

MUNICIPAL MATTERS

Fall/Winter, November 2020



A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR NORMAN

As I sit to write this note, my first official "Message from the Mayor", many things are going through my mind as the holiday season and the New Year draw closer. Like all of you, I cannot predict what the next few months will present. On a positive note, I have witnessed resilience, adaptability and strength in our business community and our residents. These characteristics are hallmarks of Queens County and a reason I believe we are living in one of the best places in the world.

I am very proud of the Council that you have elected. The seven councillors are community-minded, thoughtful, diverse and passionate about making Queens County the best it can be. We are embarking on an exciting journey, and are looking forward to working and moving forward together.

This Christmas and holiday season let us appreciate what we have. How blessed we are with our vast natural world which is right outside our door. The other evening I attended a meeting at which psychologist Toni Campagnoni spoke about the importance of going outside as often as one can. According to Campagnoni, research states that our natural environment creates a sense of well-being, mindfulness, and helps us during difficult times. If possible, walk, and if not, sit outdoors.

During 2020, we have all learned new and different ways to maintain connections with the special people in our lives, even when we are unable to be together. Continue doing that as we move forward. Make a phone call, set up a video 'meeting' online, check in on your neighbours, assist others where possible and most importantly, be charitable.

In closing I say this: If I had but one wish it would be, "May we be kind and help one another". Best wishes for a safe and healthy holiday season.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darlene Norman".

Stronger Together: Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility, and Equity for All a Focus

Region of Queens Municipality (RQM) has taken significant steps forward in 2020 toward achieving a more inclusive and equitable community. In July, Council approved the Municipal Government for All Vision Framework, which was in development for approximately a year, and outlines required changes at the municipal level to programs, services, and infrastructure, noting that those in our community marginalized by racism and discrimination need to be part of the team that provides advice to Council and the community on ways to be more diverse and inclusive. Members appointed to the Diversity and Inclusion Action Team are Treena Dexter, Jessie Lohnes, Amanda Fisher, Stacy Thorburn, Laura Fryday, Shaninne Corkum, Penney Brown, and Lynda Earle. More information about the Framework is online: <https://www.regionofqueens.com/council-governance/diversity-inclusion>.

A vision of an accessible Queens County is becoming a reality through the establishment of a Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee. Consisting of appointed members Wayne Huskins, Kelly Oxner, Tyler Roy, David Rudderham, Councillor Vicki Amirault and Councillor Ralph Gidney, the committee will work with Accessibility Coordinator, Elise Johnston, to assist with outreach and making customized recommendations on standards to be incorporated in RQM's Accessibility Plan. Work will begin by first looking inward, assessing Municipal properties and services in terms of accessibility and creating action plans for improvement. More information on the Accessibility Plan is online:

<https://www.regionofqueens.com/municipal-services/planning/accessibility>

MUNICIPAL MATTERS



Pictured from left to right:
(back row): Councillor Gidney, Councillor Hawkes, Councillor Brown, Councillor Muise, and Councillor Fancy.
(front row): Councillor Charlton, Mayor Norman, and Councillor Amirault.

MEET YOUR NEW COUNCIL

Municipal elections were held this fall. On October 29, 2020, the 7th Council of Region of Queens Municipality (RQM) was officially sworn in.

History in the Making: Four Notable Firsts

- First time in the 24 year history of RQM that three female people have been elected to one Council (Mayor Norman, and Councillors Amirault & Charlton)
- Councillor Charlton is the first person under the age of 30 elected to RQM Council in the 24 year history
- Mayor Norman is the first female Mayor of RQM, and
- Mayor Norman is holds the distinction of being the first female Mayor EVER in Queens County's 141 year history, dating back to 1879.

COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

District 1 Councillor - **Deputy Mayor Kevin Muise**

902-683-2207, KMoise@regionofqueens.com

District 2 **Councillor Ralph Gidney**

902-354-4055, RGidney@regionofqueens.com

District 3 **Councillor Maddie Charlton**

902-356-3200, MCharlton@regionofqueens.com

District 4 **Councillor Vicki Amirault**

902-350-2947, VAmirault@regionofqueens.com

District 5 **Councillor Jack Fancy**

902-354-7216, JFancy@regionofqueens.com

District 6 **Councillor David Brown**

902-685-3131, DBrown@regionofqueens.com

District 7 **Councillor Carl Hawkes**

902-682-7360, CHawkes@regionofqueens.com

Mayor Darlene Norman office: 902-354-3453, cellular: 902-350-3274, DNorman@regionofqueens.com

COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Region of Queens Municipality's Council meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m. in Council Chamber at the Municipal Administration Building, 249 White Point Rd., Liverpool, NS. The meetings are open to the public, and public health protocols of physical distancing, wearing a non medical face mask and gathering limits are in place (maximum of 8 to 10 members of the public may attend). Council meetings are recorded, and audio and video is posted on our website within 24 hours of the meeting.

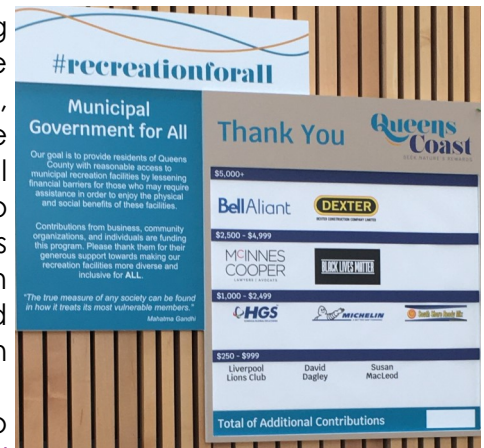
There is time allotted at the beginning of the agenda for each meeting for public comments; with people being allotted up to 5 minutes each to speak. If you are unable to participate, and have a question, please reach out to your Councillor or Mayor Norman, to bring your question forward.

Council agendas are posted by noon Friday prior to a Council meeting <https://www.regionofqueens.com/council-governance/council-agendas-minutes-audio> along with minutes and audio recordings of previous meetings.

RECREATION FOR ALL: HELPING ALL QUEENS COUNTY RESIDENTS TO BE ACTIVE IN MUNICIPAL PROGRAMS

Recreation For All, a new Region of Queens Municipality funding program was officially introduced to the public at Queens Place Emera Centre on October 6th. In attendance were initial donors, dignitaries and Special Olympic Nova Scotia Athletes. The purpose of the program is to provide avenues and opportunities for all residents of Queens to have reasonable and equitable access to recreational opportunities provided by the municipality, as well as services offered by Queens Place Emera Centre, including 3 month fitness and indoor track memberships, Milton Centennial Pool, and North Queens Aquatic Centre. Recreation For All will be funded with donations from local citizens, businesses and organizations.

To review eligibility and application requirements, please go to <https://www.regionofqueens.com/municipal-services/recreation/grants-services/grants>. Looking to donate? Contact Steve Burns sburns@regionofqueens.com




**All you need for the holidays.
 Close to home.**

SHOP LOCAL. [QueensCoast.ca](https://www.queenscoast.ca)



SUPPORT THE LOCAL ECONOMY: SHOP LOCAL

Queens County's business community is made up of our family, friends and neighbours. When you shop, dine and buy services at local businesses, you keep staff employed, businesses open and help support a strong, vibrant local economy. Grab your mask, get out there and explore all Queens has to offer. If you

prefer online shopping, you can still shop local! Many local business have added e-commerce options and improved their online shopping experience, or added a no contact curbside pick-up service. Some businesses have added an option for shopping after hours or by appointment. Shopping locally has never been easier. Check to see which services your favorite shops have in place.

