



NOTICE

- MEETING:** Regular Council Meeting
- DATE:** Wednesday May 20th, 2026
- TIME:** 5:00pm
- PLACE:** Council Chambers, 8296 Highway 7, Sherbrooke

Please Advise If Unable to Attend



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday, May 20th, 2026

We acknowledge that we are gathering in Mi'kmaqi the traditional unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Additions to the Agenda
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes of Council Meeting held Wednesday April 15th, 2026, Annual General Meeting held April 27th, 2026, and Special Council Meeting Held April 27th, 2026.
6. Business Arising from Minutes
7. Correspondence
 - a. Department of Municipal Affairs - 12 Month Notice of Provincial Changes Impacting Budget
 - b. Road Infrastructure Management Master list 2026-2028
 - c. From the Cruiser - March 2026
 - d. From the Cruiser - April 2026
8. Recommendations from Committees of Council
 - a. IDEAA Committee – Inclusion Plan Approval – April 10th, 2026
 - b. Committee of the Whole – April 15th, 2026
 - c. Committee of the Whole – May 6th, 2026
9. Outside Committee Reports
 - a. Guysborough County Home Care Support Agency – February 26th, 2026
 - b. Sherbrooke Restoration Commission - February 27th, 2026
 - c. GALA - March 14th, 2026
 - d. Smart-go – April 14th, 2026
10. Other Matters of Business
 - a. REMO Introduction – Director of Emergency Services - Kelsey Reece
 - b. Staff Report – Municipal Volunteer of the Year Selection
 - c. July & August Council & COTW Dates
11. CAO Report
12. In-Camera: Personnel Matters

Adjournment

A 10-minute question and answer period pertaining to agenda items.



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday, April 15th, 2026

We acknowledge that we are gathering in Mi'kma'ki the traditional unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

1. Meeting, Date & Time:

The Regular Council meeting of the St. Mary's Municipal Council was called to order on Wednesday April 15th, 2026, at 5:00pm in the Council Chambers Sherbrooke, N.S.

2. Attending:

Warden James Fuller
Deputy Warden Beulah Malloy
Councillor Dana O'Connell
Councillor Scott Beaver

Absent with Regrets:

Councillor Emma Tibbo

Also Attending:

Lesley McFarlane, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
Marian Fraser, Director of Finance/Treasurer
Janelle Fleet, Interim Municipal Clerk

3. Additions to the Agenda:

- There were no additions to the agenda.

4. Approval of Agenda:

On motion of Councillor O'Connell and seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council approved the agenda as presented.

Motion approved.

5. Approval of Previous Minutes:

Warden Fuller called for any errors or omissions to the minutes of the Council Meeting held March 24th, 2026. Hearing none, the Warden declared the minutes approved.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes:

- a. No business arising from the previous minutes.

7. Recommendations from Committees of Council:

Committee of the Whole – March 24th, 2026

On motion of Councillor Beaver seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council approves awarding Maritime Blower Repair Inc., the purchase and installation of two new blowers, at a cost of \$21,219.70 plus HST, to maintain redundancy at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, with funds sourced from the Canada Community-Building Fund.

Motion Approved.

On motion of Councillor O'Connell seconded by Councilor Beaver, Council approves inviting representatives from Emergency Health Services (EHS) to attend a future Council meeting to provide a presentation on current service levels within the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's, including response times, coverage, and any identified challenges or opportunities for improvement.

Motion Approved.

Committee of the Whole – April 1st, 2026

On motion of Deputy Warden Malloy and seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council release the 2025-26 grant funding of \$4,016.34 to Coastal Nova Scotia funded through the 2025-26 Economic Development Tourism Budget.

Motion Approved.

On motion of Councillor O'Connell and seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council provide pre-budget approval to award Francis J. Boyle Construction Ltd., the purchase and installation of the materials and complete permanent repair of the water main in Clover Farm parking lot, at a cost of \$9,000 plus HST, with funds to be sourced from the Canada Community-Building Fund.

Motion Approved.

On motion of Councillor Beaver and seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council authorize the emergency expenditure of \$1,744.20+HST to Sherbrooke Electrical for the essential service repair of the heat trace controller and electrical box in Clover Farm parking lot, with funds to be sourced from the Canada Community-Building Fund.

Motion Approved.

On motion of Councillor Beaver and seconded by Councillor O'Connell, subject to the 2026-27 capital budget approval, Council award Flowstar the purchase of 25 new water meters, at a cost of \$6,294.75 plus HST, to maintain proper water usage tracking and billing, with funds to be sourced from the Canada Community-Building Fund.

Motion Approved.

On motion of Councillor O'Connell and seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council ratify the award to Davis MacIntyre & Associates conduct an Archaeological Resource Impact Assessment on PID 37541620, at a cost of \$6,749.22 plus HST.

Motion Approved.

On motion of Councillor Beaver and seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council award the contract for the design of a multi-use community centre in Ecum Secum to IMCO Custom Designing in the amount of \$69,550 plus HST, to be funded by \$60,000 in provincial grant funding, with the remaining \$9,550 to be funded through the municipal fire services operating budget.

Motion Approved.

8. Outside Committee Reports:

- a. Port Bickerton Lighthouse Association – March 2026
 - Committee report is included in the meeting materials.
- b. Eastern Region Solid Waste – March 2026
 - Committee report is included in the meeting materials.

9. Other Matters of Business:

- Councillor O'Connell declared a conflict of interest regarding this matter, as he knows the candidate personally, and recused himself from the discussion and vote.
- The CAO advised that a successful candidate has been selected for the Term Director of Community Development and Recreation position.

On motion of Deputy Warden Malloy, seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council approves the appointment of Mackayla Laing as Term Director of Community Development and Recreation for the period of May 4, 2026, to October 29, 2027.

Motion Approved.

10. CAO Report:

- Please see the meeting material for the report.
- Council received the CAO Report for March 2026, highlighting ongoing municipal projects and activities.
- Work continues on housing initiatives, climate change projects, and economic development recruitment.
- Emergency management activities included a Level 1 ECC activation in response to inland flooding; a new REMO Coordinator is set to begin in April.
- Recreation programs and community initiatives remained active with strong participation, and planning is underway for upcoming events such as Canada Day.
- Public Works projects are ongoing, including water infrastructure upgrades, environmental remediation planning, and wastewater system improvements.
- Various capital projects were completed, underway, or under review, including Recplex upgrades, accessibility improvements, and trail development planning.

Adjournment

There being no further matters of business, Warden Fuller declared the meeting adjourned at 5:10pm.

Recorded By
Janelle Fleet, Interim Municipal Clerk

Approved By
Warden Fuller



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Monday, April 27th, 2026

We acknowledge that we are gathering in Mi'kma'ki the traditional unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

1. Meeting, Date & Time:

Warden Fuller called the Annual General Meeting of the St. Mary's Municipal Council to order on Monday, April 27th, 2026, at 5:32pm in Council Chambers.

2. Attending:

Warden James Fuller
Deputy Warden Beulah Malloy
Councillor Scott Beaver
Councillor Emma Tibbo
Councillor Dana O'Connell

Also Attending:

Lesley McFarlane, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
Marian Fraser, Director of Finance (DOF)
Janelle Fleet, Interim Municipal Clerk

3. Additions to the Agenda:

- There were no additions to the agenda.

4. Approval of Agenda:

On motion of Councillor Tibbo and seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council approved the agenda as presented.

Motion approved.

5. Presentation of the 2026-2027 Budget – Marian Fraser, Director of Finance/Treasurer

- Please see the Agenda/Package for the presentation.
- Marian Fraser, Director of Finance outlined the 2026-2027 Municipal Operating and Capital Budget.

6. 2025-2026 Budget Resolutions and Motions

a. Tax Rate Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's that pursuant to Section 72 and 73 of the Municipal Government Act, the Municipal Council of the estimates the sums of **\$ 3,036,882** is required for the lawful purposes of the said Municipality for the year ending March 31, 2027, after crediting the probable revenue from all sources other than taxes for said year which may not be collectable and collected.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council hereby authorizes the levying and collection of a rate of **\$ 2.31** on each one-hundred dollar of the assessed value of the property assessed in the

Assessment Roll, which shall be the Commercial Property Tax Rate, and which rate the said Council deems sufficient to raise the sums required to defray the expenditure of the said Municipality for the said year and any deficit from the preceding year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council hereby authorizes the levying and collection of a Property Tax Rate of **\$ 1.00** on each one-hundred dollar of assessed value of residential property assessed in the Residential Rate Roll, said rate having been calculated after applying the commercial rate to the residential property assessed to obtain the amount to be raised from Residential Property Taxation.

The *Commercial and Residential Property Tax Rate* as determined by Council and that Council deems sufficient to raise the amounts necessary for the lawful purposes of the said Municipality for the twelve-month year ending March 31, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said Council hereby requires payment of said rates to be made to the Treasurer of the said Municipality on or before the 31st day of July 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said Council imposes an additional percentage of fourteen percent per annum on all rates and taxes remaining unpaid after the 31st day of July 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council hereby fixes the 31st day of July 2026 as the day after which the Treasurer may proceed to issue warrants for the collection of all rates and taxes.

