



Come Home East Hants Association
ehtidefest@gmail.com
www.tidefest.ca

April 10, 2025

Municipality of East Hants

15 Commerce Court
Elmsdale, NS B2S 3K5

RE: Request for Municipal Support

Dear Members of the Council,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to follow up on our previous request for municipal support for Tide Fest, The Come Home East Hants Society and to respectfully ask for your reconsideration of our inquiry. While we were grateful for the initial review, we believe there is significant merit in our project that provides substantial benefits to our community.

We must address a critical change that has significantly impacted our ability to host the festival this year. Since the Municipality assumed ownership of the Sportsplex, the cost to rent the space has increased by approximately 450% over last year. While we understand that operational costs and policies evolve with new management, this dramatic rise is proving to be a substantial barrier—not only to this year's event but to the long-term sustainability of the festival. Without financial support or reconsideration of venue pricing for community focused, volunteer, non-profit initiatives, this year may very well be the final chapter for a festival that has otherwise shown remarkable potential and community impact.

Tide Fest is not just a celebration of music but a dynamic, inclusive event designed to bring people together from all areas of the community and those who come home from far and wide to gather together. It will feature a wide range of events, from local talent to larger acts, family events, washer toss tournament, hockey program, makers market, and many other features. The festival will take place on the traditional second weekend in July, from the 11th to the 13th in 2025 and will be held at the East Hants Sportsplex, an ideal venue for fostering community engagement and pride.

This event stands as a powerful opportunity for several key community outcomes:

- **Cultural Enrichment:** The festival will provide an accessible platform for local artists and musicians, allowing them to showcase their talents and gain exposure.
- **Economic Impact:** By attracting attendees from both within and outside the municipality, the festival will drive foot traffic to local businesses, hotels, and restaurants, offering a boost to the local economy.
- **Community Building:** The event is intended to bring people together, creating a sense of shared experience and unity among residents. It will be an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to connect, celebrate, and participate in a memorable annual event.
- **Positive Exposure:** The festival will highlight our community as a vibrant hub for culture and creativity, which can attract tourism and increase our area's reputation for hosting innovative, inclusive events.

In addition to its cultural and economic contributions, the festival will also serve a charitable purpose. While we do provide small funding, less than 5% of overall funds go to other local groups who volunteer and contribute their time and effort to further their own organizations. The festival's primary charitable initiative is the 50/50 draw, which directly benefits our local food banks. We are deeply committed to addressing food insecurity in our community, and this draw will generate essential funds for those in need.

It's important to note that while other local non-profits will participate in the event, they will do so in a volunteer capacity, providing staffing support in exchange for a small amount of compensation. This arrangement is in place to ensure that their involvement remains focused on the success of the event and its mission to support the broader community. These non-profits are integral to the festival's operations, but their role is primarily to lend their support as volunteers, not as major financial beneficiaries.

While we understand that funding decisions are always difficult, we believe that Tide Fest aligns with the municipality's broader goals of fostering cultural growth, economic development, and community wellness. We kindly request that you reconsider our application for municipal consideration for the cost of the venue.

In an effort to be as fiscally responsible as possible and give the festival the best chance of survival, we have carefully reviewed our event needs and made adjustments to reduce both time and space requirements. Below, we are including a summary of the quote we received from the Sportsplex outlining the original rental hours and associated costs, along with a revised plan that reflects a scaled-back version of the festival. This leaner approach maintains the spirit and core elements of the event while significantly reducing costs, and we hope it demonstrates our commitment to making the most of any support we receive.

We would be more than happy to meet with you or provide further details regarding the planning and potential impacts of the festival.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We are hopeful that, with your support, Tide Fest will continue to be a cherished annual event for our community, one that strengthens our community, celebrates the power of entertainment, and provides meaningful support to those who need it most.

Sincerely,

Tide Fest Volunteer Planning Committee
JoAnn Pelley, Chair

	Revised			
Tide Fest Estimate for July 2025		hours	cost /hr	
Thursday KMA dry pad 7am-11pm (16 hrs) \$1200.00	10:00 am - 11:00 pm	13	75	975
Friday KMA dry pad 7am-11pm (16hrs) \$1200.00	7:00 am - 12:00 am	17	75	1275
Saturday KMA dry pad 7am-12am (17 hrs) \$1275.00	7:00 am - 12:00 am	17	75	1275
Staffing: App.\$300.00				0
Sunday KMA dry pad 7am-11pm (16hrs) \$1200.00	7:00 am - 4:00 pm	9	75	675
Friday Dome 7am-11pm (16 hrs) \$1568.00	not required	0		0
Saturday Dome 7am-11pm (16 hrs) \$1568.00	7:00 am - 7:00 pm	12	98	1176
Sunday Dome 7am-11pm (16 hrs) \$1568.00	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	7	98	686
Friday Ice B 5pm-11pm (6 hrs) \$810.00	not required			0
Saturday Ice B 7am-11pm (16 hrs) \$2160.00	8:00 am - 5:00 pm	9	135	1215
Sunday Ice B 7am-11pm (16 hrs) \$2160.00	8:00 am - 3:00 pm	7	135	945
Saturday Todd Hunter Rm 7am-11pm (16 hrs) \$258.75	not required			0

Turf Cleaning When Event is Done \$1080.00	not required			0
TOTAL \$16347.75				0
Braeden Bannister room \$258.75 (full day rental rate) x 3 days \$776.25	not required			0
Board Room \$258.75 (full day rental rate) x 3 days \$776.25	not required			0
TOTAL \$1552.50				0
GRAND TOTAL \$17900.25	REVISED TOTAL			\$8,222.00