

GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR COUNCIL



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West Hants
something inspiring awaits

INSPIRED
January 2025

Message from the Mayor, "Happy New Year West Hants!"

On behalf of Council, I would like to wish you all the best health, happiness, and success in 2025.

The new year is a time to reflect and refocus. Council will be busy establishing new priorities which will coincide with preparing a budget for the upcoming fiscal year. This work is key to ensuring the tax rate supports core services, key priorities, capital projects, operational needs, debt management, projected growth, strategic planning, and the list goes on.

Our region is growing. With growth comes many new and exciting opportunities, including expanding commercial and industrial offerings, creating recreational options for all, and enhancing community supports for those in need.

The Municipal Plan Review is nearing a draft form that will be made available for public comment. I would strongly encourage everyone to offer their input and help us plan what the future of our region will look like.

I would like to thank residents for their continuing kindness and compassion that provides an enduring source of strength and INSPIRATION. Council and Staff of the West Hants Regional Municipality remain committed to offering municipal services that enhance the quality of life for our residents and visitors. We are proud to represent a region where all people belong.

I am very grateful for your continued trust and support.

~Mayor Abe



The West Hants Regional Municipality Council was sworn in on November 5. While WHRM is just four years old, incredible progress has been made in our region. This is a direct result of the work of many: Councillors, staff, and YOU, the INSPIRING people of West Hants!



Mayor Zebian attended the annual Christmas Angels webathon, which set a record this year raising over \$91,000 to help families in our community. Congratulations to the small and dedicated committee who work diligently to ensure a joyous holiday.

Both the Avon View boys and girls hockey teams made their choir debut during the webathon. The community support was "inspiring"!



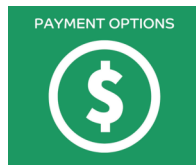
Do You Have a Recent Change in Your Mailing Address or Phone Number? Let Us Know!

Drop by the Municipal Office at 76 Morison Drive, or call us at 902-798-8391.



Tax Exemption Application Deadline

February 28, 2025 is the deadline for Registered Charities and Non-Profit Organizations to apply for a tax exemption. Details, including a link to the Tax Exemption Policy can be found at: westhants.ca/financial-services. Look for this icon.



Check Out Our Payment Options

We offer a variety of payment options including debit, cash, cheque or through your online banking.

Information can be found on your tax or water bill, or at www.westhants.ca/payment-options.html

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

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



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

THE INSPIRE FUND

is a funding program that assists with the cost of recreation opportunities within West Hants Regional Municipality

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
WWW.WESTHANTS.CA/INSPIREFUND

Planning and Development Department

Building and Development Permits:

Are you looking to build on or renovate your property? Development and/or building permits are required for most construction projects in WHRM. If you are renovating an existing building, constructing a new building, or putting up a storage shed, you need to obtain a permit before starting the job - even when under 100 sq. ft.

Permits are also needed for small projects such as signs, awnings, decks, porches, swimming pools, fences, and garden sheds and for repairs, alterations, additions, or demolition of existing buildings.

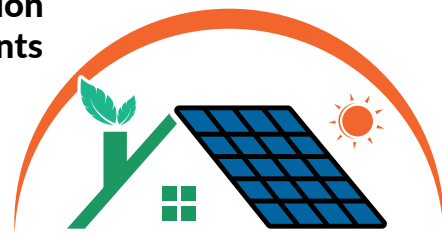
Please note that the issuance of a permit can take between 4-6 weeks from the time all required application material has been received by staff.

When in doubt whether a permit is required, please reach out to the Planning and Development Department before beginning your project at 902-798-8391 ext. 115 or at planning@westhants.ca

Switch West Hants Switch

Let's cut the confusion around energy efficiency! Switch West Hants is here to help you complete home energy upgrades such as a heat pump, solar panels, insulation and more. The upgrade process can be complicated, that's why we will guide you every step of the way. From rebates and home energy assessments to contractor and project selection, our energy experts are only a call away to answer any questions you have. Contact us at 902-334-4100 or email info@switchwesthants.ca to see how we can support you!

Climate Action in West Hants



We have a new webpage! For everything sustainability-related in WHRM such as energy efficiency, emergency management, and the Climate Action Committee, check it out at: westhants.ca/climate-action-and-sustainability.html

Where are Our Comfort Centres and Emergency Shelters?



West Hants has quite a few.

- Do you know where they are?
- Do you know the difference between the two?

