East Hants Official Community Plan, building on key planning studies completed in the previous fiscal year, including the Housing Strategy, the Uniacke Secondary Planning Strategy, and the Lantz North Secondary Planning Strategy. As part of the review process, Council also launched two additional studies: the Uniacke Water and Wastewater Feasibility Study and the Enfield Secondary Planning Strategy.

During 2025/2026, Council continued to strengthen development and infrastructure planning by approving amendments to the Subdivision Bylaw requiring stormwater management plans for developments that include tentative subdivision plans. Council also supported housing growth and economic development through the redesignation and rezoning of land in Lantz to permit townhouse development aimed at improving housing access for employees of the Shaw Brick plant.

Community Building by the Numbers

- 312 new dwelling units created.
- 101 final plans of subdivisions approved, creating 273 new lots.
- 258 civic addresses issued as part of the building permit process for new development, vacant or existing lots with secondary units. Civic addresses can also be issued to landowners with vacant land/ campers in the un-zoned area for emergency services purposes.
- 14 new road listings (6 new municipal, 8 new private roads/ named driveways, 1 extension of a private road, 2 extensions of municipal roads).
- During the reporting period, 22 planning applications were received. A total of 12 applications were approved, three were refused, and nine remained in progress as of March 31, 2026.

Building & Fire Inspection

- 490 Building & Development Permits issued, totaling \$120,052,559 in estimated construction value.
- 2,126 Building Inspections completed.
- 242 Fire Inspections.

Municipal Housing Strategy

In October 2025, East Hants Council approved a new municipal housing strategy. The strategy was developed over the previous year by a working group that included representatives from the development industry, non-profit housing organizations, the East Hants Chamber of Commerce, Municipal Council, and the public.

The intent of the strategy is to better understand housing trends and needs in East Hants and identify priority strategies. From those 16 priority strategies, short, medium and long-term actions were identified that can be taken to enable additional housing to be built. Monitoring and reporting mechanisms are also outlined in the Strategy. In total, 30 Action Items were identified.

Priority Strategies

- Increase opportunities for special care housing.
- Provide more options for people to live in the rural areas of East Hants.
- Investigate how the location of housing can take advantage of a new transit service.
- Increasing the use of manufactured housing.
- Review lot size requirements to determine if smaller lot sizes are possible.
- Increasing density in the Village Core (VC) Zone.
- Options for bonus and inclusionary zoning.
- Take action to create more opportunities to build accessory dwelling units through a review of municipal regulations.
- Advocate for federal & provincial government action regarding housing.
- Utilize surplus property for affordable housing.
- Take action to create a tax relief program for non-profit organizations that provide housing in East Hants.
- Provide incentives to reduce energy poverty.
- Investigate a discounted fare program for a future transit service.
- Address homelessness through advocacy to senior levels of government and review of municipal regulations.
- Attract non-market housing development to East Hants.
- Build Capacity within the Municipality and Community to address housing needs.

Parks, Recreation & Culture



Parks

The Municipality maintains an inventory of parks each year that includes 13 playground parks, 2 tourism locations, 2 skate parks, 5 water access points, 40 acres of park land and 5000 meters of walkways and trails.

Activities of note in 2025/2026 include:

- Completed Kiln Creek Park that includes an accessible playground, asphalt walkways, a basketball court and 2 pickleball courts.
- Constructed Paley Brook Community Park with a playground and greenspace.
- Completed the Walton Water Access providing boat or water access for the community.
- Completed ongoing playground inspections, repairs and maintenance (including the recently acquired park in Belnan with the transfer of land ownership from the Province).
- Continued to work on Active Transportation connectivity with the initial development of an AT connector from Highway 214 to the Nine Mile River with plans for completion in 2026/2027, future connection will lead up to Kiln Creek and through Lantz.

Open Space

In 2025/2026, the Municipality continued to enhance local open space parcels through developer contributions and land acquisitions. A total of \$56,000 was collected from new developments, which will be used for future parks, playgrounds and trail development. The Municipality purchased 34.4 acres of land in Enfield for future recreational requirements.