On motion of Deputy Warden Malloy and seconded by Councillor O'Connell, Council approved the Tax Rate Resolution for Adopting Estimates and Striking the Tax Rate for the fiscal year of April 1st, 2026 to March 31st, 2027.

Motion approved.

b. Remuneration of Warden and Councillors

BE IT RESOLVED by the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's, in the County of Guysborough, that the Remuneration entitled to **Warden & Councillors** for April 1st, 2026, to March 31st, 2027, be as follows:

1. The Warden of the Municipality shall receive an amount of **\$ 11,835** per annum as remuneration of their services as Warden and the Deputy Warden shall receive an amount of **\$ 3,375** per annum for their services as Deputy Warden.
2. Every member of the Municipal Council shall receive an amount of **\$ 17,771** per annum as remuneration for their service as Councillor, such remuneration shall also be paid to the Warden and Deputy Warden as a Councillor pursuant to section 1 of this resolution.
3. The Warden, Deputy Warden and Councillors shall in addition to such remuneration be paid a daily meal fee of **\$70.00** (*\$15.00 breakfast, \$20.00 dinner, \$35.00 supper*) and to utilize the **Federal Floating Mileage Rate** for travel to and from meetings, conferences, workshops, etc.
4. Municipal representatives appointed by Council to outside agencies, organizations, and commissions shall be paid in accordance with section 3, the Remuneration for Warden & Councillors.
5. The Warden, Deputy Warden and Councillors are paid **12** times per year.

On motion of Councillor O'Connell and seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council approves the Warden, Deputy Warden and Council Remuneration Resolution for the fiscal year of April 1st, 2026, to March 31st, 2027.

Motion approved.

c. 2026-2027 Municipal Operating Budget

On motion of Councillor Beaver and seconded by Councillor Tibbo, Council approves the 2026/2027 Municipal Operating Budget which includes individual department budgets, and schedule of rates including increases to area rates as presented.

Motion approved.

d. 2026-2027 Sherbrooke Water Utility Budget

On motion of Councillor O'Connell seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council approves the 2026/2027 Sherbrooke Water Utility budget based on the approved rates as set by Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board.

Motion approved.

e. 2026-2027 Capital Budgets

On motion of Councillor Tibbo seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council approves the 2026/27 Capital Budget as presented.

Motion approved.

f. 2026-2027 General Government Grants

- District Grants – Each municipal councillor will have an equal amount, \$9,700, of funds per district, to be allocated at their discretion in accordance with the policy throughout the fiscal year. The total funds allocated for the five municipal districts will be \$48,500 for the fiscal year.
- Grants to Organizations – total funding allocated for 2026-27 grants to organizations is \$10,000.
 - Sherbrooke Village \$2,000 with funds to be released once event is confirmed to proceed.
 - East river St. Mary's Fire Dept \$500
 - St. Mary's Lions Club \$2,000
 - St. Mary's Trails Association \$2,000
 - St. Mary's Arts Connection \$1,500
 - Goshen Community Centre \$2,000
- School Scholarships – a \$3,000 grant will be provided to St Mary's Academy for scholarships to students who are residents of the municipality graduating grade 12 planning to further their post-secondary education.
- Total General Government Grants for 2026/27 - \$61,500

On motion of Councillor Tibbo seconded by Councillor O'Connell Council approves the General Government Grants for the fiscal year April 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027, as presented.

Motion approved.

G. 2026-2027 Internal and External Committee Appointments

INTERNAL COMMITTEES	2025-2026	2026-2027
Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Anti-Hate & Accessibility Advisory Committee (IDEAA)	Warden Fuller Alternate: Councillor Tibbo	Warden Fuller Alternate: Councillor Tibbo
Audit Committee	<i>Open to all Councillors</i>	
Fences and Arbitration Committee	Warden Fuller Alternate: Councillor Tibbo	Warden Fuller Alternate: Councillor Tibbo
Fire Services Advisory Committee	<i>Open to all Councillors</i>	
	Warden Fuller Deputy Warden Malloy	Warden Fuller Deputy Warden Malloy Councillor O'Connell
Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee	Deputy Warden Malloy Alternate: Warden Fuller	Deputy Warden Malloy Alternate: Warden Fuller
Source Water Protection Advisory Committee	Councillor O'Connell Alternate: Councillor Beaver	Councillor O'Connell Alternate: Councillor Beaver
EXTERNAL BOARDS/AGENCIES	2025-2026	2026-2027
Eastern Counties Regional Library Board	Warden Fuller Alternate: Councillor Tibbo	Warden Fuller Alternate: Councillor Tibbo
Eastern Region Solid Waste Management	Deputy Warden Malloy Alternate: Councillor Tibbo	Deputy Warden Malloy Alternate: Councillor Tibbo
Guysborough Community Health Board	Councillor Tibbo Alternate: Councillor Beaver	Councillor Tibbo Alternate: Councillor Beaver
Tourism Guysborough County Association	Councillor Beaver Alternate: Councillor O'Connell	Councillor Beaver Alternate: Councillor O'Connell
Guysborough County Home Support Agency	Councillor O'Connell Alternate: Councillor Tibbo	Councillor O'Connell Alternate: Councillor Tibbo
Port Bickerton & Area Planning Association	Deputy Warden Malloy Alternate: Warden Fuller	Deputy Warden Malloy Alternate: Warden Fuller
Sherbrooke Restoration Commission	Councillor O'Connell Alternate: Warden Fuller	Councillor O'Connell Alternate: Warden Fuller

On motion of Deputy Warden Malloy seconded by Councillor Tibbo, Council approves the 2026-2027 Internal and External Committee Appointments for the fiscal year April 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027, as presented in the attached table.

Motion approved.

Adjournment:

There being no further matters of business, Warden Fuller declared the meeting adjourned at 5:53pm.

Recorded By
Janelle Fleet, Interim Municipal Clerk

Approved By
Warden Fuller



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Special Council Meeting
Monday, April 27th, 2026

We acknowledge that we are gathering in Mi'kma'ki the traditional unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

1. Meeting, Date & Time:

Warden Fuller called the Special Council Meeting of the St. Mary's Municipal Council to order on Monday, April 27th, 2026, at 6:08pm in Council Chambers.

2. Attending:

Warden James Fuller
Deputy Warden Beulah Malloy
Councillor Scott Beaver
Councillor Emma Tibbo
Councillor Dana O'Connell

Also Attending:

Lesley McFarlane, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
Marian Fraser, Director of Finance (DOF)
Janelle Fleet, Interim Municipal Clerk

3. Additions to the Agenda:

- There were no additions to the agenda.

4. Approval of Agenda:

On motion of Councillor O'Connell and seconded by Deputy Warden Malloy, Council approved the agenda as amended.

Motion approved.

5. In Camera - Contract Negotiations

On motion of Councillor Beaver and seconded by Councillor O'Connell, Council moved into an in-camera session for contract negotiations at 6:09pm.

Motion approved.

On motion of Deputy Warden Malloy seconded by Councillor Tibbo, Council agreed to reconvene to regular session at 6:57pm.

Motion approved.

On motion of Councillor Beaver seconded by Councillor O'Connell, Council approves \$16,000 of the expenditure paid to Wilson's Cove Excavation for the Water Line extension project, to be expensed from the Canada Community-Building Fund.

Motion approved.

Adjournment:

There being no further matters of business, Warden Fuller declared the meeting adjourned at 6:58pm.

Recorded By
Janelle Fleet, Interim Municipal Clerk

Approved By
Warden Fuller



NOVA SCOTIA
Municipal Affairs
Office of the Minister

PO Box 216, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2M4 • Telephone 902 424-5550 Fax 902 424-0581 • novascotia.ca

May 4, 2026

David Mitchell
President, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM)
Suite 1304, 1809 Barrington Street
Halifax, NS B3J 3K8
Via email: david.mitchell@bridgewater.ca

Dear David Mitchell:

Under the provisions of the *Municipal Government Act*, the Minister of Municipal Affairs must provide to the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities 12-months' notice of any provincial legislation, regulation, or administrative actions that could have the effect of decreasing revenues or increasing the required expenditures of municipalities. This letter is intended to provide notice of such changes for fiscal year 2027-2028 and beyond.

The Department of Municipal Affairs (DMA) canvassed all provincial departments to seek information on plans for legislative, regulatory, and policy changes in the coming fiscal year. Below you will find a summary of the results of that process.

Department of Cybersecurity and Digital Solutions

- 1) Starting in 2026-27, the Department of Cyber Security and Digital Solutions (CSDS) will begin working with affected municipalities to offboard from the following SAP-related services:
 - Customer Care and Service (CCS) Utilities (e.g., property tax and revenue): Amherst, Annapolis, CBR, Cumberland, East Hants, Queens
 - Materials Management: Amherst, Annapolis, CBRM, Cumberland, East Hants, Queens, HRM
 - HR Pay: CBRM, HRM
 - Environment Health and Safety Management: HRM
 - Success Factors HR: HRM

CSDS is issuing notice and will be communicating with municipalities directly.

