

Staff Report
September 27, 2022

KEY STRATEGIC AREAS

1. Infrastructure Renewal

a. New Recreation Centre

A recommendation is before Council this evening to continue with the new build as currently designed which would replace the existing centre with a new centre according to the April 2021 approved design. The current design would see the new centre connected to the arena by way of a shared foyer/viewing area and the centre would include a small meeting room, a kitchen, programming spaces, a group activity space, a multi-purpose program space and an indoor walking track on an elevated mezzanine.

b. Development of Asset Management Plan

Last month, the Communications Plan and Climate Change Mitigation Strategies, two important components of our asset management plan, were approved. The draft asset management plan is now being developed but we continue to wait on a few other condition assessments and age/condition data to complete it. We expect the draft plan to be completed by the end of November.

c. Renewal or Expansion of Sewer System

The renovation work at our Brass Hill Treatment Plant continues.

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

Nothing new to report at this time.

Promotion and Support of the Tourism Industry

d. Amenities at Beaches

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Nothing new to report at this time.

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 first draft of the conceptual design (layout and site plan) of the Community Health Centre and the architect's opinion of probable cost has been shared with Council. These were developed based on the information I provided from our meetings and key stakeholder input. In the coming weeks, I will be reaching out to some of the local stakeholders that could help provide general input and will be working on a final conceptual design for you to consider next month.

The Warden and I met with the Minister of Health and Wellness, the Honourable Michelle Thomson on September 16 in Halifax. She was accompanied by Craig Beaton, Associate Deputy Minister and Jean MacEachern, Special Advisor to the Minister, and our MLA, Nolan Young, who initiated the meeting upon our request to chat with the Minister about the project, also attended. The meeting was productive in terms of informing the Minister and her team of our project, providing details, and answering questions. They were interested in the project, helped us understand areas they could help with and made suggestions on the next steps. There is still a lot of work to do on this project, but we hope that this will just be the first of many meetings with the province.

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

Nothing new to report at this time.

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

In the month of August, the trail tracker counted 1,107. The highest single day use was 200 on August 2nd, then 131 on August 3rd. However, these two dates Joel went to adjust the tracker therefore that is why the numbers are so high. However, the trail is still getting high usage.

The Sherose Island Trail assessment is complete, and we have received a draft of the recommendations. While some priority areas are the same as what we started the process with (accessibility, signage), others lead to very innovative thought around adding activity to the trail itself and also digitally introducing aspects of the trail on our website.

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SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FROM AUGUST 23RD TO SEPTEMBER 27TH, 2022

TOPICS

World Double Bit Axe Throwing Championships

From August 26-28, we hosted the World Double Bit Axe Throwing Championships. The event saw more than 110 athletes from 10 countries and seven provinces compete for men's women's youth and team championships. By all accounts, this was an incredible success. Large crowds attended each day of competition and the reviews from the visitors, athletes and their families we're all extremely positive. The world class event was just the economic and social boost the community and businesses needed after 2 years of COVID and it certainly showcased our Municipality and surrounding area to the World. The event was a success due to the work of the local organizing committee who spent countless hours preparing over the last 2 years, the numerous volunteers who helped fill the variety of duties and responsibilities and all of the sponsors who supported this event financially. It was truly a community event and one that we should be proud of for years to come. For those that may have missed it or would like to watch it again, coverage of the event will be airing on TSN this fall.

Sandy Wickens Memorial Arena

The Arena opened on September 16, with the Southwest Storm, our local Nova Scotia Regional Junior Hockey League team, hosting a development camp. We are excited for the year ahead and look forward to welcoming all of the familiar and new faces.

Recreation Programming

We continue to evaluate our summer programming internally and have entered into discussions with recreation colleagues for additional ideas/ solutions. We also plan to send a short survey with parents of participants next week to gain some more insights based on some ideas we may look to implement. Our aquatic staff also left our employ with direction to further their training in some areas so that we may expand our aquatic offerings next summer as well.

This is the season that we plan for the year ahead and set some goals. A priority area of the department will be hiking and trails. We will be working in different stages on three separate trail projects and will share details separately as we partner with community members and groups.



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We also wish to improve/expand our programming to some target populations: especially pre-school and seniors. We will continue to provide youth and teens activities along with opportunities for adults to try or continue recreation pursuits.

We look forward to working with the Accessibility Committee on audits of the playgrounds, parks and trails and aligning recommendations with those we have heard from the community on adding amenities to these spaces.

Community Use of Schools policy development is ongoing at the regional level and we hope to see a draft soon. It will assist us to better manage community use with local schools. We used Clarks Harbour Elementary for a week of day camp this summer and it was a great partnership. Due to the success of pickleball over the summer, there is a good possibility to offer it at a couple local schools all year long.

Family, our Active Living Coordinator met with representatives from Hike NS and has finalized the plans for the Hike NS Badge Challenge. We will begin promoting this challenge in October. This challenge is to showcase hiking destinations in the municipality for residents and tourists.

Building Permits & By-Law Enforcement

From August 21 to September 13, 2022, 27 permits were issued with a total dollar value of \$1,968,700. This is a \$589,100 increase compared to the same period last year. 116 building inspections along with one fire inspections, two fire re-inspection and one alcohol and gaming inspection were carried out during this period.

Four new civic numbers were issued this period and 3 were deleted. 16 homes were visited to discuss civic numbering.

We received no new subdivision application but still have two outstanding and one pending.

We received two new by-law complaints and resolved 2 that were outstanding. We currently have 4 open complaints. Two previously reported streetlight outages were resolved during this period. As mentioned the last couple of months, with the increased workload in the development office, by-law enforcement is a 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



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Our Fire Services Coordinator has begun and is preparing for upcoming training sessions. The Firefighter 1 course began on September 1 with 9 students, the Safety Officer course is scheduled for September 17 and 18 with 9 students registered.

6 new members have joined our departments, with some already trained, and others having joined the fall training program.

On the EMO front, our Coordinator is still monitoring precipitation and so far, drought conditions have not been experienced. He also continues to monitor hurricane activity as hurricane season is upon us. Otherwise, our Fire Services/EMO Coordinator continues to monitor COVID-19 updates from the province and EMONS and performed monthly fire and life safety inspections.

This August, the Fire Departments responded to 17 calls, compared to 6 in August 2021. Here is the data for this past month:

BARRINGTON MUNICIPAL FIRE SERVICE							
EMERGENCY CALLS August 2022							
FIRE DEPARTMENT	Fire	Mut Aid	Auto Aid	MFR	MVC	Other	TOTAL
Barrington/Port La Tour FD	5					3	8
Island Barrington Passage FD							
Woods Harbour/Shag Harbour FD				5	1	3	9
TOTALS	5			5	1	6	17
B/PLT - 4 brush fires, 1 Smoke sighting							
IBP -							
WH/SH-							



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CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE

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

Rank	Project	Status
2	Arena Rubber Flooring Dressing Rooms	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
3	Stoney Island Accessible Mats & Wheelchairs	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