Learn more at:

westhants.ca/comfort-centres-and-shelters.html

Winter Warming Centre

The Winter Warming Centre is located in the Hants Aquatic Centre, 306 Stannus Street, Windsor.

The West Hants Regional Municipality has renovated the Hants Aquatic Centre to serve as a temporary evening drop-in warming center for individuals experiencing homelessness or precarious housing during the winter months.

Hours of operation:

Monday	
Tuesday	7 pm -7am
Wednesday	7 pm -7am
Thursday	7 pm -7am
Friday	7 pm -7am
Saturday	7 pm -7am
Sunday	7 pm -7am



Volunteers Needed:

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Windsor-West Hants Caremongers group on Facebook. www.facebook.com/groups/877327976026347/

Let's Stay In Touch



West Hants Regional Municipality continues to offer a variety of communication methods, tools and resources to keep you informed.

We want to hear from you. It is important that we stay in touch, and you get the responses that you need. Submit your questions using our on-line feedback form. www.westhants.ca/feedback

All Council and Committee meetings are live streamed on our YouTube Channel. It's easy to find. Just click on the link below and click subscribe: www.youtube.com/@westhantsregionalmunicipal6378

www.westhants.ca

West Hants' Emergency Management Organization



For all things Emergency Management related, visit www.westhants.ca/emo

RECYCLE YOUR USED BATTERIES

Scan the QR Code; or visit www.recycleyourbatteries.ca/types-of-batteries



Christmas Tree: Curbside Collection

Place your Christmas tree **curbside** on your organic collection day between **January 6th & 17th**.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Ensure ALL ornaments, lights, tinsel and garland is removed before donating, upcycling or disposing of your tree.

Alternative Options:

- Give to a farmer
- Chip and mulch
- Woodland/wildlife refuge
- Potpourri
- Outdoor firewood
- Erosion barriers
- Get creative!



Green Bin: Winter Tips

- Snowbanks can obstruct the collector's view of your waste, ensure there is a clear pathway
- Place waste where collectors can see it from the direction they are approaching from
- Keep lid closed when not in use
- Remove snow and ice from bin
- DO NOT place recycling bags in your green bin these bags will be missed by the collector



Are You Hosting an Event in 2025?

A Special Event Permit maybe required if hosting a large event in West Hants, on private or public property. Likewise, a parade, procession or a walkathon, on a WHRM Street or provincial roadway, requires a Street Event application be submitted to the Municipal Traffic Authority or to NS Department of Public Works.

For information and assistance, contact: VanEssa Roberts at 902-798-1708 email: vanessa@westhants.ca

www.westhants.ca/forms-and-applications.html

DON'T FORGET!

2025 GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS

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

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

2025 WHRM Volunteer Awards nominations are being accepted online at www.westhants.ca/community-organizations-volunteers.html

DEADLINE FOR BOTH IS FEBRUARY 20,2025

Winter Operations & Snow Removal



While West Hants Regional Municipality does not have a winter parking ban, we enforce the following provincial Acts that you should be aware of:

WINTER BYLAW INFRACTIONS:

Section 139 of the Motor Vehicle Act states: No person shall willfully park or leave standing a vehicle, attended or unattended, on a street or part thereof which interferes or obstructs snow removal during or after a snow storm, or in any way obstructs winter maintenance, i.e. salting. Vehicles will be towed away at the owner's expense.

Section 318 of the Municipal Government Act states: Snow is not to be moved across any streets or placed onto any street or public sidewalks. Snow shall be stored on the property being cleared or hauled away and dumped in an approved location.

Questions or Concerns about WHRM or Provincial owned roads and infrastructure?

WHRM: kritchie@westhants.ca or 902-798-8391 Ext. 125.

Provincial: DPW-OCC@novascotia.ca or 1-844-696-7737

Note: Provincial rules & regulations may differ.

Who owns my road?

www.westhants.ca/public-works/4041-snow-2022-23-pdf/file.html

Staff work to ensure that our streets and sidewalks are clear and safe from snow and ice, prioritizing:

- Emergency Services (i.e. Police, Fire, Emergency Health Services)
- High Volume Traffic Areas
- Business Core and Industry/Civic Facilities (School, Post Office, etc.)

With the region's expansive geography, please have patience during periods of heavy snowfall or extreme weather conditions. Our Operators are out to make our roads and sidewalks safe. Your cooperation and patience regarding snow removal is encouraged and appreciated by the Municipality.

West Hants offers 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 and helmets to use at the WHSC

Book your equipment today!

Email: programs@westhants.ca or call: 902-798-8391 ext 214