Department of Emergency Management

- 1) The Department acknowledges that elements of ongoing work to strengthen fire services in Nova Scotia may have a financial impact on some municipal units.

With the introduction of the *Act to Provide Support for Fire Protection Services*, the Department is providing one-year notice that all municipalities – whether they oversee fire services or not – will be required to:

- conduct a fire protection service review in order to ensure municipalities and fire service providers make evidence-based decisions about the services they provide to their community,
- ensure that local firefighter competencies, training, and personal protective equipment meet the service standard required by the fire protection service review, and
- participate in a common records management system.

The possible impacts of these new requirements, which will be further detailed through regulations and standards, may vary significantly based on local context, including existing governance and collaboration models, levels of municipal readiness, and voluntary fire service provider capacity.

This legislation is part of an ongoing commitment to strengthening the fire service sector through:

- access to specialized firefighter training and the certification process,
- education/training for municipal elected officials,
- procurement support,
- mutual aid and service agreement templates,
- the new Fire Records Management System, and
- a risk-based assessment tool to facilitate council decision-making around fire protection service levels.

Department of Growth and Development

- 1) A review of the *Peggy's Cove Commission Act* is seeking to modernize planning for the Peggy's Cove area. Given the location of Peggy's Cove within the boundaries of HRM, any proposed changes to the Act or its administration could have an impact on the municipality, for example, shifting responsibility for planning approvals.

- 2) The Department is undertaking a review of the Regional Enterprise Networks (RENS) program. Key areas of focus include improving consistency in service delivery across the province, improving how businesses access and navigate existing programs and services and aligning delivery with provincial economic development priorities. Addressing these areas may involve adjustments to the current REN model, which would have implications for municipal partners.

Department of Intergovernmental Affairs

- 1) Under our trade policy responsibilities, Intergovernmental Affairs advises that there are procurement thresholds under several free trade agreements that could impact municipalities. Every two years, Global Affairs Canada updates its thresholds for covered procurements under the Canada-Europe Trade Agreement (CETA), the Canada-UK Trade Continuity Agreement (TCA), and the Canada Free Trade Agreement (CFTA). Municipal procurements are covered under these obligations. All procurements above the thresholds must be publicly tendered unless subject to an exemption.

The threshold values in Canadian dollars for the period of January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2027, are as follows:

FTA	Goods	Services	Construction
CFTA	Province		
	\$34,700	\$139,000	\$139,000
	Municipalities and MASH		
	\$139,000	\$139,000	\$347,400
CETA/TCA	Crowns, Utilities, etc.		
	\$694,700	\$694,700	\$6,943,900
	Province, Municipalities and MASH		
	\$368,000	\$368,000	\$9,200,000
CFTA	Crowns		
	\$653,200	\$653,200	\$9,200,000
	Utilities, etc.		
\$736,000	\$736,000	\$9,200,000	

Department of Justice

- 1) The Nova Scotia Comprehensive Policing Review was released in June 2025. Since that time, the Department of Justice has met with all municipalities to discuss implementation of the six foundational changes and the expanded role of the provincial police service. These foundational changes are designed to strengthen public safety across the province and support more effective, consistent, and sustainable outcomes. As part of implementation:
 - Municipalities are required to meet established provincial policing standards. Municipalities that are unable to meet these standards independently will be required to contract with the provincial police service for the delivery of those services and, effective April 1, 2027, will be required to purchase those services on a fee basis. While these changes are intended to enhance public safety and ensure greater consistency across jurisdictions, they may result in increased costs for some municipalities. At this time, the specific nature and extent of any financial impacts cannot be determined for any individual municipality.
 - The Province will continue to enhance and modernize its policing standards over time. The creation or expansion of standards may result in additional costs for municipalities.
 - The Province will procure a province-wide records management system (RMS) in fiscal year 2026–27. The Province will fund the acquisition and associated start-up costs. It is anticipated that beginning in 2027–28, as part of implementation, municipalities with their own police agencies will be required to contribute annual licensing fees associated with the RMS. For municipalities policed by the RCMP under the provincial policing model, RMS-related costs will be incorporated into the provincial billing model.
 - The Province will continue to work toward the development of a new municipal billing model for provincial police services during fiscal year 2026–27. Municipalities will continue to be engaged throughout this process. The specific structure of the model and the extent of any financial impacts cannot be determined at this time for any individual municipality; however, changes to the billing model could result in increased costs for some municipalities beginning in 2027–28.
- 2) The National Police Federation is the certified union representing regular members and reservists of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) below the rank of Inspector. The current Collective Agreement expires on March 31, 2025, and labour negotiations between the National Police Federation and Treasury Board Secretariat Canada are ongoing. The cost implications cannot be determined at this time.

- 3) The 'H' Division (Nova Scotia) Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) have provided the Department of Justice with the annual Multi-Year Financial Plan (MYFP), that reflects the organization's budget requests for the next fiscal year, and strategic planning for subsequent years. The cost implications cannot be determined at this time.
- 4) Biological Casework Analysis Agreement provides municipalities with DNA analysis arising from criminal investigations. Costs will be determined upon the release of the "Total Uniform Assessment" by Municipal Affairs.
- 5) Municipalities in Nova Scotia are prescribed under the *Accessibility Act* which means they must have an accessibility advisory committee, prepare and make publicly available accessibility plans, and comply with accessibility standards (regulations) once they are enacted.
 - The Built Environment Accessibility Standard Regulations under the *Accessibility Act* were approved on March 7, 2025. Compliance with the standard is required beginning April 1, 2026. These regulations apply to newly constructed and newly installed elements of the built environment such as pedestrian facilities, recreational spaces, and outdoor infrastructure. These regulations include technical design requirements for infrastructure. The regulations also introduce requirements for accessibility planning for both new and existing infrastructure, including municipal infrastructure. These infrastructure plans are due April 1, 2026. There is no requirement to retrofit existing infrastructure, and as a result the cost implications are minimal.
 - The Department of Justice is expected to share the proposed accessibility standard for employment, and goods and services for public review in 2026-27. This would be an opportunity for municipalities to review the proposed standard to provide input into the feasibility and cost implications of the proposed standards on municipalities.

Department of Public Works

- 1) The recoverable cost to municipalities for adjustments to catch basins, manholes, and water valves during construction work will increase June 1st, 2027. Manhole and catch basin adjustments will increase from \$600 to \$1200, and water valve adjustments will increase from \$300 to \$600.

Department of Service Nova Scotia

- 1) Nova Scotia's new FOIPOP Act will come into effect on April 1, 2027 and regulations are currently under development to support the new Act. The legislation requires municipalities to adopt new privacy policies and practices, requires mandatory reporting of significant privacy breaches to affected individuals and the Information and Privacy Commissioner, and gives the Information and Privacy Commissioner oversight over municipal privacy programs for the first time. It is anticipated that these changes will require municipal resources in the form of personnel to undertake privacy assessments for any new projects or programs where personal information is being collected, for mandatory privacy breach notifications when there are significant privacy breaches, and for responding to privacy complaints filed with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC). The Province will support municipalities through creation of templates, training materials, and education campaigns to help mitigate some of these impacts.

