

# GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR COUNCIL



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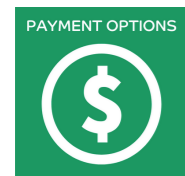
## Let's Stay In Touch

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](http://www.westhants.ca/feedback)



### 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



### 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](http://www.westhants.ca/payment-options.html)



All Council and Committee meetings are live streamed on our YouTube Channel. It's easy to find. Just click on the link on our website or subscribe: [www.youtube.com/@westhantsregionalmunicipal6378](http://www.youtube.com/@westhantsregionalmunicipal6378)

## 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](http://www.westhants.ca)



**West Hants**  
something inspiring awaits

**INSPIRED**  
July 2025

## Message from the Mayor, "With Gratitude and Pride!"

### Hello, West Hants!

Summer is in full swing across our beautiful region, bringing with it a season of joy, connection, and celebration. From the vibrant Canada Day festivities in Hantsport and the charm of Avondale Wharf Days, to the fun-filled community socials hosted by West Hants Parks and Rec and the excitement of Avon River Days—every corner of West Hants is alive with energy and togetherness.

These moments remind us what truly makes our community special: you. Our residents—volunteers, families, friends, and neighbours—are the heart of West Hants. Your spirit of participation and support creates lasting memories and builds belonging. West Hants isn't just a place—it's a feeling, a rhythm, a shared story of resilience, pride and growth.

As we reach the halfway mark of the year, Council remains focused on our commitment to serve with care and intention. We're continuing to lay the foundation for a strong and sustainable future through thoughtful planning, development agreements, public consultations, and the careful preparation of the 2025/2026 budget.

This year's budget process was particularly challenging. Council dedicated over 50 hours to finding the right balance amid inflation and rising provincial costs. We made the difficult but necessary decision to shift away from using reserves to keep the tax rate artificially low. We've chosen a path toward long-term financial stability. This led to a modest \$0.04 increase in the West Hants tax rate, along with strategic adjustments to infrastructure reserve contributions in Windsor and Hantsport.

While not easy, these decisions reflect a deep commitment to our shared future—ensuring we can continue investing in the services and infrastructure that support our quality of life. Our vision is clear: to build a thriving community where everyone feels seen, supported, and proud to call West Hants home.

Looking ahead, we're excited to create more opportunities for you to help shape our budget and priorities. Your voices matter—and the best ideas come from listening to the people we serve. With collaboration, open hearts, and a shared purpose, we'll continue to grow West Hants into a place of opportunity, inspiration, and belonging.

And to the amazing Class of 2025—congratulations! As you step into your next chapter, know that your community is behind you, cheering you on every step of the way. You are the dreamers, the doers, and the leaders of tomorrow. We can't wait to see where your journey takes you.

With gratitude and pride,  
~Mayor Abe



The theme of this year's Pride Parade was "Louder and Prouder", and it truly lived up to its name. Hundreds of people came together to show their support for the 2SLGBTQ+ community. Among them were proud families, businesses and friends-like the Glencross family-who walked in solidarity, celebrating the rich diversity that defines West Hants.

It was an incredible day filled with joy, connection, and community spirit. My heartfelt thanks goes out to the Pride Parade committee, our residents, and everyone who values the understanding that West Hants is a vibrant tapestry, beautifully woven from many different threads. Thank you all for your unwavering support.

# WHRM 2025-2026 BUDGET

## HIGHLIGHTS

West Hants Regional Municipal Council approved the 2025-2026 Budgets. Through this budget, Council:

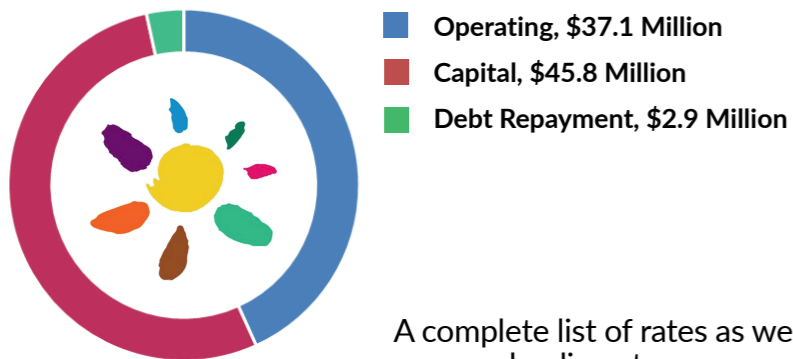
- Created funding agreements that will provide support to West Hants Dial-A-Ride, Avon River Heritage Museum and Avon Community Farmers' Market.
- Ensured that municipal reserves continue to meet the healthy financial levels as determined by the Province.

