



Daniel's Head – Jakes Escape



The Municipality continues to reorientate itself to ensure it provides the highest level of services in the most cost-effective manner and without drawing down its limited reserves. The **\$9.0 million** Operating Budget and **\$4.9 million** Capital Budget for 2022/2023 have been developed with the goal of maintaining and maintaining and improving municipal services, while also making responsible investments to help meet the future needs of our municipality.

The Municipality begins working on the upcoming fiscal year's budget several months before the start of the fiscal year to allow sufficient time for data collection, detailed review of financial data, and public input. The process includes:



Strategic Plan



Public Input



Service Review



Financial Planning

Council approved the 2022/2023 Operating Budget with no increases to its tax rates, fire rates or sewer charges.

Each year, the Municipality updates its Capital Investment Plan (CIP), in accordance with the Municipal Government Act. Again this year, a detailed review of the current and future projects was completed with a goal of planning appropriately for the next five years.

As the Municipality moves forward with its plans, this document has been prepared to assist the public to better understand the budgeting process. Each year, the Municipality is faced with the challenge of balancing the budget as mandated by the Province. While a Municipality can incur debt to pay for large capital purchases, it cannot incur a deficit to fund day to day operations. This means that we must identify revenue sources to cover all anticipated expenditures. In order to balance the budget, careful analysis must be done regarding the level of services required to meet the expectations of the community balanced against realistic taxation and user fee levels.



Residents and Business Owners,

This municipal budget contains the municipality's financial and operational plans for the next twelve months, **making the budget one of the most important documents we produce.**

Budgeting requires Council and Senior Staff to work together to decide on the most effective and efficient way to spend the municipality's revenues. We have worked hard to put together a document with you in mind, while maintaining municipal

services and also making the necessary investments to help save and building for future needs of our municipality.

In 2021/2022, the Municipality made significant investments in internet, recreational services and infrastructure improvements. We also continued to make changes to emphasize a stronger commitment to future planning.

Projects and investments we are proud to highlight include various renovations and repairs to our facilities, notably a new ice refrigeration control system at our arena and a newly renovated space in our administrative centre to house all municipal departments, the implementation of a lifeguarding service at Stoney Island Beach, an bigger lobster pot Christmas tree and the completion of the municipal internet project in the eastern part of our municipality.

Our budgets include measures to support its residents - including its most vulnerable, to maintain municipal services and to make the necessary investments to help meet the future needs of our municipality. Long-term planning and efficient use of resources is fundamental to achieving the necessary outcomes for growth and the delivery of services to our residents.

On behalf of Council and Staff of the Municipality, it is my pleasure to present you with our budget and we look forward to working with you in the upcoming year.

**Warden Eddie Nickerson**

## Revenue

Municipalities use a variety of revenue sources to pay for a wide range of services that residents and businesses depend on and use regularly. The major revenue sources that are typically used to pay for day-to-day services include:

- Property Taxes
- Utility User Fees (Sewer)
- Other User Fees (i.e. recreation, landfill)
- Permits and Licensing Fees (i.e. building permits, business licenses)

Municipalities also have access to other forms of funding which are generally used for capital projects:

- Grants from the Provincial and Federal governments and their agencies
- Proceeds from borrowing
- Reserve Funds (funds saved up over time for large projects)

Part of Council's decision-making process each year is to determine what levels of funding for services should come from the various sources of revenue.

	2021/2022 Actuals (Jan)	2021/2022 Budget	2022/2023 Budget
<b>TAXATION</b>	6,326,467	6,086,081	6,513,651
<b>FESS AND CHARGES</b>			
FIRE PROTECTION	740,479	718,601	773,019
SEWER SERVICE	344,121	344,505	345,835
RECREATION & CULTURE	148,360	217,890	223,825
LANDFILL	168,491	116,200	136,200
<b>FEEES AND CHARGES</b>	<b>1,401,451</b>	<b>1,397,196</b>	<b>1,478,889</b>
<b>GRANTS IN LIEU</b>	<b>48,889</b>	<b>148,032</b>	<b>147,756</b>
<b>OTHER</b>			
SERVICES TO OTHER GOVS.	112,945	117,769	132,492
PROPERTY RENTALS	63,376	50,299	53,317
INTEREST ON REVENUE	138,582	151,500	162,000
OTHER REVENUE	100,524	138,250	128,450
GOVERNMENT GRANTS	889,129	3,008,040	2,917,568
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>1,304,556</b>	<b>3,465,858</b>	<b>3,393,827</b>
<b>TRANSFERS FROM RESERVES</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>2,399,000</b>	<b>2,397,000</b>
<b>TOTAL REVNEUE</b>	<b>9,281,363</b>	<b>13,496,167</b>	<b>13,931,113</b>

## Expenses

Municipalities are service based organizations. The Municipality provides a wide variety of services to an extremely varied client base. The challenge is striving to meet the needs of as many of our residents as possible in a fiscally responsible way. In addition, the Municipality is mandated to contribute a substantial percentage of its operating budget to other public authorities for such things as education, roads, corrections, RCMP and libraries.