Buildings

Renovations at the Fundy Tidal Interpretive Centre included new vanities and sinks in the washrooms, new epoxy floors throughout the building and a new front step leading in the main entrance.



Aquatics

The East Hants Aquatic Centre continues to be a valuable regional facility in the Province, hosting open swims daily and delivering high quality learn to swim and leadership programming to the community.

Staffing levels are at an all time high and key partnerships remain strong with the Kids Action Program, East Hants Youth Links, the East Hants Stingrays and the East Hants Family Resource Centre.

- Close to 400 grade 3 students from 10 different schools attended Swim to Survive, teaching elementary school children basic swimming and water safety skills.
- 2,400 annual enrollment for swimming lesson programming.
- Our Aquatic Leadership programming had 159 registrants. Due to the number of certifications issued, the Aquatic Centre was issued a Year-Round Affiliate Member with the largest lifesaving program in their region.
- 250 annual membership holders.
- Five new aquafit classes were added, offering options for seniors and general fitness.

East Hants Sportsplex

In May 2024, the Municipality officially took over day-to-day management of the East Hants Sportsplex, marking a new chapter in the facility's operation. Since then, the Municipality has continued to make improvements to the service delivery at the complex. New drop-in programs including shinny hockey, softball, fitness classes and senior-focused activities, as well as free turf times and free public skates increasing community access to recreational opportunities.

The Municipality hosted three Roller Skate Music Nights, targeted towards families, teens and adults on the Keith Miller Arena dry pad over the summer and purchased 66 pairs of roller skates and helmets for rentals funded by the Provincial Active Community Fund. The Sportsplex welcomed approximately 600 visitors each day during Tide Fest in July and became the home rink for the East Hants Senior Penguins, a team in the province's new Senior A Hockey League.

Other major events:

- Ettinger-Smith Hockey Tournament
- SEDMHA Tournament (Shearwater East Dartmouth Minor Hockey Association)
- U7 Hockey Jamboree
- Senior A League games
- Tide Fest
- East Hants Farmers Market
- Triveeni Festival
- Don McCooyeye - Easter Event
- Ritchie Gilby Memorial Car Show



Community Recreation

Community Recreation continued to expand programming across the Municipality in 2025, introducing new outdoor recreation opportunities, guided hikes, arts and crafts, and additional sports opportunities. As East Hants continues to grow, the Municipality remains committed to expanding recreation opportunities that support active, connected communities.

- Purchased 12 new inclusive Skating Aids funded through the Provincial Active Communities Fund.
- Learn to Skate program put through over 200 grade 2 students from schools across East Hants. Skating equipment was loaned to those who did not have skates and/or helmets. Took place at the East Hants Sportsplex and Sackville arena.
- A variety of fitness classes were offered each week, including new Pilates classes introduced this year.
- Drop-in activities at the Sportsplex included: Golf Driving Range, Co-ed Hockey Shinny, Co-ed Softball, Child & Youth Stick & Puck, Pickleball, Open Gym.

Program Partnerships:

- Run & Tumble – East Hants Family Resource Centre.
- Walk & Roll – Colchester East Hants Senior Clinic.
- Wellness Walks: Northern Zone Mobile Health & Wellness Team.

Community Recreation programs saw strong participation throughout 2025. In-Service Day Camps and the March Break Splash Camp reached full capacity, while free Open Gym sessions in Rawdon and Mount Uniacke provided accessible recreation opportunities for families year-round.

Active living programs remained popular, with strong participation in weekly Drop-In Pickleball across the Municipality. The Corridor program welcomed up to 30 participants weekly, while rural programs in Mount Uniacke and Hants North continued to grow. Intro to Pickleball programs reached capacity and generated waitlists in both communities.

Youth sport programs, including All Sorts of Sports and Ball Hockey, maintained steady enrollment across Mount Uniacke, Hants North, and the Corridor. Monthly Senior Socials at the East Hants Aquatic Centre attracted 15–30 participants per session, supporting active, healthy, and connected communities.

Funding was secured through the CCRCE Health Promoting Schools – Community Use of Schools Fund, with allocations of \$2,000 each for Corridor and Mount Uniacke projects. In addition, the Municipality received \$150,000 through the Provincial Recreation Facility Capital Grant to support the development of Kiln Creek Park.



