

# GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR COUNCIL



**ABRAHAM ZEBIAN, MAYOR**  
 azebian@westhants.ca  
 902-790-1566



**JEFF HARTT**  
 Councillor, District 4  
 jhartt@westhants.ca  
 902-798-7743



**PAUL MORTON**  
 Deputy Mayor, District 8  
 pmorton@westhants.ca  
 902-684-9415



**RUPERT JANNASCH**  
 Councillor, District 1  
 rjannasch@westhants.ca  
 902-633-2358



**DEBBIE FRANCIS**  
 Councillor, District 5  
 dfrancis@westhants.ca  
 902-798-2710



**JOHN A. SMITH**  
 Councillor, District 9  
 jsmith@westhants.ca  
 902-790-4790



**SCOTT MCLEAN**  
 Councillor, District 2  
 smclean@westhants.ca  
 902-790-3100



**BOB MORTON**  
 Councillor, District 6  
 bmorton@westhants.ca  
 902-790-6490



**LAURIE MURLEY**  
 Councillor, District 10  
 lmurley@westhants.ca  
 902-790-3121



**MARK MCLEAN**  
 Councillor, District 3  
 mmclean@westhants.ca  
 902-757-3559



**ED SHERMAN**  
 Councillor, District 7  
 esherman@westhants.ca  
 902-792-0690



**JIM IVEY**  
 Councillor, District 11  
 jivey@westhants.ca  
 902-791-0371

## Council Size and Boundary Review - Public Consultation

Every eight years, all Nova Scotia municipalities are required to undergo a review of their council size and electoral boundaries. This review is to either confirm the existing number of councillors and polling districts (boundaries) or to alter them. Although we did this review in 2019 leading into consolidation, the official Provincial review is this year, 2022. **An important part of this review process includes public consultation.**

It is not yet determined how and when this consultation session(s) will occur, we encourage you to please keep your eyes and ears open for details (local newspaper, our website, our social media pages, and word-of-mouth).

Following the public consultation process, Council will make a recommendation and application to the NS Utility and Review Board for approval (they are the decision-making body). We will provide updates throughout the process.

Stay tuned!



### West Hants Phone Tree

Who doesn't love a shortcut?  
 Here is a quick reference if you need to call us!

#### West Hants Municipal Offices 902-798-8391

General Inquiries	Ext. 201	Public Works inquiries	Ext. 125
Water Inquiries	Ext. 107	Waste Services Specialist	Ext. 128
Property Tax Inquiries	Ext. 106	Community Development	Ext. 124
Administration Inquiries	Ext. 134	Economic Development	Ext. 213
Planning Inquiries	Ext. 115	Community Centre	Ext. 215
By-law Enforcement	Ext. 112	West Hants Sports Complex	Ext. 217



Facebook  
 - West Hants Regional Municipality  
 - West Hants Parks and Rec  
 - West Hants EMO  
 - WHRM Connecting Communities  
 Website - [www.westhants.ca](http://www.westhants.ca)  
 Twitter @RegMunWWH  
 Instagram @whrm\_ns  
 YouTube - West Hants Regional Municipality

**WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**  
 76 Morison Drive, PO Box 3000, Windsor NS B0N 2T0  
 Phone: 902-798-8391 Fax: 902-798-8553  
[www.westhants.ca](http://www.westhants.ca)



**West Hants**  
 something inspiring awaits

**INSPIRED**  
 July 2022

## Message from the Mayor

### Happy Summer West Hants!

Council and staff have been busy finalizing the municipal budget and preparing for summer programs and events. Now that COVID restrictions have eased, we are offering numerous activities for the whole family to enjoy. Please take the time to check out our Community Development (Recreation) page at [www.westhants.ca](http://www.westhants.ca).

This spring, Council spent over 33 hours in budget deliberations, examining expenses, revenues, and current and future capital projects. This detailed process resulted in Council approving a \$26.4 million Operating Budget and a \$17.6 million Capital Budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year. This budget included a \$0.01 decrease of the residential tax rate and a \$0.05 decrease for Hantsport and Windsor commercial tax rates (to be more in line with the West Hants commercial rate). Over \$350,000 was granted to various community organizations and halls to continue supporting the great work being done in our communities.

Council is in the process of creating a Diverse and Inclusive Communities Committee ensuring that West Hants is second to none when it comes to welcoming all groups of people to live, work and play in our beautiful region.

The Avon Community Farmers' Market and Fair Grounds Market are once again offering residents a wide selection



On June 2, a celebration honouring Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee was held at King's-Edgehill School. Attending, from left, Kings-Hants MP Kody Blois, Patsy LeBlanc, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia Arthur J. LeBlanc, Hants West MLA Melissa Sheehy-Richard, and Mayor Abraham Zebian, West Hants Regional Municipality.

of quality, locally produced products and services. Please take some time to visit these Windsor markets, open on Sundays from 10am-2pm at Victoria Park, and Thursdays from 4-7pm at the Exhibition Grounds, Wentworth Road.