Yours truly,



Honourable John A. MacDonald
Minister of Municipal Affairs

c: Juanita Spencer, Chief Executive Officer, NSFM

RIM Master List

2026-2028

Area	Const.	YEAR	Road	Section	Description	Short Description	Activity
J72	25	2026	ROUTE 348	GU0348-004	CIVIC # 1276-4450	KELLYS HILL TO FRASER BRIDGE	ASPHALT PATCHING
J72	25	2027	ROUTE 348	GU0348-004	CIVIC # 1276-4450	KELLYS HILL TO FRASERS BRIDGE	ASPHALT PATCHING
J72	25	2028	ROUTE 348	GU0348-003	CIVIC # 4450-4928	FRASERS BRIDGE (GUY123) to RACE BROOK (GUY126)	ASPHALT PATCHING
J72	25	2026	TRUNK 7- LITTLE LISCOMB-SPANISH	GU0007-005	CIVIC # 5000-4200	LITTLE LISCOMB TO SPANISH SHIP BAY	BRUSHCUTTING
J72	25	2027	TRUNK 7	GU0007-003	CIVIC # 1738-905	BEAR BROOK TO MARIE JOSEPH	BRUSHCUTTING
J72	25	2028	TRUNK 7	GU0007-002	CIVIC # 905-0	MARIE JOSEPH TO ECUM SECUM	BRUSHCUTTING
J72	25	2026	TRUNK 7	GU0007-001	CIVIC # 2400-1738	ECUM SECUM TO MARIE JOSEPH	BRUSHCUTTING IH
J72	25	2027	COLLEGE RD	GU0717-002	CIVIC # 13-1885	ENTIRE ROAD	BRUSHCUTTING IH
J72	25	2028	TRUNK 7	GU0007-002	CIVIC # 905-0	MARIE JOSEPH TO ECUM SECUM	BRUSHCUTTING IH
J72	25	2026	ROUTE 211	GU0211-001	CIVIC # 0-1056	JCT TK7 TO JCT CAMPBELL JORDAN ROAD	DITCHING & CULVERTS
J72	25	2027	ROUTE 348	GU0348-004	CIVIC # 1276-4450	KELLYS HILL TO FRASERS BRIDGE	DITCHING & CULVERTS
J72	25	2028	ROUTE 348	GU0348-003	CIVIC # 4450-4928	FRASERS BRIDGE (GUY123) to RACE BROOK (GUY126)	DITCHING & CULVERTS
J72	25	2026	MACINNIS	GU0727-001	CIVIC # 0-360	CORNECT-ENTIRE ROAD	GRAVEL PATCHING
J72	25	2026	FISHER ARCHIBALD	GU0734-001	CIVIC # 0-260	ENTIRE ROAD	GRAVEL PATCHING
J72	25	2027	EAST RIVER RD	GU0718-001	ANGUS MACLEAN BRIDGE (GUY135) TO ARCHIBALDS FARMS	COLLEGE ROAD TO RTE 347	GRAVEL PATCHING
J72	25	2028	EAST RIVER ROAD	GU0718-001	CIVIC # 96-0	CORNECT ROAD TO RTE 347	GRAVEL PATCHING
J72	25	2028	WESTSIDE EAST RIVER	GU0732-001	CIVIC # 3-350	JTC RTE347 TO COUNTY LINE	GRAVEL PATCHING
J72	25	2026	WATERNISH	GU0716-002	CIVIC# 2130 BELLS OF ST MARYS TO LEAD MINE ROAD	BELLS OF ST MARYS BRIDGE to LEAD MINE ROAD	GRAVEL PATCHING IN HOUSE
J72	25	2026	NORTH SIDE WEST RIVER	GU0751-001	CIVIC # 0-112	JTC RTE348 to END OF SERVICE @ CECIL MACINTOSH	GRAVEL PATCHING IN HOUSE
J72	25	2027	WATERNISH	GU0716-002	CIVIC# 2120-2380	MACINTOSH BROOK to JTC RTE 348@GLENELG	GRAVEL PATCHING IN HOUSE
J72	25	2027	LAKE RD	GU0724-001	CIVIC# 1100-783	JTC RTE348 to ISAAC SMITH BRIDGE	GRAVEL PATCHING IN HOUSE
J72	25	2028	SONORA	GU0700-003	CIVIC # 0-JCT	SONORA VILLAGE TO JCT RTE211	GRAVEL PATCHING IN HOUSE
J72	25	2028	HATTIE RD	GU0723-002	CIVIC # 534-263	END OF PAVEMENT TO CECIL HATTIE'S	GRAVEL PATCHING IN HOUSE
J72	25	2026	TRUNK 7	GU0007-001	CIVIC # 276-500	ECUM SECUM TO MARIE JOSEPH	SHOULDER GRAVEL
J72	25	2027	TRUNK 7	GU0007-001	CIVIC # 500-700	ECUM SECUM TO MARIE JOSEPH	SHOULDER GRAVEL
J72	25	2026	ROUTE 348	GU0348-004	CIVIC # 1276-4450	KELLYS HILL TO FRASER BRIDGE	SHOULDER GRAVEL - ASPHALT
J72	25	2027	ROUTE 348	GU0348-004	CIVIC # 1276-4450	KELLYS HILL TO FRASERS BRIDGE	SHOULDER GRAVEL - ASPHALT
J72	25	2028	ROUTE 348	GU0348-003	CIVIC # 4450-4928	FRASERS BRIDGE (GUY123) to RACE BROOK (GUY126)	SHOULDER GRAVEL - ASPHALT

FROM THE CRUISER

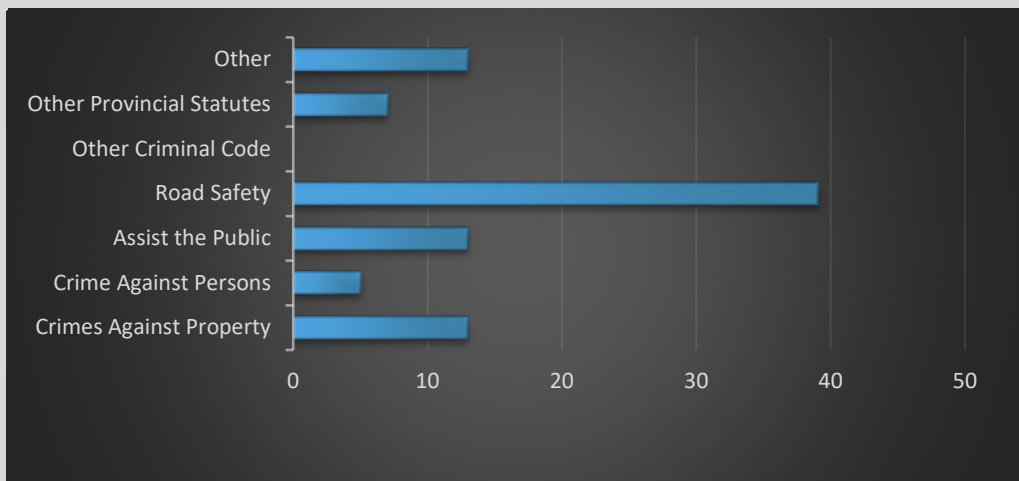
GUYSBOROUGH COUNTY DISTRICT RCMP-GRC
March 2026



Lincolville

The Month in Review

Guysborough County District RCMP responded to 93 calls for service during the month of March 2026. Below is a chart showing the nature of those calls:



**Some calls of a sensitive nature are not included in the above chart*

News Stories

The 28-year-old Antigonish man that was charged with break and enter at the Seven Communities Fire Hall in Hadleyville in October 2025, was found guilty on the charges and was sentenced to a 90-day conditional sentence order and 12 months probation.

A conditional sentence order allows offenders to serve their sentence in the community under strict conditions instead of in jail, promoting rehabilitation while ensuring accountability.

What may seem like a harmless prank to some, can be very disturbing, and in some cases damaging to others.

On March 13th, it was reported that 4-5 youth were ringing doorbells in the Canso area and promptly leaving, in what is commonly called “ding dong ditch”. After the prank was played, the homeowner noticed damage to their screen door.

Guysborough District RCMP would like to remind parents that it’s good to discuss these games with their kids, even if they aren’t the ones involved, so they understand that there are several reasons why these games are unwelcomed by most people. Some examples are damage to property, home residents trying to rest or get small children to sleep.

Crime Prevention



Taking some basic safety measures at home can minimize your chances of being targeted by thieves. Some tips include:

- Ensure your home is properly secured and well- lit.
- Keep your doors and windows locked, even when you are at home.
- Invest in an alarm system.
- Let a trusted neighbour or friend check your house if you are away for an extended period.

It is important to make your home appear lived in as thieves target empty homes. This can be as simple as making sure that there is not a pile of newspapers sitting outside your door. Also, if you are planning on leaving your home for a long time, check in with your insurance company as they may require someone to check your home while you are gone to ensure you are still covered.

Road Safety

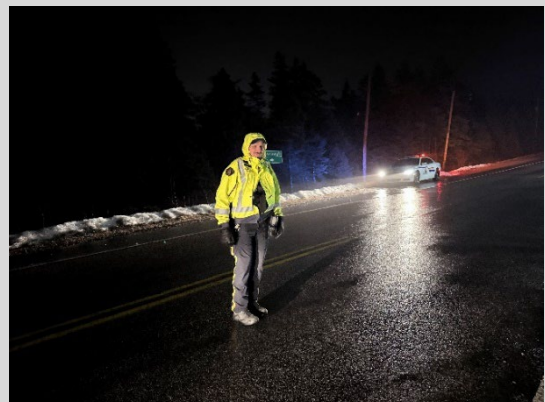
Spring brings several new hazards to the road that drivers need to pay attention to. Important points to remember to ensure you, your family and others using the road stay safe include:

1. Potholes that form during winter months can cause you to swerve or go off your path of travel. Travelling at the posted speed limit helps look ahead and safely prepare how you are going to navigate a pothole.
2. Sun glare is a serious concern for many drivers. Having a pair of sunglasses available in the car for days when the sun is bright can help you see.
3. Increased motorcycles and bicyclists with warmer weather means sharing the road and all doing our part to make sure we are travelling safely and not adding risk to injury for ourselves or others.
4. Careful driving in neighborhoods and townships because spring can bring an increase of residents walking on the shoulder of the road for exercise, children playing outside and/or people crossing streets & roads.
5. More wildlife activity, especially in rural areas, means that you need to pay more attention to the road to avoid hitting animals while driving.
6. Frequent rainstorms bring beautiful flowers but standing water also makes the roads slick and there is the risk of hydroplaning.

