

GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR COUNCIL



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We strive to keep you informed!

- quarterly newsletters • mail inserts • public meetings
- animated videos • telephone • e-mail • in-person
- self-subscribed texts (recreation)
- self-subscribed e-mails (coming March 1)
- Website - www.westhants.ca
- Twitter @RegMunWWH
- Instagram @whrm_ns
- YouTube - West Hants Regional Municipality
- Facebook
 - West Hants Regional Municipality
 - West Hants Parks and Rec
 - West Hants EMO
 - Inspire West Hants



No later than March 1, we will be offering a self-subscribed e-mail option. You will be provided a list of 'topics' which you may choose to subscribe to. Choose those that interest you and when information is available, you will receive an email. Visit www.westhants.ca/signup for more information.

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



CHANGE IN MAILING ADDRESS?



Give us a call at
902-798-8391

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



West Hants
something inspiring awaits

INSPIRED
January 2023

Message from the Mayor - A Year of Change, Progress, Environment, Development, and Inspiration!

HAPPY NEW YEAR WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY! 2022 was a year that renewed hope after a long battle with COVID-19 and saw action by many individuals and Council on numerous projects within our communities.

CHANGE

Our communities saw changes this year that will require us, as a region, to strengthen our bonds and open our hearts to show empathy and care for those less fortunate or who are going through a difficult time. Council and staff have been seeing situations where residents have become homeless, hungry, or just alone with loss of family. Solutions have been implemented to help individuals, but I will ask all of you to continue showing love and care for those in need.

The Highway 101 twinning and aboiteau project lingers on. I'm feeling our community is ready to heal and look for solutions to help our Provincial and Federal Governments deliver a successful result and expedite the completion of this project. I thank everyone for the continued conversations and willingness to move ahead and keep an open mind to all the possibilities going forward.

PROGRESS

Council once again passed a strong budget (2022/23), focusing on investments in infrastructure, recreation, and programming, while once again reducing the residential tax rate. With an Operating budget of over \$25 million and Capital budget of over \$17 million, Council was able to:

- invest in critical infrastructure projects,
- provide over \$200,000 in grants and contributions to various organizations, to improve on the services they provide for the residents of West Hants, and
- reduce the overall debt level the Municipality currently holds.

The Municipality began work on the Avondale Boat Launch upgrade to allow safer access to the river, as well as upgrades to Hobarts Beach to allow for a much better experience at one of the Municipality's best kept secrets! Council is devoting time and energy to a new strategic plan that will help guide and shape the future of our Regional Municipality, focusing on our residents and the services relied upon. Council has also started to look at connectivity between our communities, including active transportation and public transit.

ENVIRONMENT

2022 was historic for West Hants with its work on Climate Change, deciding to set a 45% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030. To help achieve this:

- West Hants installed its first two electric charging (EV) stations at the West Hants Sports Complex and Windsor Community Centre, allowing four vehicles to charge at once.
- Council is also looking for funding to begin work on a solar project that will help offset the electricity usage at Municipally owned facilities. And,
- Council is working on a PACE program to help residents access funding for green energy home projects to reduce emissions and costs for homeowners.

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In early December, Mayor Zebian celebrated the installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations in Windsor with the Clean Foundation and Next Ride.

With financial support from the Government of Canada and the Government of Nova Scotia, WHRM installed Level 2 chargers at the West Hants Sports Complex and Hants County War Memorial Community Centre. Four (4) electric vehicles can charge at the same time. Users can pay by credit card at the station or online at:

- ChargePoint app (<https://www.chargepoint.com/en-ca>)
- Flo app (<https://www.flo.com/en-CA/>)



NEW OUTDOOR FIRES BY-LAW

Quick Reference Only

This new by-law repeals the fire by-laws for the former Town of Windsor, Town of Hantsport, and Municipality of West Hants.

Below are some highlights. You are encouraged to check out the entire by-law at westhants.ca/by-laws.html



CAMPFIRES

Permitted with restrictions (e.g. no more than 45 cm high, 60 cm wide, 5 metres from other combustible materials, etc.)