On a final note, CONGRATULATIONS to our graduating Class of 2022 from Avon View High School, King's-Edgehill School, West Hants Education Centre, Windsor Adult High School, and Horton High School. I can't wait to see and read about the INSPIRING accomplishments of your future endeavours!

~ Mayor Abraham Zebian

## WHRM 2022-2023 Budget

The second fiscal year for the Regional Municipality was a busy one, as staff continued to consolidate the former two entities through change management, training and consolidating policies and by-laws. The Municipality launched a new brand and completed the strategic planning process. This process identified the following five (5) strategic priorities:

1. Communication
2. Economic Development
3. Environmental Stewardship
4. Community Diversity and Welcomeness
5. Community Mobility and Connectivity

These strategic priorities provide guidance for Council and staff as we move forward and determine how funds are directed. The Municipality began work on accessibility planning in 2021-2022 and will continue this work into 2022-2023.



Operating, \$26.4 Million  
 Capital, \$17.6 Million  
 Debt Repayment, \$2.3 Million

This budget is prepared with these ongoing strategic priorities in mind. Three years into consolidation, the Municipality has stabilized the tax rate and supported growth, development, and connectivity within our Region. This budget is a step towards the future while continuing to consider and respect the past.

Council received the draft budgets with over two weeks to review, and after 33 hours of budget deliberations the West Hants Regional Municipality 2022-2023 budgets were approved on June 2, 2022. *continued page 3*

## Hurricane Season - Be Prepared

### Before

- Stay informed (radio, website, TV)
- Secure all loose items
- Trim branches and cut down dead trees
- Stock up on water, ready-to-eat food, heating fuel, batteries

### During

- Stay informed (radio, website, TV)
- Do NOT go down to water to watch the storm
- When the eye passes over, there will be a lull in the wind for a few minutes. STAY in a safe place as winds will return from the opposite direction with possibly even greater force



[www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/hzd/hrrcns-en.aspx](http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/hzd/hrrcns-en.aspx)

## West Hants Provincial Volunteer

This September, WHRM will be celebrating its volunteers in conjunction with the Province of Nova Scotia. We are inspired by the kindness and giving spirit of all our volunteers.



Our WHRM Provincial Volunteer Nominee is Juanita "Wheet" Wilcox. Since her arrival in Hantsport in 1955, Wheet has been volunteering tirelessly with over 13 groups, organizations and local government. At 94 years young, she is still actively volunteering. We are grateful to Wheet for her continued commitment and invaluable contributions to the Community of Hantsport and West Hants.

## SUMMER IS IN FULL SWING IN WEST HANTS!

Inspiring "summer of fun" events will be popping up this July and August! Enjoy Adventure Afternoons, Roller Nights, Movies in the Park, Disc Golfing, Guided Kayak Adventures, History Walks and so much more!

**Summer Brochure**  
[www.westhants.ca/rec](http://www.westhants.ca/rec)

The Free Loan Program has kayaks, paddle boards, and all the necessary equipment ready for you to pick up. Reserve today by calling Sara: 902-790-0501

**West Hants Sports Complex**  
902-798-8391 ext 217

Floor, Turf, Track and entire complex rentals available.

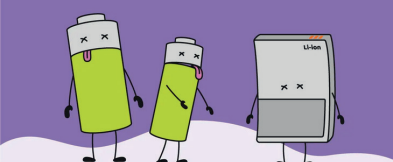
[www.westhants.ca/rec](http://www.westhants.ca/rec)

## Green Business Initiative

Do you operate a business that has adopted green practices? WHRM is currently looking for businesses to highlight for the Green Business Initiative! It is a program designed to promote local businesses who go the extra mile to be eco-friendly, while demonstrating ways in which sustainability is already achievable in our communities. Businesses and their green practices are promoted through WHRM's website and social media. This promotion can provide a broader audience for the business and raises awareness for sustainable practices that support the Municipality's ambitious greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets.

To highlight your business, contact Will Chapple by August 19th, [wchapple@westhants.ca](mailto:wchapple@westhants.ca)

## TAKE + CHARGE



### Fight zombie batteries by recycling them responsibly

Improperly discarded dead lithium batteries, found in old electrical items like phones, power tools, and laptops are attacking waste management facilities. These can cause fires, endangering lives. Please help us keep batteries out of the landfills!

[www.call2recycle.ca](http://www.call2recycle.ca)  
For information and to find your nearest disposal location!

## WHRM 2022-2023 Budget

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The tax rate structure is set up to include a general rate and three area rates from the former municipal boundaries of the Town of Windsor, Municipality of West Hants, and the Town of Hantsport.

The approved budget for 2022-2023 will have a one-cent decrease on the residential tax rates for all communities. To continue to support and attract economic growth to our Region, the combined commercial rates for the communities of Windsor and Hantsport have decreased by five cents.