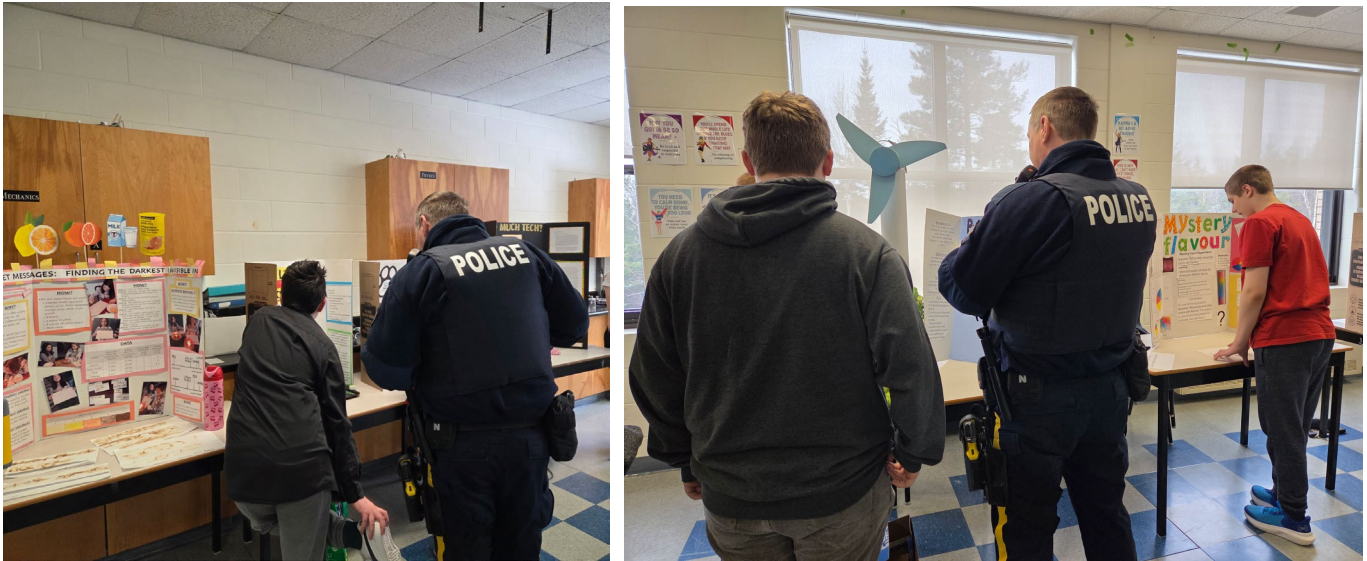
On March 4th, Guysborough District RCMP stopped a vehicle for suspected impaired driving on Highway 7 in Sherbrooke. The 63-year-old driver provided two samples of their breath, which determined that they were driving over the legal limit. They were issued a driving suspension and will appear in Antigonish Provincial Court on April 29th to enter a plea to the charge of driving with over 80 mg of alcohol per 100 litres of blood

Three check stops were set up in the communities of Hazel Hill, Guysborough and Meagher's Hill.

Rain or shine, Cst. Fink is out keeping the roads safe



In Our Community



Cst. Tom Thordarson stopped by St. Mary's Education Centre Academy in March to check out the science fair projects.

Cst. Tammy Hudak met with seniors in Larry's River and discussed travellers' safety. She covered topics on current frauds around the province, how to take extra safety precautions when carrying a purse or wallet, walking to your vehicle after dark, among many other great tips!



Some days it's all hands-on deck in Guysborough District. Arnold was hoping this would turn into a full-time gig for him (and we were too), but he was too shy to answer the dispatcher on the radio, he doesn't hold a driver's license to be able to drive to calls, and although he was confident in his abilities to type up incident reports, his supervisors weren't able to make any sense of what he typed.

Arnold wants everyone to know that even though it didn't work out for him, the RCMP is still looking for police officers that would be a great fit to serve our communities. You can get more information by visiting www.rcmp.ca/en/careers-rcmp

FROM THE CRUISER

GUYSBOROUGH COUNTY DISTRICT RCMP-GRC

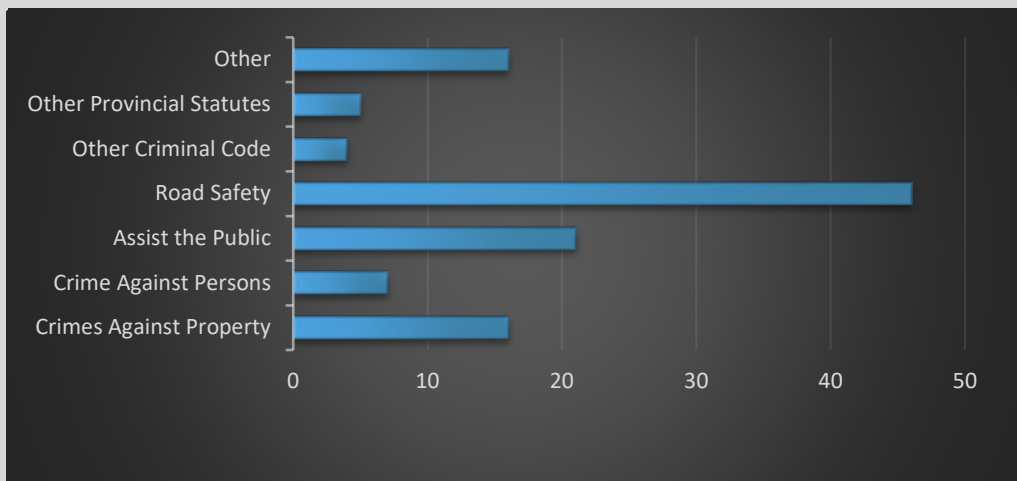
April 2026



Boylston

The Month in Review

Guysborough County District RCMP responded to 117 calls for service during the month of April 2026. Below is a chart showing the nature of those calls:



**Some calls of a sensitive nature are not included in the above chart*

News Stories

Two small boats reported missing from Guysborough County were recovered from a property in Mulgrave in April. RCMP executed a search warrant on the property on April 20th and recovered a boat that was reported stolen last summer by a New Brunswick owned company working in the Pirate Harbour area.

Guysborough District RCMP is asking for anyone with additional information on the theft of this boat to call 902-533-3801 or to remain anonymous, contact Nova Scotia Crime Stoppers toll-free at 1 800 222 TIPS (8477), submit a secure web tip at www.crimestoppers.ns.ca, or use the P3 Tips app.



On April 29th, RCMP responded to a report of Break and Enter to a cottage on Cameron Settlement Road. Various tools, a vintage typewriter, & a pellet gun were among the items stolen.



Anyone with information on this crime is asked to contact RCMP at 902-522-2200 or Crime Stoppers.

Crime Prevention

Have you heard of Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN)?



SCAN is a branch of the Nova Scotia Department of Justice that aims to improve community safety by targeting and, if necessary, shutting down residential and commercial buildings, and land, that are regularly used for illegal activities.

SCAN gives citizens the tools to report problem residences and businesses and gives authorities the power to investigate and take action. It also holds property owners accountable for threatening or disturbing activities regularly taking place on their property.

If you want to report a problem property or have any questions regarding SCAN, please call toll free at 1-877-357-2337. Hours of operation are Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. If calling after hours, you can leave a message, and someone will return your call.

If you are reporting a problem property, you may also want to notify your local police agency. **If you have an emergency, dial 911.**

Road Safety

On April 11th, a 66-year-old driver was charged with driving while prohibited. They will appear in Antigonish Provincial Court on June 10th to enter a plea to the charge.

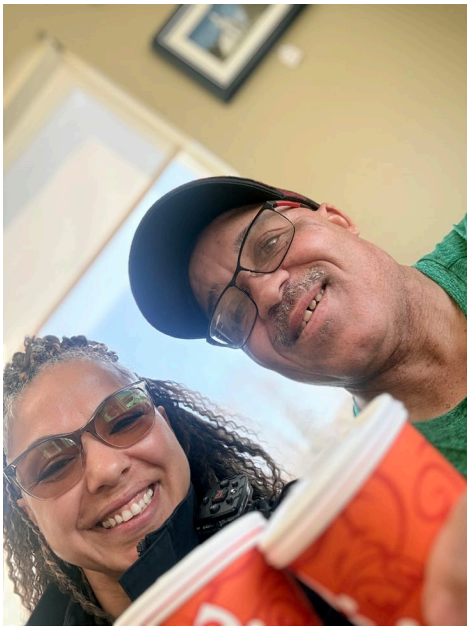
Seven check stops were set up in the area during the month in the communities of Guysborough, Boylston, Port Bickerton, and Sherbrooke.



May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. If taking your bike out for the first time this year, keep these tips in mind before hitting the road:

- **Gear up** – No matter how hot the temperature is, clothing that covers your skin provides protection, goggles or shields & gloves should always be worn. And make sure your helmet is DOT approved.
- **Stay in your comfort zone** – Know your abilities & make sure that neither your chosen route nor motorcycle is more than you can handle. Your bike should fit you (handlebars/controls easy to reach, no tiptoes). If the bike feels too heavy for you, it probably is.
- **Inspect your ride** – Give your bike a once over before heading out, Check tire pressure, mirrors, lights. Don't ignore regular maintenance.
- **Use your head** – While mirrors are there for a reason, you can't rely solely on them for seeing what's in your immediate riding space. Keep your head & eyes up when rounding corners and turn your head to look over your shoulder before changing lanes.
- **Know the forecast** – The dangers of wet, slick roads multiply when you're on two wheels, paired with the lack of windshield, and your body's exposure to the rain can affect your vision & stability.
- **Make sure two isn't a crowd** – Passengers need a helmet, protective clothing and the right shoes. Make sure they know what to do when you turn corners or need to stop. It might be a good idea to take a test run together in a safe environment like a parking lot before hitting the open road.