Additional budget highlights include:

- Ongoing support for the Residential Property Tax Assistance Program and Utility Assistance Program.
- Continued subsidization of 75% of the cost of recreational programming for residents.
- Allocation of close to \$1.57 million in support for our community.

## RESERVES

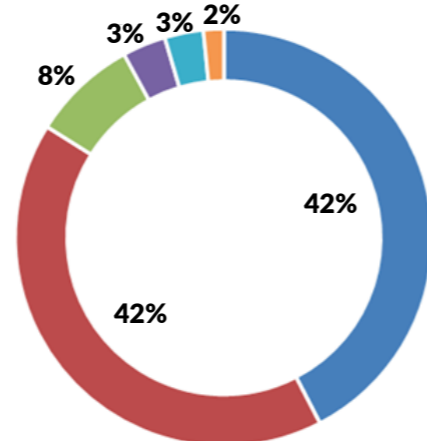
Council continues to ensure the Municipality is in stable financial condition, monitoring long-term borrowing and ensuring reserves are well-funded.



A complete list of rates as well as the detailed budget can be accessed online at: [www.westhants.ca/financial-services](http://www.westhants.ca/financial-services)

## CAPITAL INVESTMENT

There are several capital projects identified across the Municipality for 2025-2026 totaling a projected \$45.8 million. These are funded through Gas Tax, Reserves, General Operations, Long-Term Debt, and Provincial/Federal Funding.



- Public Works, \$19.4 Million
- Water Utilities, \$19 Million
- Community Development, \$3.7 Million
- Fire Services, \$1.5 Million
- Sewer Utilities, \$1.3 Million
- General Administration, \$724 Thousand

## TAXES

The tax year runs from April 1 to March 31. The Municipality's tax rate structure is set up to include a general rate and three area rates for the former municipal boundaries of the Town of Windsor, Municipality of West Hants, and the Town of Hantsport.

The approved budget for 2025-2026 will have a four-cent increase in the residential tax rate for the West Hants community, with Windsor and Hantsport being held at the 2024-2025 residential rates.

2025-2026 commercial rates for all communities have been maintained from the previous year.

| RATE SUMMARY       |                      |                  |
|--------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| <b>COMMERCIAL</b>  | <b>2024-2025</b>     | <b>2025-2026</b> |
| General Rate       | 0.98                 | 0.98             |
| <b>Communities</b> | Combined Area Rates* |                  |
| West Hants Rate    | 1.78                 | 1.78             |
| Hantsport Rate     | 3.75                 | 3.75             |
| Windsor Rate       | 3.85                 | 3.85             |
| <b>RESIDENTIAL</b> | <b>2024-2025</b>     | <b>2025-2026</b> |
| General Rate       | 0.6972               | 0.7831           |
| <b>Communities</b> | Combined Area Rate*  |                  |
| West Hants Rate    | 0.9723               | 1.0123           |
| Hantsport Rate     | 1.3537               | 1.3537           |
| Windsor Rate       | 1.6464               | 1.6464           |

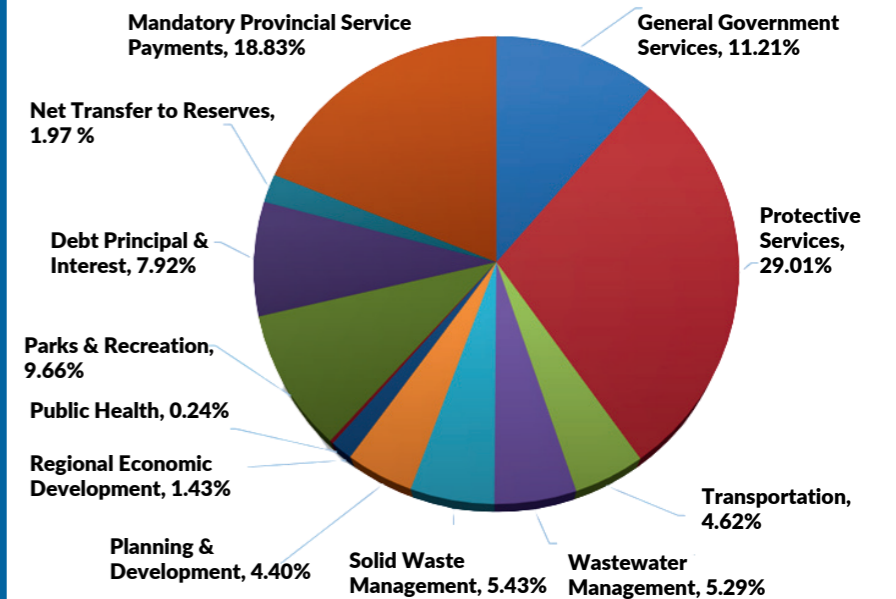
\*Combined area rates means all rates applicable to that community.

