



**Subject:** *Familiarization Tour for Council*  
**To:** Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee  
**Date Prepared:** 7/7/2023  
**Related Motions:** N/A  
**Prepared by:** Aurora Douthwright, Tourism & Events Supervisor  
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**Approved by:** Kim Ramsay, CAO

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### Summary

In the 2023/24 budget, there are operating funds set aside to host a familiarization tour for East Hants Council. Staff have put together tentative schedules for two days for these driving tours to take place later this year. Staff are seeking Committee's direction to confirm dates for these tours and the mode of transportation.

### Financial Impact Statement

The budget allocation for this project in the CAO's operating budget is \$1,800. Cost is dependent on mode of transportation and ranges between \$2325.00-\$4642.55.

### Recommendation

That Council provide staff with their preferred alternative.

### Recommended Motion

Based on Council's preferred alternative.

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### Background

Based on discussion with the CAO, the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department created itineraries for familiarization tours of East Hants. The purpose of the tours would be to provide Council and senior leadership with an opportunity to visit a wide variety of Municipal assets as a group, including tours and interpretation of specific sites. The intention is for these to take place at least once during each four-year Council term.

Tours would be split into two separate dates, both running approximately from 8am to 4pm each day:

1. **Corridor & Waste Management Centre:** starting and ending at the Lloyd E Matheson Centre (LEMC), this tour would visit sites from Enfield to Shubenacadie including a selection of active developments, wastewater sites, municipal parks and the Waste Management Centre.
2. **Tourism Sites & Mount Uniacke:** starting and ending at the LEMC, this tour would include visits to the Fundy Tidal Interpretive Centre and Burntcoat Head Park, along with other Municipal sites along Highway 215. From the shore, the tour would drive through Kennetcook and Rawdon toward Mount Uniacke, then back to Elmsdale via Highway 14.

## Discussion

Should Council wish to move forward with these tours, potential dates are as follows:

- Tourism Sites & Mount Uniacke:
  - Friday, September 15, 2023 **OR** Saturday, September 16, 2023
- Corridor & Waste Management Centre:
  - Friday, October 6, 2023 **OR** Saturday, October 7, 2023

### FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Funds to rent transportation for this tour are set aside in the CAO's operating budget. Quotes have been obtained from both Coach Atlantic and East Hants Community Rider. The benefits of using a Coach-style service is that the entire group is together throughout the tour and will be receiving the same information and messaging. Staff are seeking direction on preferred method of transportation; based on budget and the opportunity to support a local service. Quoted amounts include:

COACH ATLANTIC Mini Coach (capacity 21 people)  
\$1,350.00 + HST (15%) + Fuel Surcharge (10%) per day

Total for 2 Days: \$3415.50

COACH ATLANTIC Motor Coach (capacity 56 people)  
\$1,835.00 + HST (15%) + Fuel Surcharge (10%) per day

Total for 2 Days: \$4642.55

COMMUNITY RIDER (capacity 20 people) (3 separate Vans and/or SUVs) - available Fridays or Saturdays only  
\$1,125 East Hants Corridor Day  
\$1,200 Tourism Sites/Mount Uniacke Day

Total for 2 Days: \$2325.00

If Council does not wish to proceed with a tour this fall, consideration could be given to deferring a familiarization tour until the next Council term following the October 2024 election, to not pursue a tour at this time or to direct staff to create a virtual tour that could be used to familiarize Council, staff and the public with the various municipal assets, services, key partners and developments.

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## Alternatives

1. That Council direct staff to book the tours for the fall of 2023 with a preferred mode of transportation.
2. That Council direct staff to seek alternate dates for potential familiarization tours.
3. That Council move not to proceed with planning a familiarization tour at this time.
4. That Council budget funds for a tour to occur for the new Council in October 2024.
5. That Council direct staff to create a virtual tour that would be accessible to Council, staff and the public.

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## Attachments

Draft FAM Tour Itinerary