This year, more than ever, we encourage you to visit local businesses as you check off items on your holiday shopping list. When you take the time to look, you'll be amazed at the variety that's available right here! And, if you can't find what you're looking for in store, ask. Maybe it can be ordered for you or maybe you'll be directed to another local business that has what you seek.

To help with your local shopping, pick up a copy of the Holiday Guide, available free in locations around Queens County. In it, you'll find something for everyone on your "nice" list. Browse through pages of gift ideas including, jewelry, pots and plants, fishing and hunting supplies, unique art and crafts, home décor, ornaments, clothing, personal care items, baked goods, gift cards, financial or insurance services, automotive services and so much more! Queens Coast has all you need, close to home.

STAY INFORMED ABOUT COVID-19

Residents of Queens County, along with the rest of Nova Scotia and Atlantic Bubble, have shown resilience, adaptability, and strength throughout 2020. Covid-19 causes quick changes in established Public health protocols, which in may lead to changes in Municipal programs and services.

Please check our website <http://www.regionofqueens.com> or follow Region of Queens on Facebook and Twitter in the event there are changes. For accurate, up-to-date information about the current COVID-19 cases and Public Health guidelines in Nova Scotia, check the Province's website: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/>

WINTER READY - WHEN WILL MY ROAD GET PLOWED?

With winter nearly here, thoughts turn to winter weather and driving conditions. In Queens County, winter road maintenance is divided between Region of Queens' Public Works Department and Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR). Often, crews are on the job 24/7 in winter months, keeping roads as safe and clear as possible. Work starts before the storm, and continues during and after the storm. Any roads located outside of Liverpool are the responsibility of TIR, and calls about snow removal on those roadways should be directed to the Operations Contact Centre **1-844-696-7737**, or refer to the snow plow tracker at <http://novascotia.ca/tran/winter>.



Motorists are reminded that Winter Parking restrictions are now in place. Section 139 of the Motor Vehicle Act states that vehicles may not park or interfere in any way with snow removal or sanding/salting, and that those who do, may be towed at the owners expense.

When removing snow from your property, remember that snow may not be shoveled or plowed onto streets or sidewalks (place it elsewhere on the property it was removed from, or haul it away, and dump in an appropriate location), as per Section 318 of the Municipal Government Act.

WELCOME TO QUEENS ... WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

Since September 2018, Region of Queens Municipality has had a program to help newcomers to Queens County feel at home. Over the course of two years, 160 'Welcome to Queens' packages have been given to families, couples and individuals who have chosen to move here, and 63 were given so far in 2020! This year, new residents have come from across Nova Scotia, nearly all provinces in Canada, and from several states in the USA. People are buying homes, renting homes, and building homes - they are putting down roots, supporting the local economy, volunteering, and making a difference.

Join us in welcoming your new neighbours! We learn about new residents through word of mouth - tell us if you have a new neighbor. If you are a new resident of Queens County, please let us know. We'd be happy to meet you, give you a warm Queens County welcome, and provide you with some useful information to help you while you acclimatize to your new community. To request a package for yourself or a newcomer, contact Heather Cook, Communications & Engagement Coordinator, phone: 902-354-5741 or by email: hcook@regionofqueens.com.

8 GREAT REASONS TO MOVE TO QUEENS

(as told to us by newcomers in our communities)

1. the quality of life;
2. relaxed lifestyle & friendly people;
3. affordable real estate;
4. to start a new job;
5. to start a business;
6. to raise their family;
7. to retire;
8. because family or friends moved here or live here & love it.

LOW INCOME TAX EXEMPTIONS

Tax exemptions of \$250 for 2020-2021 property taxes are available for households with combined incomes less than \$24,576, subject to the application guidelines. If you think you may qualify this year, please contact the Finance Department at 902-354-3453 to obtain an application or download the PDF by visiting: <https://www.regionofqueens.com/municipal-services/finance/property-taxes/tax-exemptions> **Application Deadline: February 28, 2021**



Region of Queens Municipality

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