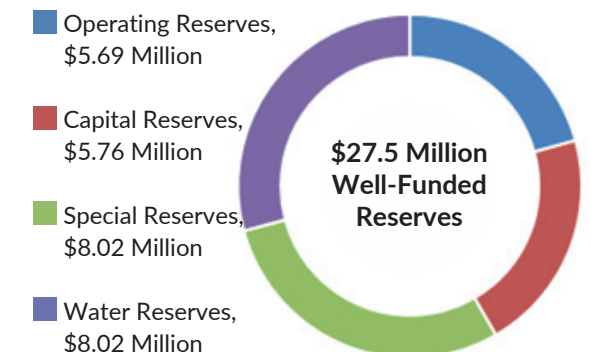
The 2022-2023 operating budget totals \$28.7 Million (incl. debt repayment). Provincial services payments make up \$5.7 million of Municipal expenses, representing 71.9% of the general tax rate. The remaining tax dollars are used to maintain the service levels residents and businesses in the area have come to expect and make up 79.5% of the Municipality's revenue sources.

This operating budget also includes in excess of \$350,000 in support for our community, in the form of non-profit tax exemptions and grants, residential rebates, student bursaries and in kind and heritage property grants. Also supported are awards and recognition for our communities' volunteers!

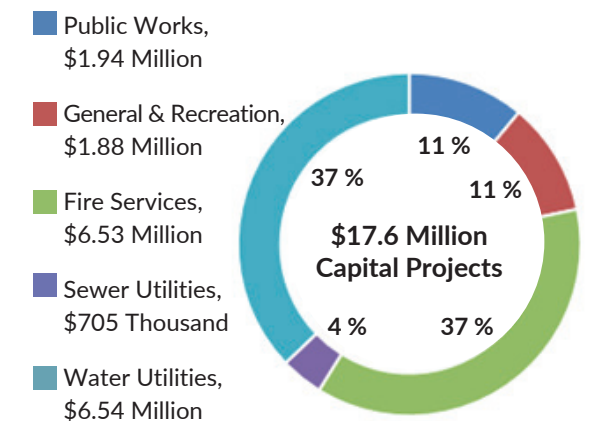
There are several capital projects identified across the Municipality for 2022-2023, totaling a projected \$17.6 million. These are funded through Gas Tax, Reserves, General Operations, Long-Term Debt, and Provincial/Federal Funding.

Council continues to ensure the Municipality is in stable financial condition, monitoring long-term borrowing and ensuring reserves are well-funded and continue to meet the healthy levels as determined by the Province.

### 2022-2023 Year End Reserve Projection



### 2022-2023 Capital Projects

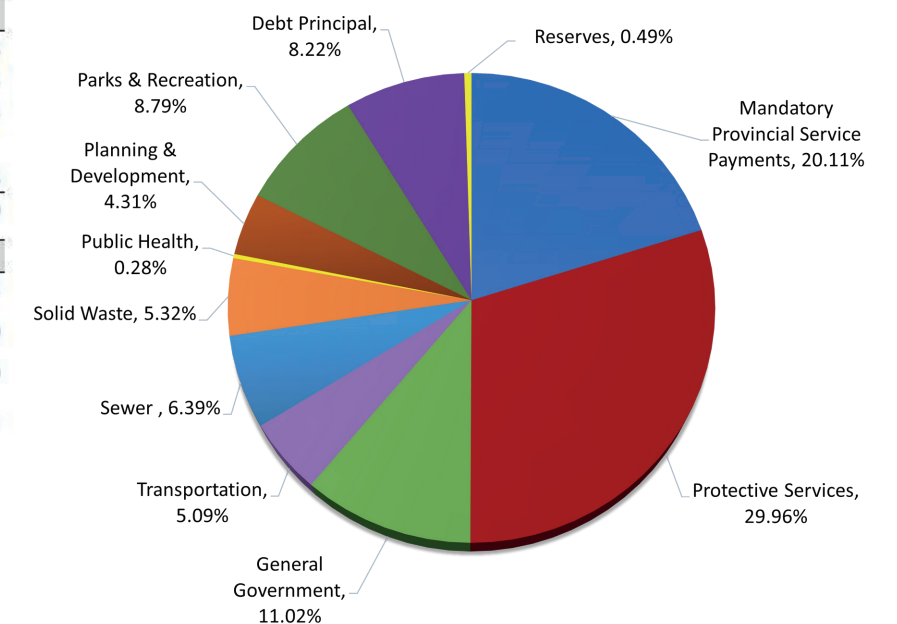


### RATE SUMMARY

Commercial	2021-2022	2022-2023	
General Rate	0.98	0.98	
Communities		Combined Area Rates*	
West Hants Rate	1.78	1.78	
Hantsport Rate	3.80	3.75	
Windsor Rate	3.90	3.85	
Residential		2021-2022	2022-2023
General Rate	0.4798	0.4670	
Communities		Combined Area Rates*	
West Hants Rate	1.0323	1.0223	
Hantsport Rate	1.6600	1.6500	
Windsor Rate	1.8800	1.8700	

\*Combined area rates means all rates applicable to that community.

### 2022-2023 Distribution of Tax Dollars



A complete list of rates as well as the detailed budget can be accessed online at: <https://www.westhants.ca/municipal-finances.html>