Community Development

In 2026, the Municipality hosted a Community Halls Connect event for volunteers who operate and maintain local facilities. The event drew volunteers from across the region to discuss project planning, funding, and available resources including a representative from the Province and lots of time for sharing ideas.

East Hants also collaborated with the Community Health Board and the Fundy Region of Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism & Heritage to host Funding Forward at the Milford Recreation Centre – an evening of grant funding opportunities for all types of community groups and volunteers with multiple presenters and lots of information sharing and networking.

Volunteer Awards

Each year, East Hants recognizes and celebrates very important resources in our communities – volunteers. They have voluntarily chosen to undertake a service or duty, making a difference for our communities. Whether it is providing a beautiful community to live in, keeping our culture and history alive, providing safety and protection or helping a friend or neighbour, they have made a difference.

The East Hants Volunteer Awards Dinner took place on May 2, 2025, at the Noel & District Fire Hall. 18 volunteers were recognized.

Model Volunteer of the Year

The Model Volunteer Award is presented to an individual who exemplifies extraordinary caring and commitment through volunteering their time and expertise on several projects to help make their community a better place in which to live. The award is based on the evaluation of the overall impact their contributions have had on their community. The 2025 Recipient was Katie Hines.





The 2025 Volunteer Award recipients (pictured above, back row to front row, left to right) were: Terry Isenor, Trevor Hebb, Joel Rines, Jim Bond, Ralph Wardrope, Lee Roulston, Arden Fillmore, Steve White, Nicole Smith, Elaine Singer, Valda Bardell, Elizabeth Hill, Katie Hines, Glenda Blackburn, Marjorie Thompson, Joyce Custance, Patricia Whidden, Becky Neil, Julie Ettinger



Hands-on Help

Our Community Development Coordinator is always happy to connect with groups to help them reach their goals. From one-on-one phone calls to attending a board meeting, community groups can count East Hants to meet them where they are to help get them to where they want to be!

Tourism

Tourism in East Hants stimulates economic activity, creates local jobs and builds community pride. East Hants welcomes thousands of visitors each year for many different reasons – to enjoy sports and adventure, explore natural attractions, experience the world’s highest tides, visit friends and family, and more.

The Municipality administers the Tourism Grant program to support volunteer-run, not-for-profit tourism attractions. In 2025, grants helped fund the Walton Lighthouse, Lower Selma Museum, East Hants Tide Fest, and the Shubenacadie Tinsmith Museum, covering staffing, site improvements, maintenance, events, and other operating costs.

Two sites owned and directly operated by the Municipality, Burntcoat Head Park and the Fundy Tidal Interpretive Centre, welcomed over 98,000 visitors in 2025. Both sites saw growth, especially from welcoming cruise ship passengers on bus tour excursions. These sites create a stopping point for visitors, and employment opportunities for local residents.

Burntcoat Head Park is home to a delicate ocean floor ecosystem, and staff onsite provide guided tours to help visitors learn more about the ecology and history of the area. In 2025, through the Federal Habitat Stewardship Program, East Hants received \$19,000 from Fisheries and Oceans Canada to support eco-tourism and protect habitat for the Atlantic Mud-Piddock.



East Hants operates a designated Community Visitor Information Centre at the Fundy Tidal Interpretive Centre in South Maitland. In 2025, the site welcomed more than 17,000 visitors, with up to 200 people attending the free daily tidal bore interpretive talk during peak season. The Municipality also received \$10,650 from the Nova Scotia Government to support visitor information services.

Growing our tourism industry through events

Events are an important part of why people visit East Hants. In 2025, Tourism Grant funding helped East Hants Tide Fest, and events were also hosted at Municipal sites to help create pride of place for residents and give visitors more to do in the area.

Burntcoat Head Park proudly hosts a world-class fine dining experience, Dining on the Ocean Floor. This bucket-list adventure took place on 8 separate dates in 2025, with local vendors coming together to host visitors from around the world.