In Our Community



Meet your Mounties at coffee ☺
Cst. Hudak & Clare Byard ran into each other at Robins in Guysborough. If you see your police officers in your community, let them know what is important to you to help keep you safe in your neighbourhood. We value your input.



The RCMP gals in Canso do it all; Cst. Tammy Hudak and Detachment Assistant Melissa Richard spend many hours working along each other in investigations, but on this day, Tammy got to work with Melissa in the field when at a Fire scene. Melissa is a volunteer fire fighter in the community.



The Guysborough Country District RCMP team had a training day in April where they worked through tabletop exercises on responding to critical incidents & natural disasters. They ended the day at the CLC track for a group workout.

Fit for duty, fit for life



Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Wednesday, May 20th, 2026
Council Meeting

Recommendations from Internal Committees of Council

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Anti-Hate and Accessibility Advisory Committee – April 10th, 2026

On recommendation of Anna Muise, and seconded by Sheena Cameron, Council approve the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's 2026-28 Inclusion Plan.

Recommendation adopted.

Committee of the Whole – April 15th, 2026

On recommendation of Deputy Warden Malloy and seconded by Councillor Beaver, Council approve the transfer of any Municipal Operating Surplus for the 2025/2026 fiscal year to the Municipal Capital Reserve fund and the Fire Service Reserve equally.

Recommendation adopted.

Committee of the Whole – May 6th, 2026

On recommendation of Deputy Warden Malloy seconded by Councillor O'Connell, Council approve the purchase of the F-150 Regular Cab truck from Highland Ford at a price of \$55,000 plus HST, to be funded through the 2026/27 capital budget.

Recommendation adopted.

On recommendation of Councillor Tibbo seconded by Councillor O'Connell, Council awards Strait Engineering Ltd., the design of the Westside Water Main replacement at a cost of \$30,875.00 plus HST to maintain reliable water distribution to the Westside and to help promote growth to our community, funded from the Housing Accelerator Fund program.

Recommendation adopted.

On recommendation of Councillor O'Connell, seconded by Councillor Tibbo, Council recommend approval for the CAO to be authorized to enter into an agreement with Clean Foundation to provide project management and oversight for this project.

Recommendation adopted.

On recommendation of Deputy Warden Malloy, seconded by Councillor O'Connell, Council approve transferring \$61,739 in LCC Program grant funding to Clean Foundation to manage as part of this project.

Recommendation adopted.

On recommendation of Deputy Warden Malloy seconded by Councillor Tibbo, Council recommends attendance of up to two (2) members of council with mileage expense to be reimbursed for those attending the Strengthening Municipal Partnerships: Community Challenges and StFX Research Solutions on May 27th, 2026, as agreed by Council consensus.

Recommendation adopted.



Report to Council

Member of Council: Dana O' Connell

Board/Agency/Org GCHSA SOCIETY

Date Attended: 26/02/26

Location: TEAMS

Agenda: – Board Meeting February 26, 2026 @ 1730 hours

1. Call to order by Tim Campbell
2. Welcome
3. Roll Call – Alonzo Reddick, Tim Campbell, Dana O'Connell, Helen Michel, Janet Peitzsche, Denise Halloran and Alicia Benoit Regrets: Fin Armsworthy Absent: Sheila Brophy
4. Correspondence - Nil
5. Approval of Agenda Moved by: Dana O'Connell Seconded by: Helen Michel To approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried
6. Review of Meeting Minutes for November 27, 2025 Moved by: Janet Peitzsche Seconded by: Helen Michel Motion carried. To approve November 27, 2025, meeting minutes as presented. Business arising from minutes: • New Collective Agreement i. Hourly rate increases started on Pay period 4 ii. Work continues on Retro Payments
7. Executive Director's Report • Surge Learning platform • Accreditation Primer update Discussion: new code of conduct from the province that could be beneficial to the Agency, suggestion to contact Mun. of Guysborough for a copy; All members attending agreed to



Report to Council

gchsa.ca emails to have access to SharePoint Moved by: Dana O'Connell Seconded by: Janet Peitzsche

To approve the Executive Director's report as presented. Motion carried.

8. Financial Report • Budget • Credit Card and GIC i. Credit card is in process ii. GIC rates - offered 21 Month special iii. No response on the funding proposal for food boxes through Square Roots iv. Agency is waiting for a meeting with Dept. of SLTC regarding the 3% decrease in provincial funding v. Discussion on budget and possible avenues to manage the 3% decrease in provincial fundin Moved by: Dana O'Connell Seconded by: Janet Peitzsche
To approve the budget as presented. Motion carried.

9. Standing Agenda Items: • Quarterly Report – Client Safety Incidents • Quality Improvement Plan – TABLED to March 2026 • Board Manual • Operational Plan • Policy Review including Succession Planning Moved by: Table it

10. Other: Policy approval - 124 Environmental Stewardship & 125 Integrated Risk Management Moved by: Dana O'Connell Seconded by: Helen Michel

To approve Policy 124 and Policy 125 with amendments as presented. Motion carried.

11. Anything by Members • Thank You for HSWs - Great job by the HSWs through the winter weather, want to thank the staff for the great work on behalf of the Board; suggestion to have a special night for the HSW on the hard work (discussion have been taking place on this option) •

IT created report was shown by Denise as a suggestion for Councilors to present as part of their reporting process to their respective Municipal Units. The report includes a breakdown of visits and hours by Service Area. Executive Director to include this information as part of their report; suggestion to include the number of staff providing care and the number of clients who received home support services; Helen spoke of the agency to the municipality thanking Denise for the information provided. • Question about the cell phone booster



Report to Council

purchase is in process, waiting for pricing on the latest model; suggested to get the upgraded cell phone boosters; it was noted that cell phone boosters are part of staff safety.

12. Next Meeting Date: March 26, 2026 @ 1730 hours 13. Adjournment 1852 hours by Tim Campbell



Report to Council

Member of Council: Dana O' Connell

Board/Agency/Organization: Sherbrooke Restoration Commission

Date Attended: 27/02/26

Location: Sherbrooke Village

Agenda:

SHERBROOKE RESTORATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

February 27, 2026

REGULAR MEETING

Present: Rennie Beaver, Chair; John Watson, Vice Chair; Dana O'Connell; York Lethbridge, Executive Director; and Lisa Myers, Recording Secretary.

TEAMS: Meghann Jack and Leigh Ellen Walsh

Regrets: Stephanie Smith, Executive Director, Archives, Libraries & Museums; Don Wescott.

Call to Order: 1:01 pm by Rennie Beaver Chair.

Territorial Acknowledgement

Sherbrooke Restoration Commission would like to begin by acknowledging that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) Peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1725.



Report to Council

Agenda:

Motion to approve the amended agenda for February 27, 2026, was made by Dana O'Connell and seconded by John Watson. Motion carried.

Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes for January 21, 2026, was made by John Watson and seconded by Dana O'Connell. Motion carried.

Business Arising from the minutes: No Business Arising from the minutes.

Correspondence:

Letter from Stephaine Smith, Executive Director, Archives, Libraries & Museums, notifying all colleagues of the 2026-27 Provincial Budget impacts to the Nova Scotia Museum.

12 museums will be closed leaving 16 remaining sites. Remaining sites will all receive a 20% cut to their operating grant starting in the new fiscal year. A revised budget for Sherbrooke Village must be submitted by March 15, 2026. The Commission Executive and Executive Director, York Lethbridge, forwarded a letter on the Commission's behalf to Ministers requesting government reconsider these cuts.

The Executive Director encourages everyone to write letters to their representatives expressing their concern with these decisions and how it will affect rural Nova Scotian economies; key contacts include CCTH Minister Dave Ritcey, Premier Tim Houston and MLA Greg Morrow.

The Historic Sherbrooke Village Development Society and St. Mary's Genealogy Research Centre are writing letters in support of Sherbrooke Village.

St. Mary's Municipality is having a Council meeting on March 4th at 5:00pm to discuss the impacts to community outlined in the Commission's letter.

The Executive Director explained that NSM advised that Sherbrooke Village's social media channels are considered government assets and cannot be used to lobby government; however, some other museum sites have taken to posting about their closures and cuts.



Report to Council

The Executive Director also highlighted that government intends to shrink the Public Service by 5% in each following fiscal year over the next 4 years; there is hope this does not translate to further cuts to Sherbrooke Village's operating budget.

This has caused stress on all staff. Union President Joey Jordan has been receiving most of the questions and with the help of the Executive Director they are doing their best to ease staff mental health. The focus for Sherbrooke Village management and union is to establish a united front on advocating for the museum.

