

Staff Report  
November 28, 2023

---

## KEY STRATEGIC AREAS

### 1. Growing our Economy

#### *3.1 Attract Accommodations*

We continue to facilitate discussions between a hotel management and development company and a local developer in the hopes of increasing the number of accommodations in the Municipality.

As mentioned last month, we've engaged HVS Consulting and Valuation Services to update the Short Narrative Appraisal Report for a Proposed Extended-Stay Hotel they completed in 2018. They have finalized their report which provides us with an updated picture of the market demand and estimated market value for an extended-stay hotel in our Municipality.

#### *3.2 Invest in our Beaches and Parks*

Nothing new to report at this time.

#### *3.3 Improved Cell Service*

On October 26, the Province announced it is investing \$47.3 million to start the new Cellular for Nova Scotia Program to expand telecommunications infrastructure and communications networks throughout the province.

Build Nova Scotia has been charged by the Province to plan, design, and manage the implementation of expanded cellular coverage throughout the province.

Led by Build Nova Scotia, this will involve a two-phased approach:

- The first Request for Proposals (RFP) is seeking innovative and cost-effective proposals to install cellular equipment on existing provincially-owned towers and other existing towers and/or infrastructure identified by proponents to expand cell coverage in underserved areas. The focus is on more immediate innovative solutions.
- RFP 2 will follow to seek solutions to address remaining gap areas.

Overall, the goal is to reach the following coverage targets throughout the populated areas of the province:

- 99% coverage for Basic Voice Call service



Staff Report  
November 28, 2023

---

- 95% coverage for Standard-Definition service (eg. emails, web browsing and social media)
- 85% coverage for High-Definition service (eg. video conferencing, movie streaming, and other data intensive applications)

The initial focus will be major transportation corridors and areas with civic addresses.

In 2022, Build Nova Scotia commissioned a cell gap study on behalf of the Province to study cell service levels and identify critical gaps throughout the province. This study and additional analysis has provided a clearer understanding of a common challenge experienced across the country and helped define the scope of the problem. Findings of the study confirm the civic addresses and stretches of roadways that do not have adequate and consistent cell coverage. This will continue to be refined with ongoing discussions and RFP responses.

Through the program, a comprehensive strategy to increase cell coverage will involve working with telecommunications companies and government partners.

#### *1.4 Municipal Property Development*

Over the past few weeks, we have made significant progress in identifying and assessing properties that are suitable for sale. We've worked diligently to gather necessary documentation, coordinate with our solicitor and ensure compliance with all relevant regulations.

Currently, we are in the process of listing a number of properties and have been coordinating with our real estate agent to streamline the sale process and address any potential challenges that may arise. Our goal is to ensure a smooth and transparent transaction for both the municipality and prospective buyers.

As we move forward, regular updates will be provided to keep everyone informed of our progress and any important developments.

#### *1.5 Renewable Energy*

Nothing new to report at this time.

## **2. Investing in our People**

### *2.1 Community Health Centre*



Staff Report  
November 28, 2023

---

A geotechnical study of the property was conducted the week of November 6. A kick-off meeting with the architectural and engineering team was held on November 15.

A set of meetings with local stakeholders will be scheduled in the next couple of months. Our architects are working on finalizing a discussion document so it can be distributed to stakeholders for review prior to the meetings.

*2.2 Doctor Recruitment & Retention*

Nothing new to report at this time.

*2.3 Public Transit*

A recommendation from COW was made to Council to provide an additional grant of \$2000 to allow Sou'West Nova Transit to continue to offer automatic reductions to riders from the Municipality. In addition, we continue to participate in Sou'West Nova Transit's work on developing a Collaborative Transportation Solutions Implementation Plan.

**3. Strengthening our Communities**

*3.1 Infrastructure Renewal*

**This objective is completed.**

*3.2 Housing*

Nothing new to report at this time.

*3.3 Improved Wastewater Services*

Nothing new to report at this time.

*3.4 Accessibility*

Our Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) continues to meet regularly.

*3.5 Diversity and Inclusion*

Nothing new to report at this time.

**4. Operating Efficiently**

*4.1 Develop an Employee Retention Program*

Staff Report  
November 28, 2023

---

Nothing new to report at this time.

*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*

We continue to work on having a strong social media presence to inform our residents on municipal matters and we continue to actively publish all publicly available municipal documents. Our Director of Marketing and Tourism and Recreation Director participate in a community of practice for municipal communications professionals being hosted by the Association of Municipal Administrators of Nova Scotia. The goal of the community of practice is to share knowledge, advice, and best practices on a pre-determined communications related topic, as well as to foster relationship-building throughout the municipal communications community.

**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*

Nothing new to report at this time.

*5.5 Sidewalk Expansion*

Nothing new to report at this time.

Staff Report  
November 28, 2023

---

## **SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FROM OCTOBER 24<sup>TH</sup> TO NOVEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2023**

### **TOPICS**

#### **Development Office & By-Law Enforcement**

From October 15 to November 16, 32 permits were issued for a total value of \$1,012,000. This is a \$412,500 increase over the same period last year. We continue to issue a lot of new home permits for housing developments, and some rebuilds related to the wildfires.

123 building inspections along with 6 fire inspections and 6 fire re-inspections were carried out during this period.

Two new civic numbers were issued this period, a civic point was changed because it was on the wrong property and one point was deleted because the building is no longer there. 20 locations were visited to discuss proper civic numbering.

We have received 2 new subdivisions during this period that we are currently working on.

We received one new by-law complaint. This leaves us with 14 open complaints that we continue to work on.

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

Our Coordinator is close to completing the Firefighter I course with 15 students participating. All the students in the Instructor I course passed and are now certified instructors.

We held a meeting with the fire chiefs and distributed driver abstract forms and scheduling for upcoming training.

Our Coordinator did his second co-teaching of ICS 200 which should give him the qualification to teach the ICS 100 and 200.

Otherwise, our Fire Services/EMO Coordinator has participated in regional EMO meetings and has performed monthly fire and life safety inspections.

This past October, the fire departments responded to 25 calls, compared to 11 in October of 2022. Here is the data for this past month:

Staff Report Prepared by Chris Frotten for the November 28, 2023, Regular Council Meeting





*An ocean of opportunity*

Staff Report  
November 28, 2023

<b>BARRINGTON MUNICIPAL FIRE SERVICE</b>							
<b>EMERGENCY CALLS    October    2023</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	1		2				<b>3</b>
Island Barrington Passage FD			2		2	8	<b>12</b>
Woods Harbour/Shag Harbour FD	3			3		4	<b>10</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>25</b>
B/PLT - 1, brush fire							
IBP -							
WH/SH- 1 structure fire, 1 dryer fire, 1 trash fire							



Staff Report  
November 28, 2023

---

**CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE**

Here is an update on our 2023-2024 Capital Projects:

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Status</b>
4	Beach Facilities Water Drilling	Not Started
1	Recreation Centre	In Progress
2	Community Healthcare Centre	In Progress
3	Pool Liner/Pool Lift	In Progress
5	Lighting/Power Stoney Island Beach	In Progress
10	Lobster Sculptures	In Progress
6	Arena Shower/Flooring	Completed
8	Goose Lake Road Improvements	Completed
7	Property Services Building Heat Pump	Completed
9	Brass Hill Clarifier	Completed