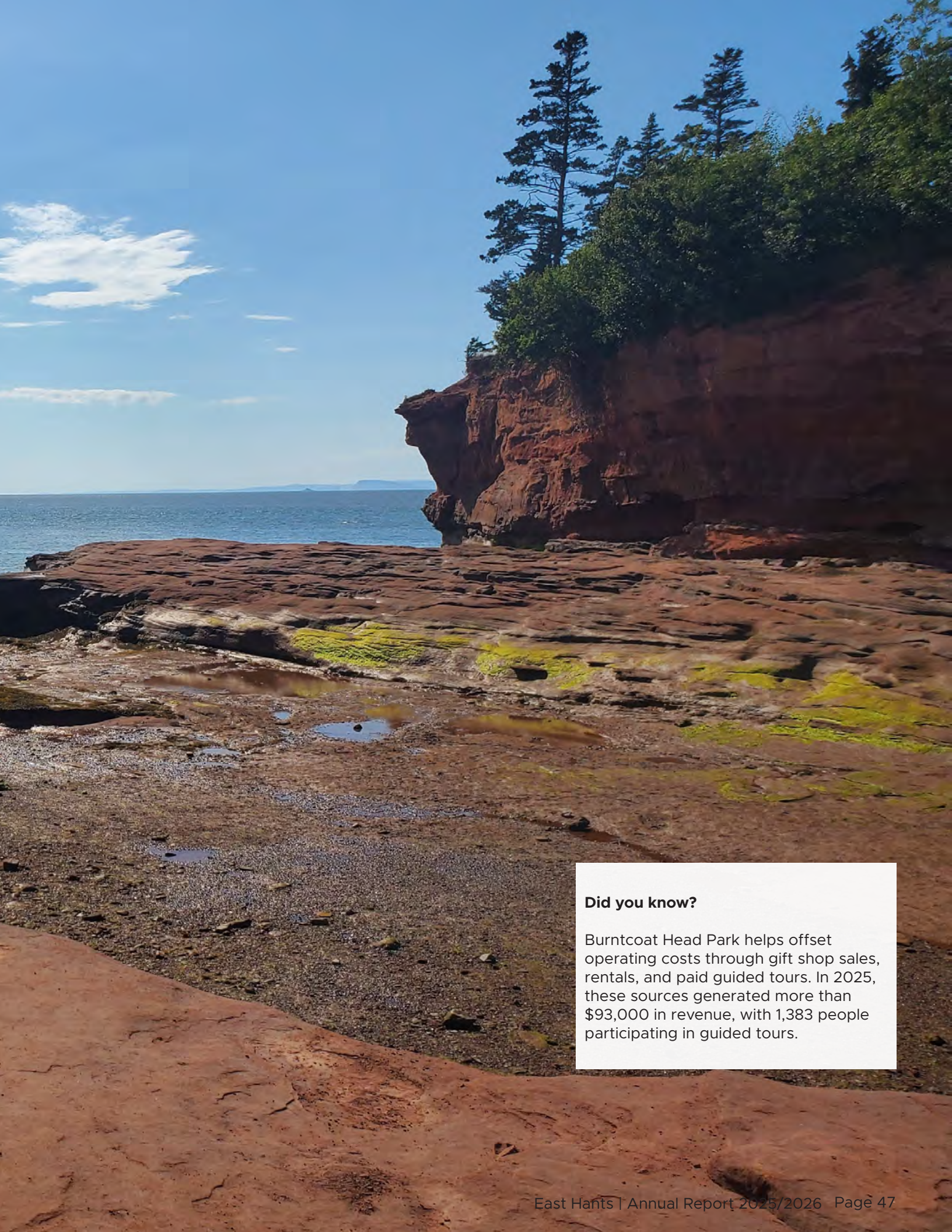
Explore Your Own Backyard was hosted in September at Burntcoat Head Park, with over 600 attendees.

At the Fundy Tidal Interpretive Centre, an annual Wetland Appreciation Day invited locals and visitors to learn more about the significant wetland ecosystem onsite.

East Hants also hosted an annual tourism networking event for local tourism businesses and volunteers, building stronger connections with municipal staff, businesses, and Tourism Nova Scotia.