Finally, there is frequently misperception about which services are under the control of municipalities and which are provided by other levels of government. Services we provide include Waste Collection, RCMP, Fire Service, Parks & Recreation, Streetlights & Sidewalks and Sewer Systems. Services provided by other levels of government include Education, Health Care, Roads, Justice and Community Services.

	2021/2022 Actuals (Jan)	2021/2022 Budget	2022/2023 Budget
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>			
COUNCIL	117,614	148,147	150,540
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	779,780	928,380	905,515
PROPERTY SERVICES	382,820	451,818	483,175
TAXATION	240,397	297,933	296,982
PROTECTIVE SERVICES	859,465	1,152,336	1,253,359
FIRE PROTECTION	798,152	793,531	852,027
BUILDING INSPECTION	104,081	127,850	143,635
STREETLIGHTS	153,700	158,000	162,500
SEWER SERVICES	259,511	318,658	339,828
SOLID WASTE & LANDFILL	934,533	1,098,546	1,119,543
PUBLIC HEALTH & WELLNESS	93,199	139,000	142,000
TOURISM AND COMMUNITY	102,180	139,725	163,807
ENVIRONMENTAL DEV.	69,332	71,334	110,676
SENIOR SERVICES	111,038	114,380	120,561
RECREATION & CULTURE	716,118	897,204	981,405
EDUCATION	1,360,123	1,387,325	1,445,000
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>6,820,987</b>	<b>8,204,167</b>	<b>8,670,553</b>
<b>DEBENTURE PAYMENTS</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>
<b>CAPITAL PROJECTS</b>	<b>830,512</b>	<b>4,867,000</b>	<b>4,895,500</b>
<b>TRANSFERS TO RESERVES</b>	<b>510,784</b>	<b>335,000</b>	<b>335,000</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>7,610,682</b>	<b>13,496,167</b>	<b>13,931,113</b>

**New Recreation Centre****\$3,000,000**

Work continues on replacing the existing recreation centre which has major accessibility issues, building code violations and a deteriorating physical condition. The design is finalized, and we await a response to funding applications. Our goal continues to be for construction to begin as soon as possible.

**Community Health Centre****\$250,000**

In October 2021, Council prioritized the construction of a new community health centre to help retain and recruit healthcare professionals to the municipality. This initial investment will see to the planning phase of the project.

**Brass Hill Treatment Plant Upgrades****\$1,137,000**

The replacement of the weighing scale at the C&D site, upgrades to the Brass Hill Wastewater Treatment Facility, renovations and accessibility upgrades at our Municipal Administrative Centre and the construction of a new Public Works building.

**Accessible Beach Mats & Wheelchairs****\$25,000**

Purchase of three 50-foot mats, one 33-foot mat and two all-terrain wheelchairs. This will provide individuals of all abilities an opportunity to access the water at any of our outdoor recreational areas, including our beaches.

**Infrastructure Renewal****\$135,000**

New aluminium spectator seating for the Barrington Ballfield, replacement of rubber flooring in the dressing rooms at the arena and the reconstruction of the Administrative Centre's parking lot.

**Property Services Equipment****\$111,000**

Purchase of a new  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton truck and other equipment such as a scissor lift, covered trailer and sidewalk plow.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Only two-thirds of the property taxes you pay each year go towards municipal services. Each year, the Municipality is mandated to contribute to other public services such as education, roads, corrections, RCMP and libraries.

## **The residential tax rate didn't increase but my taxes went up. Why?**

Property taxes are based on the assessed value of a property. The property tax rate has not increased but if the assessed value of your property does, your tax bill will increase. The Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) determines your property's market value, and we use that assessed value to calculate your property tax bill. If you have questions about assessment please contact PVSC at 1-800-380-7775.

## **How much will I pay in property taxes on my home?**

A homeowner with an assessed home value of \$100,000 will pay \$1,070 per year (\$89.17 per month) in municipal property tax. For every \$100,000 in assessment, the increase multiplies by that factor (i.e. \$200,000 of assessment = \$2,140/year, \$300,000 of assessment = \$3,210/year, etc.).

## **Has COVID-19 impacted this year's municipal budgets?**

There are a few small COVID-19 related effects on some municipal revenues and expenses. Any necessary adjustments were made again in this year's budget to better reflect the reality of service delivery, extend certain measures such as the enhanced low-income tax exemption program and incorporate "safety mechanisms".

