

Staff Report
February 28, 2023

KEY STRATEGIC AREAS

1. Growing our Economy

3.1 Attract Accommodations

Over the past few months, we've been assisting a hotel management and development company gather information on the area with the hopes of seeing a development that would increase the number of accommodations in the Municipality.

3.2 Invest in our Beaches and Parks

Nothing new to report at this time.

3.3 Improved Cell Service

Nothing new to report at this time.

3.4 Municipal Property Development

An update relating to municipal property development is included in section 3.2.

3.5 Renewable Energy

Nothing new to report at this time.

2. Investing in our People

2.1 Community Health Centre

An RFP for architect services is still under development. The hope is to issue the RFP at some point in early March.

2.2 Doctor Recruitment & Retention

The Yarmouth Region Medical Professional Recruitment Partnership, in which we are a partner, is receiving \$61,343 from the provincial government's new Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment Community Fund. The funding will expand a "community onboarding" initiative that welcomes new healthcare providers to the area and helps them establish strong ties to the community so they want to stay.

The fund, worth \$2 million in total, is among the recruitment and retention initiatives outlined in Action for Health, the Province's plan to improve healthcare.

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2.3 Public Transit

Nothing new to report at this time.

3. Strengthening our Communities

3.1 Infrastructure Renewal

Nothing new to report at this time.

3.2 Housing

A Request for Proposal (RFP) seeking development proposals from qualified firms or individuals for the opportunity to purchase and develop a portion of municipally owned properties along Highway 3 in Barrington Passage (PID# 80051063 and 82569138) is still open. The deadline to submit proposals is Thursday, March 2. The RFP can be found at <https://procurement.novascotia.ca/tender-details.aspx?id=MODB2304> and has also been publicized through our website and Facebook page.

3.3 Improved Wastewater Services

Nothing new to report at this time.

3.4 Accessibility

At the end of last year, the Accessibility Advisory Committee performed accessibility audits on all of our municipal properties and facilities. These audits will help us better understand the needs of our community and plan and budget accordingly.

A copy of the audits can be viewed on the agenda of the December 1 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting at: <https://barringtonmunicipality.com/197-other-municipal-meetings/1890-accessibility-advisory-committee>.

3.5 Diversity and Inclusion

Nothing new to report at this time.

4. Operating Efficiently

4.1 Develop an Employee Retention Program

Nothing new to report at this time.



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4.2 Create an Economic Development Office

Nothing new to report at this time.

4.3 Consider the Expansion of the C&D Site

Nothing new to report at this time.

4.4 Transparency

Nothing new to report at this time.

5. Keeping Barrington Moving

5.1 Enhance Recreation Programs

Nothing new to report at this time.

5.2 Sherose Island Recreation Complex Strategy

Nothing new to report at this time.

5.3 Increase the Number of Outdoor Spaces Strategy

Nothing new to report at this time.

5.4 Trail Expansion

In the month of January, there was a total of 427 people tracked on our tracker. The highest single day was January 2nd with 124.

The Sherose Island Trail Assessment Final Report is complete and available at <https://rb.gy/nyi2kz>. The researchers will publish the document in professional journals and present it at conferences internationally. We will share the recommendations and start seeking engagement to prioritize the work. We hope the RAC will play a role in implementing the recommendations and how it fits in the Sherose Island Recreation Hub strategy.

Below is a one-pager summarizing the report.

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Is It a Trail or Is It a Playground? *An Evaluation of the Sherose Island Nature Trail*

This study was designed to gain a better understanding of community perspectives of the Sherose Island Nature Trail, located in the Municipality of Barrington in Nova Scotia.



MULTIPLE METHODS WERE USED TO CAPTURE A RANGE OF COMMUNITY VIEWS, INCLUDING AN ONLINE SURVEY, A PHOTOGRAPHY CHALLENGE, INTERVIEWS, OBSERVATIONS, AND PHOTOSTORIES WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

TOP PERCEIVED BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN



1 Playing outdoors / nature play



2 Physical activity



3 Mental break/ mental wellbeing



4 Meeting other children

TOP REASONS FOR VISITING THE TRAIL



1 Being outdoors



2 Time with family/friends



3 Physical activity



4 Mental wellbeing

CORRESPONDINGLY

TOP PERCEIVED BENEFITS IDENTIFIED



1 Physical activity



2 Time with family/friends



3 Mental wellbeing



4 Being outdoors

Prominent trail activities and experiences for children and teens: **Exploring the painted rocks** **Venturing the trails** **Outdoor play** **Nature/risky play, such as playing on the side trails and in the mud, and climbing on rocks and trees**

Image by Amanda from Nature Project

The study reveals there is potential for taking an innovative approach to reimagining the trail beyond a 'traditional understanding of a nature trail' to consider other ways of reconnecting with nature through play, recreation, and leisure for people of all ages.

The findings highlight the possibilities for the trail to be a natural playground for outdoor, nature, and risky play.