- Over 40 bus tour excursions were hosted in the past year at Burntcoat and Fundy Tidal Interpretive Centre.
- More than 1 in every 3 visitors came from outside Canada, with international visitors accounting for roughly 37% of all recorded guests.
- Visitors were recorded from every province and territory of Canada.
- Germany was the most common overseas country represented our guestbooks – visitors came from all corners of the globe, including Luxembourg, Slovenia, and Cape Verde.
- Visitors came from every continent except Antarctica!

*Facts from data recorded in the guestbooks at Burntcoat Head Park & the Fundy Tidal Interpretive Centre, May-October 2025.



Did you know?

Burntcoat Head Park helps offset operating costs through gift shop sales, rentals, and paid guided tours. In 2025, these sources generated more than \$93,000 in revenue, with 1,383 people participating in guided tours.

Public Safety



Emergency Management Operations

Emergency Management Operations (EMO) in East Hants is coordinated by the EMO Planning Committee, with representatives from the Municipality, Canadian Red Cross, East Hants Fire Service, RCMP, Community Services, Chignecto Central Regional Centre for Education, Nova Scotia Public Works, East Hants Ground Search & Rescue, Natural Resources & Renewables, and EMO Nova Scotia. The committee meets quarterly to review recent events, address concerns, and evaluate the Emergency Management Plan.

In 2025, the Municipality continued to strengthen emergency preparedness, community safety programming, and partnerships with response agencies. Efforts this year focused on increasing public awareness, and improving emergency response coordination.

In response to prolonged drought conditions in 2025, the Municipality worked with the Province of Nova Scotia and local partners to support residents affected by water shortages and service disruptions. Efforts included distributing bottled water, coordinating access to bulk water from the East Hants Aquatic Centre, sharing public information and preparedness messaging, and monitoring conditions throughout the season to help ensure reliable access to safe drinking water.

The Municipality also expanded its community outreach and public education initiatives by hosting three Senior Safety events focused on emergency preparedness, fraud prevention, fire safety, and personal well-being for older adults. In addition, East Hants hosted a Community Safety Day at the East Hants Sportsplex, bringing together emergency responders, community organizations, and residents for demonstrations, educational activities, and safety awareness programming.

East Hants continues to participate in regional emergency preparedness and training opportunities to strengthen local readiness and coordination with partner agencies during emergency events. Discussions are underway to see East Hants join our Colchester, Truro and Stewiacke partners in a Regional Emergency Management Organization.

Municipal Compliance & Animal Control

Dog Control Services returned to an in-house municipal model following the SPCA agreement's conclusion on March 31, 2026. The Municipality secured kenneling services, purchased a dedicated transport vehicle, acquired additional operational and safety equipment, and expanded staffing to include after-hours coverage and a call service.

In 2025, 340 dog tags and 2 kennel licenses were issued, with approximately 10% of dogs registered in East Hants. The Municipality also transitioned from annual tags to lifetime tags effective January 1, 2026.

During the reporting period for Municipal Bylaw Compliance, 123 complaints were investigated, 83 cases were closed, and 40 remain active. Additional reporting includes 94 dog control complaints investigated by the SPCA (calendar year), 28 online complaints received, and 5 after-hours calls, none requiring immediate action.

East Hants Fire Service

Residents of East Hants receive fire and emergency response from the 13 volunteer departments that make up the East Hants Fire Service Association (EHFSA), an independent association that collaborates with the Municipality. These departments responded to approximately 2,300 calls in 2025/2026.

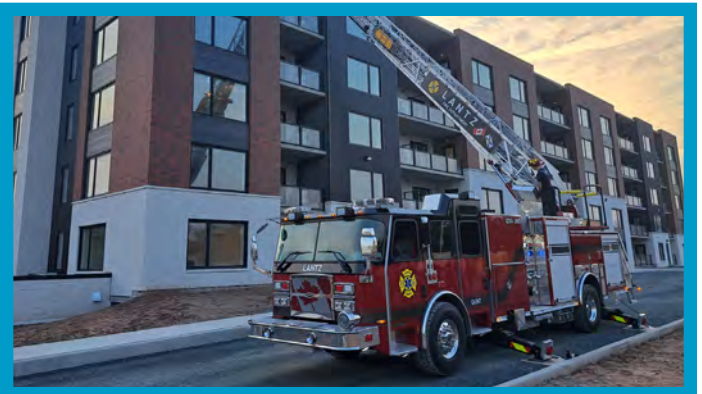
The Municipality supports all departments through risk management with a dedicated advisor and provides independent bookkeeping services to 11 of the 13 departments. We are participating in the Provincial Fire Service review in order to support our departments to be ready for new Provincial regulations being proposed.

