

GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR COUNCIL



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West Hants
something inspiring awaits

INSPIRED
January 2024

Message from the Mayor, "Happy New Year West Hants!"

Council and staff wish you health and happiness for 2024!

The Region of West Hants has experienced unprecedented growth since consolidation in 2020. As of November, the 2023 year-to-date construction permit value has increased substantially from 2022. Long-time and local developer, Brison Developments, began building the first of many multi-unit residential towers in The Crossing. As well, many other developers are adding much needed housing to our community. Council and staff continue to review and update planning policies to help meet today's challenges. Some of these updates include permitting attached or detached secondary suites accessory to any single or two-unit dwelling; amending definitions to permit small options homes in residential areas; and reducing lot size requirements in certain serviced areas.

To meet the demands of future growth and development, Council continues to invest heavily in its infrastructure by updating and increasing capacity to our municipal water, sewer, and wastewater systems. Climate Change initiatives expand to protect residents most susceptible to extreme weather events and flooding. The Municipality recently received the results of the flood study for the community of Windsor and will action strategies for the quickest and most meaningful results. Other initiatives, such as the continued installation of EV charging stations and small to medium scale solar projects, will help our fight on climate change.

Council priorities also include endeavours that add value to the everyday life of our residents and promote a sense of pride and INSPIRATION for all West Hants. These include the naming of the John Paris Jr. Rink; the creation of the Inspire Fund; a 75% subsidy on recreation programming; updating of the Residential Property Tax Assistance Policy; residential tax reductions for all communities in our region; and many beautification projects of which were received with incredible excitement. Council also invested in our region's community halls and non-profit programming.



The Avon Chamber of Commerce held its annual Gala and Awards night on December 15, at Churchill House, Hantsport. Mayor Zebian was on hand to congratulate from the left, Business Person of the Year - Danny Everson, Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia; Outstanding Customer Service Award, Michelle Jodrey, Mosaic Market; Community Service Award - Joanne Barnet, Walkers Restaurant; and the Business of the Year Award - Greg O'Leary, O'Leary's Enviro Depot, Garland's Crossing. Congratulations to all nominees.

If you haven't yet visited the West Hants Sports Complex, I strongly encourage you to go. In consultation with Glooscap First Nation, a Mi'kmaw interpretive area has been completed with educational content on the Seven Sacred Teachings. We continue to add new elements like snack and beverage vending machines. You can walk, run, or roller blade around the walking track. We've even added exercise equipment and arcade games in the lobby! Open daily and everything is absolutely free!

As a growing region, reliable and affordable transit is integral. Currently, West Hants provides funding to Dial-A-Ride, to assist residents without transportation attend appointments or run errands. Council understands more needs to be done and has acted. West Hants Regional Municipality (along with other municipalities) are working with the Provincial Joint Regional Transportation Agency (JRTA) to develop a long-term transportation plan for Halifax and surrounding communities (including West Hants). Staff is exploring funding opportunities for a feasibility study on the creation of a local transit system. This work will be another crucial piece for the continued growth of our region.

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Change in Mailing Address or Phone Number? Please Let Us Know!



Drop by the Municipal Office or call us at 902-798-8391. It is also a great opportunity to make sure that the phone number on your property tax, water or dog license account is current, especially if you no longer have a land line.

Check Out Our Payment Options



We offer a variety of payment options including debit, cash, cheque or through your online banking.

Sign up for our Pre-Authorized Payment (PAP) Plan and have the full amount of your property tax or water bill withdrawn prior to each due date.

More information can be found on the back side of your tax or water bill, or at www.westhants.ca/payment-options.html.

Sign Up for E-mail Updates

Don't miss out! Sign up to receive e-mail updates on a variety of different matters.

Choose as few or as many as you would like.

For more information and to sign up visit www.westhants.ca/sign-up.html

West Hants Phone Tree

Who doesn't love a shortcut?
Here is a quick reference if you need to call us!

West Hants Municipal Offices 902-798-8391

General Inquiries	Ext. 201	Public Works Inquiries	Ext. 125
Water Inquiries	Ext. 107	Waste Services Specialist	Ext. 128
Property Tax Inquiries	Ext. 106	Community Development	Ext. 124
Administration Inquiries	Ext. 134	Economic Development	Ext. 213
Planning Inquiries	Ext. 115	Community Centre	Ext. 215
By-law Enforcement	Ext. 112	West Hants Sports Complex	Ext. 217



Facebook

- West Hants Regional Municipality
- West Hants Parks and Rec
- West Hants EMO
- Inspire West Hants

Website - www.westhants.ca

Twitter @RegMunWWH

Instagram @whrm_ns

YouTube - West Hants Regional Municipality

WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
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www.westhants.ca

Emergencies - Any time, Any where! Let's get Prepared!



Learn to Be Prepared for the Next Emergency

January 21, 2024 - 10:00am - 12:00pm
Brooklyn Civic Centre, 995 Highway 215, Brooklyn, NS
May 26, 2024 - 10:00am - 12:00pm
Southwest Hants Fire Hall, 1884 Highway 14, Vaughan, NS
September 22, 2024 - 10:00am - 12:00pm
Summersville Fire Hall, 59 Summersville Wharf Road, Summersville, NS



Registration is **NOT** required, join us for a **FREE BBQ** after each session. We will have activities to engage all ages.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Do all cell phones receive Alerts?
- What should you do in case of a hurricane, ice storm, power outage, flood, and more?
- Unsure about prepping your Emergency Kit?
- Where do you get local info during an emergency?
- And so much more!