Outdoor play is broadly defined as play that takes place outdoors. Nature play is play that takes place in a natural environment or involving interaction with natural materials. Risky play is "a form of play that is thrilling and exciting, which involves uncertainty, unpredictability, and varying degrees of risk-taking."¹

Benefits include: fostering creativity, resilience, socio-emotional learning, cognitive development, mental health, physical health and risk negotiation skills, connection to nature, environmental awareness, amongst others^{2,4}

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **Develop and share** collective values and vision for the trail to support outdoor, nature, risky, and intergenerational play
2. **Create programs and partnerships** across sectors to help reduce barriers to connect community with nature
3. **Create an accessible nature trail** that is an inclusive community space for diverse experiences in nature
4. **Seek ongoing support and resources** for future trail development and community recreation programming

¹Lee, E.Y., et al. (2022, p. 12). Play, learn, and teach outdoors-network (PLaTNet): Terminology, taxonomy, and ontology. The International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity, 19(1), 66–66. ²Brussoni, M. (n.d.). Outdoor risky play. Retrieved from the OECD Library. <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/>. ³Little, H. (2017). Risk taking in outdoor play: Challenges and possibilities. In H. Little, S. Elliot & S. Weyer (Eds.), Outdoor learning environments: Spaces for exploration, discovery and risk-taking in the early years (pp. 19–38). Crown Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin. ⁴Chawla, L., Keene, K., Pevec, L., & Stanley, E. (2014). Green schoolyards as havens from stress and resources for resilience in childhood and adolescence. Health & Place, 28, 1–13.

5.5 Sidewalk Expansion

Nothing new to report at this time.



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SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FROM JANUARY 24TH TO FEBRUARY 27TH, 2023

TOPICS

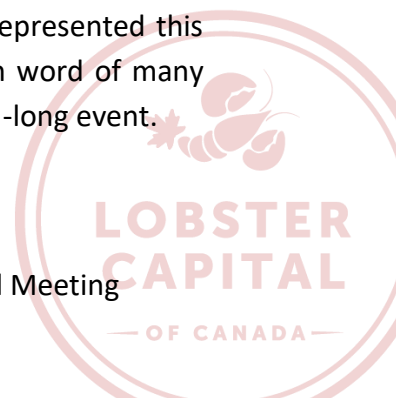
Tax Sale

Our annual tax sale was once again done by tender this year. We accepted tenders until 2:00 p.m. AST Tuesday, February 14. In the end there were 6 properties on the tax sale list, and we received a number of bids on all properties but one. Formal notice to the winning bidders was provided and all paid in full. A list of the winning bids is posted on our website at <http://bit.ly/3arkg9a>.

Nova Scotia Lobster Crawl

This year's Nova Scotia Lobster Crawl was a great success. Participation was at an all-time high overall across the South Shore, including throughout the Municipality. Partnering with South Shore Tourism and Nova Scotia Tourism we were able to bring travel media from Germany, Quebec, and the US, as well as a few Nova Scotia travel media. We hosted the kick-off with Lucy on February 2 to a great crowd, including a mother and daughter who flew in from Vancouver to take in the Crawl. Our travel media participated in this event, as well as a Lobster pound tour of Fisher Direct, meals at The Salt Banker, Portside Lounge, Capt. Kat's, Anchors Away and Salty Shores. The Kilted Chef hosted his weekly online show live from Portside Lounge, featuring a lobster dish. They also participated in the Songs of the Sea event hosted at the Municipal building and a workshop and tour at the Barrington Museum complex.

We hosted two sold-out Paint & Sip Nights at Portside Lounge, with Anne Lovitt. The Barrington Museum Complex hosted a Lobster Dinner, with great attendance for a first-time event (with guests coming from as far away as Hubbards and Chester), as well as many other events throughout the month, including the launch of their new Lobster Fisheries Tartan. The limited-edition Lobster Crawl/Lobster Capital coins have been given away through various means throughout the month, including one for each restaurant serving lobster this month. Congratulations to the Salt Banker for placing 3rd in the Lobster Roll-Off competition held in Bridgewater this year. It was great to see Shelburne County restaurants well represented this year. Overall, we noticed a great growth in the Crawl across Nova Scotia, with word of many people who came from out of the province specifically to take part in this month-long event.



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Recreation Programming

MARCH BREAK March 13-17 2023 Frosty FUN!

Disc Golf returns!
Check out the 9-hole course on Sherose Island

Pond Hockey!
Adult: March 13th 6-7:30
Family: March 15th 3:30-5
Play like you're on your favorite pond!

Free Public Skates
Mon-Thurs 11 am-12 noon

Free GLOW Skate!
Friday, March 17th 1-2:30

March Break FUN Day!
March 16th.
Four Epic Games: One Super Day!