All volunteer fire departments must meet East Hants' annual registration requirements, be registered with the Registry of Joint Stock Companies, and adhere to the Municipal Financial Guidelines for Volunteer Fire Departments.

Fire Fighter Long Service Awards

The Municipality recognizes those firefighters that have achieved 10 or 15 years of service with a municipal service medal. Fire Chiefs may also nominate a member of their department for a Canadian Volunteer Fire Service Association Municipal Long Service Award medal for 30, 50 and 60 years of service, with long-service bars awarded for 35, 40, 45, and 55 years of service. Thank you to all recipients for your service and all you do for our communities.

- Burten Friesan - Noel District Volunteer Fire Dept - 10 Years
- Phil Hadley - Noel District Volunteer Fire Dept - 10 Years
- Glenn Haflpenny - Uniacke & District Volunteer Fire Dept - 10 Years
- Ryan Nackeab - Uniacke & District Volunteer Fire Dept - 10 Years
- Ryan Maclean - Elmsdale Fire and Emergency Services - 10 Years
- Walter Penner - Noel District Volunteer Fire Dept - 15 Years
- Rod MacLeod - Milford & District Volunteer Fire Dept - 15 Years
- Jeff Bond - Rawdon District Volunteer Fire Dept - 30 Years
- Lee Roulston - Rawdon District Volunteer Fire Dept - 30 Years
- Todd Pepperdine - Enfield Volunteer Fire Dept - 35 Years
- Kevin MacLellan - Milford & District Volunteer Fire Dept - 40 Years
- Leroy Burns - Kennetcook District Fire Dept - 50 Years
- Arden Fillmore - Elmsdale Fire and Emergency Services - 50 Years
- Ralph Wardrobe - Milford & District Volunteer Fire Dept - 50 Years





Fire Services Grants

Each year, the Municipality provides financial support to the 13 fire departments serving our communities. The primary source of funding is operating levies collected through property taxes. For urban departments, levy rates range from \$0.14 (\$0.134 in Uniacke) to \$0.19 per \$100 of assessment. Rural departments, which have a smaller assessment base, are funded at \$0.21 per \$100 of assessment, except Rawdon Fire at \$0.22 per \$100 to support needed infrastructure and equipment. Through the Fire Department Funding Policy, Council also provides annual operating grants to rural departments. In 2025/2026, \$138,274 was distributed to the six rural fire departments: Maitland, Noel, Walton, Gore, Kennetcook, Rawdon and Brooklyn. Funding is summarized below.

Fire Department	Fire Levy Collected & Disbursed	Annual Operating Grant/Support	Total
Enfield	\$897,048		\$897,048
Elmsdale	672,986		672,986
Lantz	513,039		513,039
Milford	207,914		207,914
Shubenacadie	300,112		300,112
Maitland	146,090	23,271	169,361
Noel	159,900	23,784	183,684
Walton	49,396	18,644	68,040
Gore	106,322	21,334	127,656
Kennetcook	118,706	21,977	140,683
Nine Mile River	266,864		266,864
Rawdon	191,915	24,962	216,877
Mount Uniacke	863,373		863,373
Brooklyn	90,335	4,302	94,637
Fire Service Risk Management		17,136	17,136
WCB Premiums		28,667	28,667
Training & Education		21,710	21,710
Training Facility in Noel		21,454	21,454
Rural Fire Capital Fund Grant		100,000	100,000
Total	\$4,584,000	\$327,242	\$4,911,242

Message from the East Hants District RCMP

East Hants District RCMP continues to work closely with residents, community partners, and municipal leaders to support a safe and welcoming community. While policing activity has evolved alongside population growth and changing community needs, our focus remains on prevention, visibility, and addressing concerns early— before they become emergencies. This message provides an overview of our priorities, initiatives, and ongoing efforts to support public safety and well being in East Hants during the 2025/2026 fiscal year.