DISTANCES

- 20m from structure
- 20m from another property (unless consented)
- 305m of woods as per NS Forest Act

WHAT CAN I BURN

- Brush
- Grass/vegetation
- Clean, seasoned firewood
- Charcoal (BBQ, Chiminea)

WHEN CAN I BURN

Season & weather dependent. Refer to the By-law and "Check Before You Burn" website for details. <https://novascotia.ca/burnsafe/>

ENFORCEMENT

- By-law Enforcement 902-798-8391 Option 7
- RCMP non-emerg # 902-798-2207
- 911 Emergencies Only

DETAILED BY-LAW INFO

<https://www.westhants.ca/by-laws.html>

LEARN MORE

Continued from page 1...

DEVELOPMENT

A record setting year for 2022, over 500 building permits issued with construction value over \$55 million. Just driving around our communities you can see new construction popping up all around us. Demand for the quality of life West Hants offers is very strong with so many newcomers loving our region.

INSPIRATION

This past year highlighted a great number of organizations and individuals doing a lot of INSPIRING work to spread optimism, be supportive, and pull all of our communities together.

- Christmas Angels volunteers once again came through, raising over \$68,000.
- The Food Action Council helps feed our communities weekly.
- Avon Social Club offers recreational activities for all ages. And,
- The Share the Warmth group provides residents with much needed warm clothing for the winter season.

I've never been more proud to call West Hants my home! I look forward to continuing to work with Council, staff, and all of you to make positive changes and progress in our Region; to continue delivering environmentally friendly projects, attracting meaningful development, and INSPIRING the greatness that exists in each and every single one of you! I wish you all a safe, productive, and prosperous 2023!

~ Mayor Abe

72 HOURS

IS YOUR FAMILY PREPARED?

Know the risks, Make a plan, Get a kit

Emergencies can happen anywhere, any time. Are you prepared? www.westhants.ca/news/emo-news/

To find out about snow clearing priorities, by-law infractions, and who is responsible for your road, visit www.westhants.ca/municipal-maintained-roads.html

Winter Operations & Snow Removal



Poor Hours

New Suit

Cool Hat

Fulfilling



Our volunteer fire departments are accepting applications for:

- Cadet Membership (Age 14-18)
- Regular Membership (Age 19+)
- Medical First Responder
- Support Member (e.g. radio operator, logistics, etc.)

Application and info at www.westhants.ca/regional-fire-service.html

Municipal Climate Change Action Plan (MCCAP) Committee

This committee is working to ensure the Municipality reaches the goal of a 45% reduction in both corporate and community greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. To make progress towards this goal, the Committee is focusing on the following projects in 2023:

- exploring the installation of a small to medium scale solar energy project;
- investigating a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program for residents of the Municipality;
- monitoring the user data of the electric vehicle chargers at the West Hants Sports Complex and Windsor Community Centre; and
- recommending the hiring of a dedicated Climate Action Coordinator.



Tune in to the MCCAP Committee meetings on the Municipal Facebook page www.facebook.com/RMWindsorWestHants/

Meeting agendas and minutes at www.westhants.ca/municipal-climate-change-action-plan-committee

Recommended Minimum Ice Thickness

2" or less STAY OFF!!	4 inches Ice fishing	5 inches Snowmobile or ATV	8-12 inches Car or small pickup	12-15 inches Medium truck
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More ice safety info can be found at: www.redcross.ca

DON'T FORGET!

2023 GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS

WHRM is accepting ONLINE grant applications from community organizations and agencies at www.westhants.ca/grants-and-contributions.html

Deadline is February 16, 2023

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

2023 WHRM Volunteer Awards nominations are being accepted online at www.westhants.ca/community-organizations-volunteers.html

Deadline is February 16, 2023

WEST HANTS PROVIDES A FREE EQUIPMENT LOAN PROGRAM INCLUDING ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Snowshoes
- Cross-country skis and boots
- Ice boot-cleats
- Stroller skis
- Hippocamps - including trail wheels
- Bikes
- Bike trailers
- Adult tricycles
- Walking poles
- Skates & helmets to use at the WHSC

For details and to reserve an item, contact Sara LeBlanc at sleblanc@westhants.ca, or at 902-790-0501

Great News! West Hants Winter Carnival February 3-5, 2023



www.westhants.ca/wintercarnival