Pot of Gold Scavenger Hunt
March 17th 10am-5pm

THE MUNICIPALITY OF BARRINGTON | *An ocean of opportunity*

Our Guided Hike series is going well with 2 hikes complete and the last winter one scheduled for March 18th. This will be the longest of the hikes in the Hike Challenge series and recommended for older youth and adults. We have dates planned for the remaining hikes in the series: one a month until July and will post details in the next couple weeks. We held our NS Heritage Day family fun hike a couple days late due to weather. We had an incredibly special group join us from the Mi'kmaw community who are interested in engaging in more programs and trail work.

March Break plans include disc golf, a full family/youth games day, free public skates including a special themed glow skate, pond hockey for families and adults, and a "Pot of Gold" scavenger hunt.

Summer recreation positions are being promoted with an application deadline of April 14. We've received several resumes from returning staff and worked to train new potential aquatic personnel. We feel very confident we will have an excellent complement of experienced staff with many new applicants to select from

We have increased our Community Use of Schools in BMHS to include Sundays on a regular basis. The TCRCE also recently announced that they would cover the additional custodial costs associated with weekend community use. These costs are huge barriers to groups looking to use the space. We have to provide supervision to open and close the school and will start on March 5th with drop-in pickleball from 3-5pm and youth rugby practice from 6-8.



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Our Active Living Coordinator has completed training noontime staff at various schools on outdoor play during recess time and has explored implementing loose parts play at FRA. We will continue to support admin, and staff at FRA as they look at incorporating loose parts play at their school.

Our Coordinator is also working on becoming an ASK trainer. ASK, are physical activity lessons that teachers in elementary schools can incorporate during their class lessons to increase physical activity. Our Coordinator is looking to become a trainer to then go into schools in the municipality and train schoolteachers how to incorporate these lessons in class. Our Coordinator has attended a virtual meeting, and an in-person lesson to see how the lessons work.

Our Coordinator has began working on his ACF application for the 2023-2024 year. We are looking at purchasing a large shed to place at the Sherose Island boat launch so we can store kayaks that will be easily accessible to the public. We are also looking at purchasing more equipment that will enhance unstructured play.

Building Permits & By-Law Enforcement

From January 15 to February 11, 9 permits were issued for a total value of \$722,500. This is a decrease of \$648,500 compared to the same period last year. 55 building inspections along with 3 fire inspections and 5 fire re-inspections were carried out during this period.

Two new civic number was issued, and 8 homes were visited to discuss civic numbering.

We received one new subdivision application, one was refused and sent back to the surveyor as it was not complete and one was registered. This leaves us with two outstanding subdivisions.

One new by-law complaint was received. We currently have 4 open complaints that we continue to work on.

Finally, we continue to develop our new e-permitting software. We are currently tweaking the system and getting trained on it. We hope to have it implemented at some point this year.

Fire Services & Emergency Management

WHSH's pump was rebuilt on their 1996 pumper as it did not pass the pump certification test in October. WHSH's hall renovations have also begun.

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Our Coordinator is currently teaching a level 2 course with 5 students and is scheduling various other courses for the coming year for the Shelburne County Firefighters Association and Eastern Shelburne County fire departments. Two officer courses are scheduled for March and we received the new curriculum for Instructor 1 and we plan to run an instructor 1 course this summer.

On the EMO front, our Coordinator assisted with teaching a Basic Emergency Management course in Yarmouth County and he is now able to teach this course locally. Our Coordinator has also applied to be able to teach ICS 100 & 200.

Over the past month, we monitored the 6 weather events as well as the 911 outage and corresponded with Provincial EMO as necessary. The PCC was activated 2 times for these events. We continue to monitor monthly precipitation amounts and note that this January had the second highest amount of precipitation (227.6 mm) for that month since 2010. It was 100 mm higher than the average for January.

Otherwise, our Coordinator continues to help fire departments develop their budgets, to monitor COVID-19 updates from the province and EMONS and performed monthly fire and life safety inspections.

This past January, the Fire Departments responded to 21 calls, compared to 21 in January 2022. Here is the data for this past month:



An ocean of opportunity

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BARRINGTON MUNICIPAL FIRE SERVICE							
EMERGENCY CALLS January 2023							
FIRE DEPARTMENT	Fire	Mut	Auto	MFR	MVC	Other	TOTAL
		Aid	Aid				
Barrington/Port La Tour FD	1				1	3	5
Island Barrington Passage FD	1				3	5	9
Woods Harbour/Shag Harbour FD				4		3	7
TOTALS	2			4	4	11	21
B/PLT - 1 Brush Fire							
IBP - 1 Chimney Fire							
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
9	Healthcare Centre	In Progress
10	Recreation Centre (21/22)	In Progress
13	Municipal Admin Building Accessibility (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
8	Council AV System	Completed
11	Brass Hill Clarifier & Screens (21/22)	Completed
12	Landfill Truck Scale (21/22)	Completed
14	Property Services Building (21/22)	Completed