## **How does Barrington's residential tax rate compare to other similar municipalities?**

It is difficult to compare tax rates as each municipality includes different services within their general rate. For example, the Municipality of Barrington's general rate includes all but Fire Protection whereas the Municipality of Digby's general rate does not include Fire Protection, Sidewalks or Streetlights. After including all rates and charges, here is a summary of the rates of similar municipalities:

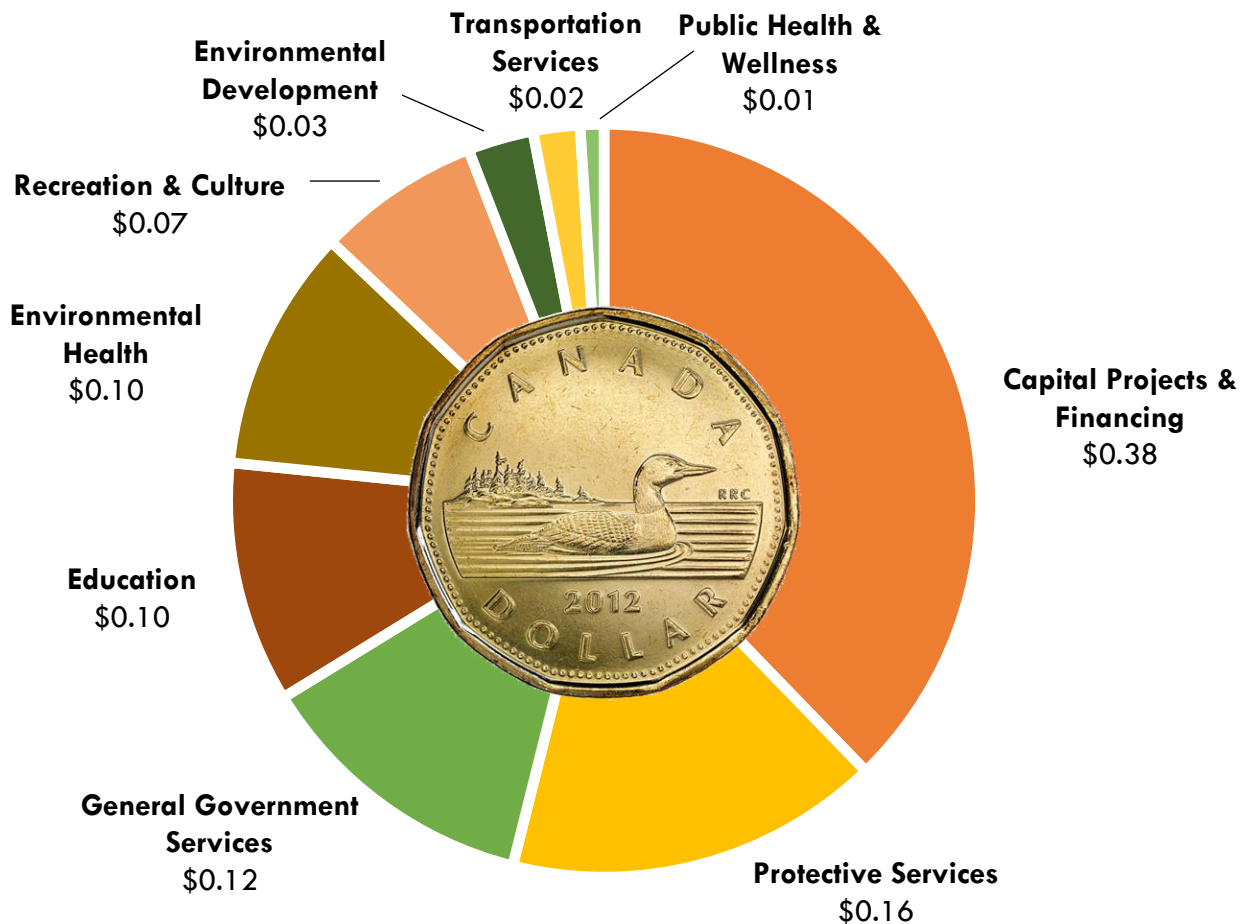
Area	Rate*
DIGBY	\$1.44-\$1.54
VICTORIA	\$1.30
SHELBURNE	\$1.26
BARRINGTON	\$1.12-\$1.21
CLARE	\$1.15
ARGYLE	\$1.10-\$1.15
RICHMOND	\$0.90-\$0.96

\*Per \$100 of assessment and depending on fire district.

## Why do I pay for fire services separately and what is the capital rate for?

The Municipality's fire services are funded through area rates within each of our three fire districts. The revenues generated from the rates are provided to each respective fire department to operate their department throughout the year. This year, we have implemented a new fire capital rate which will be used to fund the department's capital purchases.

## Where do my tax dollars go?



## DID YOU KNOW?

The Municipality of Barrington has over 1,170 streetlights throughout the Municipality at a total cost each year of approximately \$162,500. This represents about \$0.04 per \$100 of assessment which equals \$40 per year for a homeowner with an assessed home value of \$100,000.