

Staff Report  
June 28, 2022

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## KEY STRATEGIC AREAS

### 1. Infrastructure Renewal

#### *a. New Recreation Centre*

Earlier this month, we were notified that our application for funding to the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings (GICB) program to help offset the cost of the new centre was not selected for funding. This is unfortunate news as we waited over a year for a response and were obviously hoping to use the least amount of municipal funds as possible on the project. That being said, now that we know the decision, we can move forward accordingly. In order to determine our next steps, I will be working with Misty to provide Council with a staff report which will be presented to them at the second Committee of the Whole meeting in July.

#### *b. Development of Asset Management Plan*

Our draft asset management plan, policy and procedure framework has been finalized and will be presented to Council for approval next month.

We are having trouble confirming a firm to help us with condition assessments of our major infrastructure to help input this information and data as a baseline in our asset management software, but we continue to work on this.

#### *c. Renewal or Expansion of Sewer System*

Nothing new to report at this time.

### 2. Economic Growth

#### *a. Development of Additional Business/Commercial Property*

Nothing new to report at this time.

#### *b. Reduction of Commercial Taxation*

Nothing new to report at this time.

#### *c. Improved Access to Internet*

A reminder that the Port La Tour project was completed last month and is open for customer sales.

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For a list of serviceable civic addresses and more information on our internet projects visit our dedicated internet webpage at: <https://bit.ly/3li8Zeh>.

To further check availability, learn more or order the service, residents and businesses can call Bell in Barrington Passage at (902) 637-2300 ext. 242 or visit <https://aliant.bell.ca/Bell-bundles>.

Since this service is still fairly new, there could be occasions where residents/businesses are told the service is not available to them even though they are on the list of serviceable civic addresses. If this issue is encountered, please email Chris Frotten at [cfrotten@barringtonmunicipality.com](mailto:cfrotten@barringtonmunicipality.com) or call 902-903-0480.

### **Promotion and Support of the Tourism Industry**

#### *d. Amenities at Beaches*

As mentioned last month, we received approval for funding to help to offset the cost of some Mobi Mats and an accessible portable washroom. They have been ordered and will be installed at Stoney Island Beach once they arrive.

#### *e. Work to Attract Accommodations*

Nothing new to report at this time.

### **3. Provision or Support of Services for Residents of the Municipality**

#### *a. Continued Work Towards Additional Medical Services (Medical Clinic, Dialysis)*

the Community Health Centre project continues to be a priority. Staff is working on the direction provided by Council which includes bringing forward design options to Council and researching potential locations.

#### *b. Develop Water Access Plan (docks, wharves, and marinas)*

Nothing new to report at this time.

#### *c. Improve Active Transportation (sidewalks, trails, boardwalks)*

We are working with BMHS and Kevin Holland to apply for planning assistance for a trail project at the school. This has been in the works for some time with preliminary draft ideas done several years ago. The trail would be multi-purpose to include walking, biking, snowshoe, cross country running and skiing. We would also wish to engage students in the work to both facilitate their

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learning and application of knowledge to a practical setting and build community capacity and experience in trail development.

We have briefly consulted on the green space and trail possibility in Centreville and will have a preliminary report to council in the early fall so direction may be provided.

In the month of May, the Sherose Island Nature trail had 986 people use the trail. The highest day was on May 25, which was on a Wednesday.

The Sherose Island Trail remains a top priority. During recent Recreation Advisory Council discussions on a Sherose Island Recreation Hub strategy, all members submitted trail amenities, expansion, etc. as top desired outcomes. With added direction from Council, we are looking to increase and improve signage, start developing a rest/picnic area, and add small natural play areas.

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## **SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FROM MAY 24<sup>TH</sup> TO JUNE 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2022**

### **TOPICS**

#### **Shelburne County Lobster Fest**

Shelburne County Lobster Festival returned this year in full swing. Two events were canceled due to lack of participation, (Light 'Em Up for Lobster Festival and the Tinker Challenge) but we will try them again next year and hope for better results. The Great Lobsterman Challenge returned with a full list of competitors, we had 12 in total and Corey Crowell took home his fifth title. We had a great turnout in the audience, with approx. 275 in attendance. Trivia Night was a huge success as we were full to capacity, and everyone enjoyed the evening. Over 50 vendors filled the arena for the Lobster Fest Market, and we had a great turnout of attendees. We had local musicians on the stage throughout the day and a presentation from Jennifer Spence of Yellow Brick Road Farm on canning and preserving lobster. Overall, it was great to be back to in-person events and we believe everyone enjoyed the festivities.

#### **Travel Media Association of Canada's Conference**

The Travel Media Association of Canada's Tourism Conference was held from June 20-23. We hosted 7 tours within Shelburne County and were excited to be a part of this event as it gave us the opportunity to showcase the Lobster Capital of Canada to travel media from across Canada.

#### **Tourism Season**

Our Visitor Information Centre staff began work on May 30. Hayley Hallett and Emily Stoddart returned to their summer positions with us, and we are thrilled to have them both back. We are gearing up to welcome more visitors and you will find Hayley and Emily out and about in various locations throughout the Municipality this summer, talking with and counseling visitors and helping residents with visitor information and what's happening in our area.

#### **Beach Ambassador Program**

The staff hired to work as Beach Ambassadors as part of our partnership with Birds Canada begins work at the end of June. You will find them on our beaches this summer being stewards and educating our residents and visitors on how they too can be stewards of our beautiful beaches. We look forward to working together to ensure that our beaches are a safe place for everyone and that everyone can enjoy a day at the beach.