Join us at our upcoming events where you can learn from emergency personnel and experts, ask all your burning questions, and even tour a fire station. Oh, and did I mention we're having a BBQ? You'll get to enjoy some delicious hot dogs while you're at it!

The first 20 families in attendance at each session will receive a basic emergency kit (excludes some items).

DAMS



NS Power
Avon River Hydro System Dams
Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Windsor Legion
35 Empire Lane, Windsor

- Where are some in West Hants?
- Who operates them?
- What is their history?
- What do they do and why do we need them?
- Want to learn some dam lingo?

Where are our Comfort Centres & Emergency Shelters?

West Hants has quite a few.

- Do you know where they are?
- Do you know the difference between the two?

Learn more at:

westhants.ca/comfort-centres-and-shelters.html

Or contact the EMC at sthornton@westhants.ca or 902-798-8391 Ext. 207 to request a hard-copy of the list and locations.



For all things Emergency Management related (EMO), visit: www.westhants.ca/emo
Or, contact our Emergency Management Manager, Shelleena Thornton, at 902-798-8391 Ext. 207, or by email: sthornton@westhants.ca

ALERTS

- Alert Ready is Canada's National emergency public alerting program
 - Nova Scotia EMO is the Authorized Government Agency for Public Alerting in NS
- The Alert Ready System only works on LTE or above networks.
 - It will not work for cell phones on 3G or Wifi calling
 - Every phone (make, model, set-up) may be different
 - Go to "Settings" and research your phone. Look for these key words: Wireless Emergency Alerts, Notifications, Emergencies, SOS, Wifi Calling, etc. (You will be surprised how much is listed there). Adjust your settings to YOUR preferences and not necessarily the defaults.

THE INSPIRE FUND

is a funding program that assists with the cost of recreation opportunities within West Hants Regional Municipality



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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
WWW.WESTHANTS.CA/INSPIREFUND

Mayor's message continued from page ~1

While there have been many successes and achievements, West Hants had an emotional summer that tried the tight bonds of our community. An unprecedented rainfall event led to the loss of four of our West Hants family. We will forever love and remember them. I want to once again thank all the organizations and agencies that came to our aid during that tragic event. You are our heroes!

I also wish to thank the POSSE Project, Hants Resource Center, Hants Learning Network, and Schools Plus for the unmatched value provided to so many of our residents. You are an INSPIRATION, and we thank you! Our Region is STRONG, RESILIENT, and will continue to INSPIRE as we begin 2024 and work our way to continued prosperity for our future generations.

Be happy and be healthy West Hants! ~Mayor Abe



The Inspiring Business Program marries the Support Local movement with businesses who invest in our community's vibrancy. By applying to this program, WHRM will promote these businesses through a video and or a social media post. Our Inspiring Businesses will also receive a window decal to display.

When you see this window decal at a local business you can feel proud of supporting a business who in turn supports your community, your kids, and our local not-for-profit organizations. Be proud of these businesses and say thanks!

Information: <https://westhants.ca/inspiring-business.html>

West Hants Welcome Network

Volunteer Information Session
January 11, 2024 | 6:30 p.m.
Windsor Community Centre
78 Thomas St., Windsor

Volunteers are needed to welcome and assist newcomers to West Hants. Register for the Volunteer Information Session to learn more about this program or contact Holly Ross, Committee Chair, at hollyross@hotmail.com or call 902-798-6102.



DON'T FORGET!

2024 GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS

WHRM is accepting ONLINE grant applications from community organizations and agencies at www.westhants.ca/grants-and-contributions.html
Deadline is February 15, 2024

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

2024 WHRM Volunteer Awards nominations are being accepted online at www.westhants.ca/community-organizations-volunteers.html
Deadline is February 15, 2024

Winter Operations & Snow Removal



Streets and sidewalks are prioritized based on several criteria, including:

- Emergency Services (i.e. Police, Fire, Emergency Health Services)
- High Volume Traffic Areas
- Business Core & Industry/Civic Facilities (School, Post Office, etc.)

Staff work to ensure that our streets and sidewalks are clear and safe from snow and ice. However, in the region's expansive geography, especially during periods of heavy snowfall or other extreme weather conditions, please have patience as it can take longer. After a snowfall, crews are often hampered by cars parked on the streets, which block access for snow clearing equipment. This creates time delays and can be hazardous.

Our Operators are out to make our roads & sidewalks safe. Your cooperation and patience regarding snow removal is encouraged and much appreciated by the Municipality.

Questions or Concerns about WHRM or Provincial owned roads and infrastructure?

WHRM: kritchie@westhants.ca or 902-798-8391 Ext. 125.

Provincial: DPW-OCC@novascotia.ca or 1-844-696-7737

Note: Provincial rules & regulations may differ.

Who owns my road?

<https://www.westhants.ca/public-works/4041-snow-2022-23-pdf/file.html>

DID YOU KNOW:

Your vehicle may be ticketed and or towed for interfering with snow clearing operations on all West Hants Regionally owned roads. *Section 139 of the Motor Vehicle Act.*



Also, it is illegal to push snow from your driveway onto the sidewalk or road. *Section 318 of the Municipal Government Act.*

West Hants offers a FREE Equipment Loan Program, including Adaptive Equipment!

- Snowshoes • Cross-country skis and boots • Ice boot-cleats • Stroller skis • Hippocamps - including trail wheels
- Bikes • Bike trailers • Adult tricycles
- Walking poles • Skates & helmets to use at the WHSC

For details and to reserve an item, contact Sara LeBlanc
E | sleblanc@westhants.ca M | 902-790-0501