Several protest rallies will be taking place in Halifax and elsewhere over the next week, and all staff have been encouraged to attend. As the budget has not yet passed, there is still time to request reconsideration before a rumoured Friday, March 6th, 2026 budget vote in the House.

In-Camera

A motion was made by Dana O'Connell to go in camera at 1:22pm allowing Lisa Myers to stay in the meeting to take notes and answer any financial questions. Seconded by John Watson. Motion carried.

A motion was made by John Watson to come out of camera at 1:50pm. Motion was seconded by Meghann Jack. Motion carried.

Further to the budget cuts York Lethbridge, Executive Director reported that the Department of Public Works (DPW) budget has also been cut by 20% and their Capital Projects budget was cut by 50%. During the fiscal year 2025-2026 a signed contract was made with DPW to fund the shingling of Greenwood Cottage roof, which is in progress. York Lethbridge is hoping that this will be honoured to complete the project. The DPW annual maintenance grant is expected to stay \$ 57,500 for 2026-27 unless the museum hears otherwise.

York Lethbridge informed the Commission that Sherbrooke Village received a new quote for the sawmill electric motor. The site will move forward with installation, but with a smaller motor and at a reduced installation cost.

York Lethbridge let the Commission know that his number one priority is to have the least impact on staff, followed by site maintenance, and finally programming with this 20% cut to



Report to Council

budget. Management has had a preliminary meeting to discuss where reductions can be made. Lisa Myers, Financial Administrator, continues to refine the revised budget.

Management will present a revised and balanced budget to Commission prior to the March 15, 2026 submission deadline.

Meghann Jack will follow up with York Lethbridge and the Historic Sherbrooke Village Development Society about strategies for economic diversification for Sherbrooke Village in the wake of proposed budget cuts. Meghann asked for this to be added to the Action Plan.

Executive Director's Report:

The Executive Director, York Lethbridge, presented a verbal report on recent activities to the Commission.

Financial Report:

Lisa Myers presented the financial report for the period ending January 31, 2026.

Request for a motion for the Commission to accept the financial report for January 31, 2026, as presented, was made by Lisa Myers. Motion made by Dana O'Connell and seconded by Meghann Jack. Motion carried.

Lisa Myers confirmed that all source deductions have been paid to date.

Action Plan:

York Lethbridge reviewed the Action Plan. There are no changes.

New Business:

Questions about documents

John Watson was wondering if the Executive Director Succession Plan (Emergency or Unplanned Absence) Policy was presented due to the Executive Director leaving. York Lethbridge reassured the Commission that this was not the case. Meghann Jack assured the Commission that this policy was created because there was gap with some policies and this one



Report to Council

did not exist and it is very important to help the Commission navigate if such an exit does come up. Commissioners were encouraged to review the policy and forward any suggested edits to Meghann.

Strategic Plan

Meghann Jack and York Lethbridge have been moving forward with the Strategic Plan. Where the plan is broad in nature, changes will likely not have to be made despite the recent budget cuts.

Staff Accommodations

Several seasonal staff find it difficult to find accommodation for the season and some have decided not to return because of this. Because of layout, the winter weavers building (Willet House) is the best house to consider converting into staff accommodation for the season. It will allow 4 seasonal staff to stay.

There will be minor upgrades to the kitchen, and the fire alarm system has been checked. The feasibility of this project will need to be balanced against budget revisions in light of the proposed cuts.

Restaurant Revamp

The Kilted Chef (Alain Bosse), consultant, has met with management and restaurant staff to explore a revamp to the restaurant with a new business plan. The cost of the revamp will be drawn from this fiscal year's budget and application for ACOA funding. Michelle Clarabut has been working on grant funding for this purpose. As an important revenue centre within the museum's operations, this is a sound investment in light of expected financial pressures.

History Minute:

Meghann Jack presented on the history of New Town, sharing images from a 1955 Women's Institute photo scrapbook including the Archibald Sawmill in Fishers' Mills.

Next Meeting:

March 25, 2026, 1:00pm in Exhibit Centre.



Report to Council

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by John Watson and seconded by Dana O'Connell.
Motion carried.



Report to Council

Member of Council: James Fuller

Board/Agency/Organization: GALA

Date Attended: 14 March 2026

Location: Guysborough

ED Report attached

Highlights:

- One, possibly two instructors will be out with medical issues in the short term. As the school season is in its last weeks, classes will be covered.
- Due to a change in provincial policies, some travel expenses for the ED will not be covered for an upcoming conference. Board approved these expenses from GALA budget.



Executive Director's Report

April 2026



Welcome! I hope everyone enjoyed their Easter holidays.

Staffing

- John has been off since February 19th. This has resulted in reassigning hours/locations for some other staff.
- Ray received his Letter of Concern as discussed at the last board meeting.

Nova Scotia School for Adult Learning - NSSAL (funded by Dept. of Labour, Skills & Immigration)

- We continue to see new enrollments. Intake is ongoing.
- The Community Literacy program continues to do well.
- Instructors participated in online NSSAL PD training sessions on March 25th – 2 sessions: (1) **E3F Stream Outcomes** and (2) **CAEC Math Workbook**.
- The Curriculum Development Team presented their findings from the Curriculum Feedback & Review Initiative (site visits) via MS Teams on March 9th.
- Had our Financial Site Visit Monitor with Corey Moore on February 20th.
- Some changes to the application process for the 2026-2027 year. Application materials are now available on the NSSAL Info Cache (NIC) – applications are due May 6, 2026.

Literacy Nova Scotia (LNS)

- LNS website has a new look. Check it out at: <https://www.literacyns.ca/>
- RPT meeting – March 3rd – they will take our concerns back to NSSAL.

Family Literacy

- Early Years meeting on March 31st. Looking at doing another Health Fair.
- Kati and Donna submitted the report for the FLIK project.

Promotion

- With some input from Donna, Melissa O'Leary contributed to an article for ABC Life Literacy Canada titled: Building Digital Confidence in Rural Nova Scotia. The link to the article is: <https://abclifeliteracy.ca/news/building-digital-confidence-in-rural-nova-scotia/>

Department of Opportunities & Social Development

- LEAPS project started on December 29th – ended on March 27th. John Cleary began the project but could not continue so Kati Ehler took over for him. We had 6 participants – 5 completed in person, the 6th one finished at home via packages.

- \$15,227.07 was received for the LEAPSS project on December 11th. Remaining payment of \$4,078.43 was deposited on April 10th.
- Interim reports and final reports were submitted.

Financials

- NSSAL funding – should receive next installment of \$48,293.94 on April 15th.
- March 10th – email from NSSAL stating: Please note that costs associated with financial reviews or audits will now be considered an **ineligible** expense under the new agreement year (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027). Organizations should plan to cover any financial review or audit expenses through their own operational budgets or alternative funding sources. As per the funding agreement, if a financial audit is required by the province, that cost will be covered by the department.
- Untagged Funding:
 - Have received donations via Canada Helps, cheque & e-Transfers.
 - Needed to use some Untagged Funds to cover the cost of having Kati replace John as the instructor for LEAPS, as we also had to cover his remaining sick days.
- Meeting with Erik Fraser regarding making some changes to our Health Benefits plan which could save staff and GALA money.

ANSCLO Updates

- Donna attended ANSCLO's Annual General Meeting & regular meeting on Thursday, February 5th via Zoom.
- Emergency meeting of ANSCLO regarding funding cuts – February 27th.
- ANSCLO AGM coming up – April 30th & May 1st in Truro.

Other

- GEO Connects – spring session Monday, April 13 – Friday, June 19.
- GALA presented an Online Safety Workshop in Antigonish with AWRC, RCMP and Service Canada on Friday.
- Kati & Donna did ROEs for staff – March Break layoff.
- Instructors completed online training from Engage NS for the Quality-of-Life Survey – they are encouraging learners to do the surveys.
- Grant proposals – Application to Age-Advantage – was supposed to hear by the end of February but no word yet.
- Workshop provided by Karen MacDonald from Service Canada – March 12th in Guysborough.
- Barry has given notice that he would like us to find someone else to host and maintain our work email and our website. With help from Barry, Kati and I are exploring possibilities.
- Other workshops are being arranged for the spring.



Report to Council

Member of Council: Warden James Fuller

Board/Agency/Organization: SMARTGO

Date Attended: 04/14/2026

Location: Sherbrooke

Agenda Items Discussed:

- Budget Review in regards to Provincial budget cuts.
- Review of new accounting system
- Appointment of accountant
- Approval of funds for new vehicle

Staff Report

Department of Community Development & Recreation

Municipal Volunteer of the Year Selection

SUMMARY

The Municipality issued a call for nominations for the Volunteer of the Year for St. Mary's. The deadline for submissions was May 15th, 2026.

BACKGROUND

Each year, the Municipality recognizes an outstanding individual as the Municipal Volunteer of the Year. This award honours a local volunteer who has made significant contributions through their dedication, leadership, and service to the community. The selected individual is invited to attend the Provincial Volunteer Awards Ceremony, which celebrates volunteers from across Nova Scotia.