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### **Nova Scotia Marathon**

The Marathon Committee is in its final stages of organizing this year's edition of the Nova Scotia Marathon. They have been working hard and are seeing extremely good response from participants. Registration numbers were at 410 as of their June 8 meeting. To put that in context, in 2019, the last "normal" year for the marathon, registration for the event in June was 185 participants. The Marathon Committee along with Mile East Productions who is coordinating the event, is working incredibly well and we are very happy with the arrangement.

### **Recreation Programming**

Our swimming pool opened on June 13 and has seen very good use. We are hosting local school class trips every day in which students get to swim and out of the pool our day camp staff engage them in activities. Our June schedule offers seniors, parent & tot and open swims along with bubble rentals. These rentals continue to be very popular. We've had 100% booked the first week and the entire month of June is already 87% booked.

Registration for our summer programs opened on June 8 and has been steady. We will be adjusting our swim lesson offerings and schedule as we go based on current week's enrollment. For example, if we have a number of youths enrolled in level 3, we will increase our level 4 times the following session.

Since June 8 we've had a total of 1,114 registration transactions. Of those, 232 were done over the phone or in person and 882 were done online.

We have laid out a couple pickleball courts at the Barrington Curling Club and we hosted try-it sessions with the goal of having a drop in night at least once a week throughout the summer.

We hosted a guided hike to the Wireless Station in partnership with the Barrington Museum Complex on June 18. We plan to do this hike again in the fall with hopes of introducing more people to this historic site. The hike is 10 km in total to the site and return.

The month of June is the ParticipACTION Community Better Challenge, which is a nationwide challenge to see who Canada's most active community is. Our Physical Activity Coordinator has been promoting this challenge to residents. As of June 16, Barrington is ranked third in the province, and 101<sup>st</sup> nationwide.

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Our Recreation Department submitted for funding through the Active Communities Fund and is waiting to see if it will be approved. The funding is for a loose parts play campaign, Hike Nova Scotia badges, workplace wellness room for the Municipality, and more equipment for our equipment loan program

Our Physical Activity Coordinator has also been working on another campaign the Make Your Move campaign this month, which is to promote physical activity in day to day lives. Our Coordinator will be going on a podcast to discuss the initiative and promoting initiatives on social media.

Finally, we will be offering try-it kayaking clinics to promote kayaking in the municipality. We have offered one clinic thus far and 4 people attended. The main goal this summer will be to promote kayaking as part of equipment loan program.

### **Building Permits & By-Law Enforcement**

From May 16 to June 19, 2022, 23 permits were issued with a total dollar value of \$964,500. This is a \$241,200 increase compared to the same period last year. 98 building inspections, 3 fire inspections and 2 fire re-inspection were carried out during this period.

3 new civic numbers were issued this period and 11 households were visited to discuss civic numbering and the proper way of posting them.

We received 1 new subdivision application and sent 2 others for registration, so we now have 4 open subdivision files that we continue to work on.

We currently have 10 open by-law complaints that range from fowl running at large to illegal dumping and burning garbage. As mentioned last month, with the increased workload in the development office, by-law enforcement is taking a little longer than normal but we are still working through the complaints within the timeframes described in our complaints handling policy.

### **Fire Services & Emergency Management**

Dwayne has begun teaching the level 1 course to 15 members of Shelburne County East Fire Departments. The fire suppression portion of the course offered last Fall was held June 11 and 12 and that class finished with 5 members from the Municipality and 5 from Shelburne County

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East Fire Departments. These sessions were held at our training facility on Sherose Island and at the Woods Harbour/Shag Harbour Fire Hall.

Dwayne had a busy month attending to major fire related events such as the forest fire near Barrington Lake, a brush fire in Clyde, a structure fire in Doctors Cove where he assisted in the investigation of the cause and a water rescue in the Thomasville area.

There have been no COVID-19 related staffing issues for the fire departments, and they continue to monitor the status of their membership.

Otherwise, Dwayne continues to monitor COVID-19 updates from the province and EMONS and performed monthly fire and life safety inspections.

This May, the Fire Departments responded to 22 calls, and they responded to 20 in May 2021. Here is the data for this past month:

<b>BARRINGTON MUNICIPAL FIRE SERVICE</b>							
<b>EMERGENCY CALLS May 2022</b>							
<b>FIRE DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>Fire</b>	<b>Mut</b>	<b>Auto</b>	<b>MFR</b>	<b>MVC</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
		<b>Aid</b>	<b>Aid</b>				
Barrington/Port La Tour FD	3		1				<b>4</b>
Island Barrington Passage FD	4	1			4	2	<b>11</b>
Woods Harbour/Shag Harbour FD			1	2		4	<b>7</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>22</b>
B/PLT - 1 Grass Fire, 2 Forest fire							
IBP - 2 Grass fires, 1 Mutual Aid to Shelburne/Quint, 1 vehicle Fire, 1 Structure							
WH/SH-							



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**CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE**

Here is an update on our 2022-2023 Capital Projects:

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Status</b>
2	Arena Rubber Flooring Dressing Rooms	In Progress
3	Stoney Island Accessible Mats & Wheelchairs	In Progress
7	Admin Office Parking Lot Resurface & Curbs	In Progress
8	Council AV System	In Progress
9	Healthcare Centre	In Progress
10	Recreation Centre (21/22)	In Progress
11	Brass Hill Clarifier & Screens (21/22)	In Progress
13	Municipal Admin Building Accessibility (21/22)	In Progress
14	Property Services Building (21/22)	In Progress
1	Barrington Ballfield Aluminum Seating	Completed
4	Property Services 3/4 Ton Truck	Completed
5	Property Services Equipment	Completed
6	Solar Speed Sign	Completed
12	Landfill Truck Scale (21/22)	Completed