We would like to thank the residents of East Hants, community partners, and municipal leadership for their continued support. Keeping our communities safe is a shared responsibility, and strong relationships between police and the community play an important role in the work we do every day.

Over the past year, the East Hants District RCMP experienced a 9.2% increase in police occurrences compared to the previous year. These occurrences include calls for service and reportable incidents such as investigations, traffic enforcement, collision responses, and efforts to preserve peace and protect property. They do not include school presentations, community outreach, prevention programs, or many other proactive policing activities. Much of the RCMP's work occurs before issues become emergencies and is therefore not reflected in occurrence statistics. As East Hants continues to grow and remains closely connected to the Halifax Regional Municipality, demand for police services is expected to increase. The East Hants District RCMP remains committed to public safety while working closely with the community it serves

Our policing efforts during the 2025/2026 fiscal year were guided by the East Hants District RCMP Annual Performance Plan (APP). The APP reflects local priorities shaped through engagement with Municipal Council and community feedback. While our core responsibility is always to keep the public safe, the APP helps guide additional focus on areas of importance to East Hants. The 2025/2026 APP priorities were Community Engagement, Road Safety and Proactive Criminal and Drug Enforcement.

Community engagement remains the foundation of effective policing in East Hants. Members strive to be visible and approachable not only when responding to calls, but through everyday interactions, including attending community events and meetings, participating in local initiatives, delivering school and public safety presentations, and conducting preventative patrols. These efforts focus on education, prevention, and relationship building, contributing to long-term community safety.

Many members live in East Hants or nearby communities, and several volunteer their time outside of work with youth teams, community groups, and local organizations. They are part of the community both on and off duty. Members also regularly attend municipal meetings and participate in public forums and town hall style discussions.

These opportunities allow police to listen to concerns, understand local issues, and work with residents and partners to address them in meaningful ways.

Road safety remains a key concern for residents. The East Hants District RCMP is committed to improving road safety through enforcement and education. Members regularly conduct targeted initiatives, including speed enforcement patrols and impaired driving checkpoints, often in partnership with regional traffic enforcement teams. These initiatives help reduce risky driving behaviours while educating the public on the legal, financial, and physical consequences of traffic offences. Road safety education also includes ongoing youth outreach on pedestrian and bicycle safety. In addition, the RCMP continues to work with partner agencies responsible for road design and infrastructure to support long-term safety improvements.

Proactive criminal and drug enforcement is another important priority. Through intelligence led policing, targeted patrols, and collaboration with specialized RCMP units and community partners, members work to identify and disrupt criminal activity and address drug related harm. These proactive efforts are aimed at preventing crime, reducing repeat incidents, and improving overall community well being.

Annual Policing Costs	Amount
RCMP Officer Costs	\$6,146,104
RCMP DNA Case Expenses	23,806
RCMP Prosecution Expenses	13,238
RCMP Shared Services	335,755
RCMP Station (net of rent) Rawdon/Mt Uniacke	35,263
Total	\$6,554,166

This year brought several staffing changes within the East Hants District RCMP, with members transferring both into and out of the detachment. New members take time to learn the community and its unique needs, while also bringing valuable experience and perspectives from previous postings that strengthen the team and support continuous improvement. We were pleased to welcome new members and thank those who transferred to new assignments for their continued service.

We also welcomed a new Police Service Dog, Tess, who joined the team following the well deserved retirement of Police Service Dog, Kane. Kane’s years of dedicated service to public safety are sincerely appreciated, and Tess is already becoming a valued member of the unit as she begins supporting police operations within the community.

The East Hants District RCMP remains committed to analyzing crime and operational data and sharing it with Municipal Council to identify trends, guide decision-making, and support our shared goal of building a safer community. Thank you to the Municipality of East Hants and its residents for your continued support. By working together through strong relationships, prevention, and proactive policing, we will continue building a safe and welcoming East Hants for everyone.

Staff Sergeant
Mike Balmaceda
East Hants District RCMP Commander