## OPERATING BUDGET

The 2025-2026 operating budget totals \$37.1 Million. Provincial services payments make up \$7.0 million of the Municipal expenses, representing 43.5% of the general tax rates. The remaining tax dollars are used to maintain municipal service levels.

This operating budget includes \$1.57 million in support for our community, through non-profit tax exemptions and grants, residential rebates and student bursaries, and in-kind and heritage property grants. There is support for recreation programming fees, community events and festivals, and awards and recognition of our community's volunteers.

### 2025-2026 DISTRIBUTION OF TAX DOLLARS



## TAX BILLS ARE DUE SEPTEMBER 1, 2025

### Summertime Green Bin Tips

Keep your green bin clean and odour-free with these tips:

#### Line the Bottom

- Use newspaper, cardboard, or yard waste to soak up liquids and reduce smells.
- No bio plastics – they don't break down!

#### Freeze the Smelly Stuff

- Store meat, fish, dairy, and other odor-prone scraps in the freezer until collection day.

#### Freshen After Pickup

- Rinse your bin with a mix of vinegar and water, or baking soda and water, to reduce odours.

#### Keep it Cool

- Always close the lid and store the bin in a shaded area to slow down decomposition.

#### Set it Out Weekly

- Set out your green bin every collection day to prevent buildup.

### HOLIDAYS AND ALTERNATE COLLECTION DAYS

When a holiday falls on your regular waste collection day, collection will take place on the Saturday before or after the holiday.

for Monday, August 4  
**Alternate Collection Day**  
Saturday, August 2

for Monday, September 1  
**Alternate Collection Day**  
Saturday, August 30

for Monday, October 13  
**Alternate Collection Day**  
Saturday, October 11

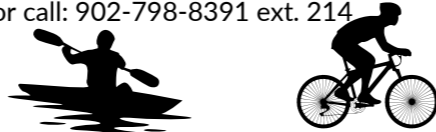
for Tuesday, November 11  
**Alternate Collection Day**  
Saturday, November 8

### Get ACTIVE West Hants! FREE Equipment Loan Program

West Hants offers a FREE Equipment Loan Program, including Adaptive Equipment!

- Canoes • Kayaks • Paddle Boards
- Bikes • Bike Trailers • Hippocamps - including trail wheels • Adult Tricycles
- Walking Poles • Indoor Walking at the WHRM Sports Complex

Book your equipment today!  
Email: [programs@westhants.ca](mailto:programs@westhants.ca)  
or call: 902-798-8391 ext. 214



### Help Shape OUR Future

West Hants Regional Municipality is seeking residents to join our Advisory Committees. These committees provide vital input and help guide Council decisions on key issues.

Get involved, share your voice, and help build a stronger community.

#### Consider applying to one of our advisory boards:

- Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Audit Committee
- Climate Action Committee
- Diverse, Equitable & Inclusive Communities Committee
- Planning & Heritage Advisory Committee
- Police Advisory Board

#### Interested or have questions?

Contact Deanna at [dsnair@westhants.ca](mailto:dsnair@westhants.ca)  
902-798-8391 ext. 134



### ALWAYS CHECK BEFORE YOU BURN!

UPDATED 2 PM DAILY

[www.novascotia.ca/burnsafe](http://www.novascotia.ca/burnsafe) or 1-855-564-2876(BURN)

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>BURN</b><br>BURNING IS PERMITTED<br>2 PM - 8 AM<br>THE FOLLOWING DAY | <b>RESTRICTED BURN</b><br>BURNING PERMITTED<br>7 PM - 8 AM<br>THE FOLLOWING DAY | <b>NO BURN</b><br>BURNING IS NOT PERMITTED |
|---|---|--|



### West Hants' Emergency Management Organization

For all things Emergency Management related, visit [www.westhants.ca/emo](http://www.westhants.ca/emo) or [www.facebook.com/WestHantsEMO](https://www.facebook.com/WestHantsEMO)

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