In addition to the provincial recognition, the Municipality hosts a local celebration in the fall. This event is open to all volunteers who live in or serve the Municipality and provides an opportunity to express appreciation for the vital role volunteers play in strengthening the community.

NOMINEES

Nominee 1:

Volunteer Contributions: This individual has been involved with St. Mary's Trail Association since 2024, participating in clean up events and trail maintenance.

Why This Volunteer is Exceptional: This individual is 10 years old and has been volunteering since the age of eight.

Lasting Impact and Community Building: This nominee cares about building a trail for everyone to enjoy. They take pride in cleaning up the trail, picking up garbage and planting trees.

Nominee 2:

Volunteer Contributions: This individual has only been in our community for about a year and has been a member of Liscomb Volunteer Fire Department. Since the day they joined this nominee has contributed countless hours of working on the trucks, hall cleaning, tech support, along with anything and everything that must be done without even asking.

Why This Volunteer is Exceptional: This individual is always willing to help if anyone needs a helping hand within community.

Nominee 3:

Volunteer Contributions: Everything that happens in the community this individual is almost always apart of it in some way.

Why This Volunteer is Exceptional: This individual goes above and beyond for their community and always pulls off a great job. They are always there when the community needs them.

Staff Report

Lasting Impact and Community Building: This nominee has won multiple small business awards. They truly give their heart and soul to the community.

CONSIDERATIONS

Impact: the nominee's contributions should have made a clear and positive impact on individuals, groups, or the community.

Commitment and Dedication: the length and consistency of the volunteer's involvement, and have shown exceptional dedication, going above and beyond expectations.

Leadership: takes initiative, leads programs or events, or inspires others to get involved in volunteerism.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Council agrees to select _____ as the Municipal Volunteer of the Year.



2026-2027

CAO Report – Project Summary

For the period of April 1st to 30th, 2026

The Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

MAJOR PROJECT SUMMARY

1. Housing Initiatives –

CMHC- Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF)

The feasibility study completed by Strait Engineering Ltd in July of 2025 identified water utility capacity as the greatest hurdle for growth within the community.

The age and degraded state of the water main infrastructure on the west side of the St. Mary's River has been recognized as the key water utility capacity constraint limiting housing growth within the community. With the approval of the 2026/27 operating and capital budgets in late April, a three-year project, funded through the HAF, has been initiated to design and replace the west side water main. In 2026/27, the design will be completed; the replacement work will be scheduled over the following two fiscal years. Priority will be placed on replacing infrastructure to the hospital in the first year of construction. A Request for Proposals for construction will be issued later this year.

2. Climate Change Projects –

The municipality is leveraging the relationship with CLEAN Foundation to identify and address outstanding actions from the municipality's approved Climate Change Action Plan. A key action underway is to redirect the Low Carbon Communities funding project toward reducing energy costs for the Recplex. In 2026/27, an Energy Transition Study will be completed which will identify actions and potential sources of funding.

3. EMO/REMO –

- On April 14th, our new shared REMO Coordinator Kelsey Reece joined the Municipality of the District of Guysborough, the District of St. Mary's, and the Town of Mulgrave as part of the REMO proactive preparedness initiatives. She has extensive frontline experience that spans over 14 years as a Primary Care Paramedic and volunteer firefighter.
- Kelsey's transition into emergency management is driven by a deep commitment to proactive community safety. She is pursuing a degree in Hydrology and Climate Change, which gives her a unique perspective on addressing local challenges, allowing her to apply her knowledge toward natural disasters, drought preparedness, crisis readiness, and the long-term safety of the community.
- Immediate priorities for the REMO Shared Service will include finalizing the shared services agreement and REMO Emergency Management By-Law for all three municipalities.

4. Tourism Promotion & Electronic Content/Advertisements –

- Along with other County organizations and municipalities, the municipality participated in Saltscapes in the month of April.
- The Tourism website was updated from its winter photos to spring/summer content.

5. Economic Development and Business Support–

- An Expression of Interest was prepared and published for developers to identify proposals for long-term pharmacy services within the municipality. The property at 8164 Highway 7 has been offered for potential sale or lease to support the development of a long-term pharmacy.

- The municipality hosted a meeting with provincial representatives and the St. Mary's Memorial Hospital Association and Nursing Home representatives, to investigate solutions for moving forward with a new hospital, potentially associated with a new nursing home, aligned with the municipality's phased [concept plan](#).
- The recruitment for the Director of Economic Development continues, to identify a dynamic experienced individual to lead the municipality's economic development plan and implementation.

6. Upcoming Municipal Events

- a. Sherbrooke Pride Flag Raising Ceremony – A Flag Raising Ceremony of the Intersex-Inclusive Progress Pride Flag is planned for June 12th at 4:00 p.m. at the municipal flagpole located at the intersection of Highway 7 and Old Road Hill. The purpose of this Flag Raising Ceremony is to demonstrate the Municipality's support for Pride and for the Sherbrooke Pride event. This event holds growing significance within our community, now entering its third year and continuing to expand in both participation and impact. Raising the Pride flag is a meaningful way to show that our Municipality is committed to being supportive, welcoming, and inclusive for all.
- b. Planning is underway for Canada Day celebrations.

7. Community Development and Recreation Programs

- a. Before and After School Program continues, with strong attendance.
- b. Eco Explorers began on April 15th, with 18 children registered, with the majority attending each week. The entire program has taken place outdoors, allowing participants to enjoy time in Stonewall Park. The participants have taken part in a variety of eco-themed activities, including crafts, scavenger hunts, and plenty of active games. Feedback has been very positive and the children seem to be really enjoying the program.
- c. House League Hockey wrapped up on April 4th with a family skate and snacks held at the St. Mary's Recplex.
- d. Learn to Skate wrapped up on April 7th with a family skate and snacks.

8. Capital projects supporting Community Development and Recreation

- a. Connect 2 – Multi Use Trail Design – Work on this project has begun including a project kickoff meeting which was held on April 9th with staff and Strait Engineering Limited.

9. Accessibility & Inclusion

- a. A staff report will be presented to Council to appoint members to the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Anti-Hate & Accessibility Advisory Committee.

10. Public Works

Municipal Utilities & Infrastructure

- The temporary water line bypass in the parking lot of Clover Farm will be replaced with a permanent underground water main. The work is scheduled to be completed in the week of May 18th. The heat trace component repair has started but with closer inspection, further parts are required to fix this properly. This includes getting a power disconnect through Nova Scotia Power. The electrical work is being arranged by Sherbrooke Electrical.
- Consultation took place with Strait Engineering, FracFlow, Department of Environment and Climate Change to discuss the next steps with the remediation of the buried cells and ground water and leachate monitoring plan for the transfer station moving forward. There

is currently a plan in place on how to approach this project by Strait Engineering and Fracflow and this plan has been formally submitted to Department of Environment and Climate Change. The work and testing on this is currently underway.

- A scope change has been requested and accepted for the Inflow and Infiltration project. All wastewater collection lines and lift stations will now be cleaned and video inspected to inspect the system for further inflow and infiltration issues. This work is scheduled to begin in June and to be completed by October of 2026.
- The cushion tanks for the Water Treatment Plant have now been purchased and installed.
- The sewer blower replacement has now been awarded to Maritime Blower Repair Inc. Currently waiting for an installation date.

Capital Projects

Description	Update
16 Main Street Washroom Accessibility Renovations	Request for proposals scheduled to be issued by fall 2026.
Old Road Hill Multi-Use Path Construction Ready Design	Design contract was awarded April 2026 and design work is underway.
Cushion Tank Replacement	Completed in May 2026.
Filter #1 Overhaul	Scope revised to complete some work in house. Requesting quotes for trough extension and Council approval if required in fall 2026.
Agitator and Tank for Soda Ash Mixing	Quotes requested; work to be completed by fall 2026.
West Side Water Main Replacement	Design contract awaiting final Council approval to award.
Water Main Replacement (Clover Farm Parking Lot)	Estimate completion by end of May 2026.
Water Meter Replacement	Meters have been ordered, will be installed throughout the year.
Water Treatment PLC Replacement	Request for Proposals has been posted and closes in June 2026.
Outside Storage for Chemical Barrels	Project planned to be completed in fall 2026.
Hospital Road Lift Station Pedestal Replacement Village Lift Station Check Valve Replacement Main Street Lift Station Overflow Gasket Replacement	Work is planned for fall 2026.
I&I Recommendations – Flushing and Videoing Sewer Lines, Lift Station Clean Outs	Work is scheduled to be completed by October 2026.
Lift Station Electrical Panel Upgrade – Two Year Project	Request for Proposals anticipated to be issued in July 2026.
Sewer Plant Exterior Aeration Piping	Project planned to be completed in late fall 2026.
Sewer Blower Replacement	Contract awarded and awaiting an installation date.
Ice Edger	Awaiting provincial decision on grant funding application.
Drilled Well for St. Mary's Recplex	Awaiting provincial decision on grant funding application.
Recplex Surge Protector	Project planned for completion by fall 2026.
Solar RFP	Recplex Energy Transition Study expected to be completed in summer 2026.
Truck Purchase	Request for Proposals complete. Awaiting final approval to proceed.