



Region of Queens Municipality

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Municipal Matters

May 2018

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RQM 2018 - 2019 INVESTMENTS



2018-2019 Budget at a Glance: Investing in Our Future

On Tuesday, April 24, 2018, Council of the Region of Queens Municipality approved the 2018-2019 Operating, Capital, and Water Utility Budgets. Total expenditures are budgeted at \$19,780,777 with a slim operating surplus of \$1,315. A two-cent tax rate increase in all categories was approved, representing an increase of \$177,400 in revenue from taxes. This increase allows the Municipality to make investments in the community through several new projects and programs. Among the new projects is a Corporate Sponsorship Program, which will support low income residents of any age or ability to take part in recreational opportunities. As well, Queens Place Emera Centre is recruiting members

to sit on a Board of Directors to ensure the facility is maximizing opportunities for profitability. Businesses in Liverpool and Caledonia will have access to funding to improve their building exteriors through a façade program. Higher tides, more frequent storm surges, and increased flooding are a concern on the Liverpool waterfront; a study will be completed to identify flood mitigation possibilities. Litter clean-up groups will be able to apply for funding for supplies for their projects. Several other investments are being pursued; for details, check the 2018-2019 Budget online: <http://www.regionofqueens.com/municipal-services/finance/financial-statement/budget>

ONE TAX DOLLAR GOES A LONG WAY

Each dollar collected in taxes funds a wide variety of essential services. The following costs are those that make up a tax dollar.

Education	15.31¢
Recreation	12.54¢
Economic Development	4.26¢
Planning	2.61¢
Solid Waste Disposal/Collection .	15.08¢
Sewer	2.25¢
Transportation	13.25¢
Protective Services	18.55¢
Includes RCMP 12.28¢	
and Fire Services 3.64¢	
General Admin	10.16¢
Investment in Reserves	5.99¢

Low Income Tax Exemptions

Tax exemptions of \$250 for 2018-2019 property taxes are available for households with combined incomes less than \$23,520, subject to the application guidelines. If you think you may qualify this year, please contact our Finance Department at 902-354-3453 to obtain an application, or download: <http://www.regionofqueens.com/municipal-services/finance/property-taxes/tax-exemptions>. Application Deadline: February 28, 2019.

2018-2019 Budget at a Glance: Tax Rates, Base Rate, and Area Rates

Tax bills are dated June 1, 2018, with interest forgiven if paid in full by July 2, 2018. Interest rate for unpaid taxes is 12% per year. Tax and other municipal payments can be made in person at 249 White Point Road, Liverpool; by telephone banking; through on-line computer banking; in person at your bank; or by mail.

Category	2018/2019 Rate District 1 – 12 (per \$100 assessment)	2018/2019 Rate District 13 (per \$100 assessment)
Residential & Resource Rates	\$1.04 (\$1.01 base rate + \$0.03 area rate)	\$1.92 (\$1.01 base rate + \$0.91 area rate)
Commercial Rate	\$2.14 (\$2.11 base rate + \$0.03 area rate)	\$3.02 (\$2.11 base rate + \$0.91 area rate)
Area Rate in District 5 & 6	\$0.06 (\$0.045 Brooklyn Recreation Committee, and \$0.015 Brooklyn Cemetery Committee)	
<i>One cent on all accounts generates \$88,700 (One cent in District 13 generates \$13,940, one cent in Dist. 1- 12 generates \$74,760)</i>		

Learn more about services and programs offered by your Municipality on our website www.regionofqueens.com



Message from the Mayor

Budget deliberations are difficult, working to strike a balance between existing and long term needs and wants while maintaining services and setting reasonable tax rates. However, Council approved a budget that retains our core services, and adds several exciting new priority areas that Council is confident will continue the positive progressive momentum of the community. We have focused on six strategic priority themes in planning this budget: Investing in Our Current Infrastructure, Investing in Local Community Development, Strengthening Readiness for Economic Development Investments, Investing in Community Engagement, Investments in Local Economy, and Investments in Council and Staff. These strategic priorities will ensure continued growth, attract investment, and foster community pride through investments in our community and our people. The budget addresses priority concerns of residents and Council from all corners of our diverse community. By investing in our communities, we are looking to the future, to growth and to increased economic development.

Partnerships will help us to make the most of the tax dollars being invested. We are cost sharing with the Provincial government to implement a façade program for businesses in Liverpool and Caledonia, paving Pleasant Avenue in Mount Pleasant, and a flood mitigation report for the Liverpool waterfront. We continue the work needed to achieve improvements in rural broadband. We are also continuing water and sewer infrastructure replacement/installation in Liverpool and Brooklyn this year. Autism NS is beginning fundraising for an all-abilities playground to be built next to Queens Place Emera Centre.

All citizens of Queens can play a part in our vision of community growth and pride ... volunteer with a local organization, start a small business, do your part to support local businesses, and tell others about your great, welcoming community - they may consider moving to Queens. Council welcomes your input on the priorities as we move forward.

David Dagley, Mayor



Region of Queens Municipality's Coat of Arms, unveiled in March 2008, features our motto "Rivers, Forests, Sea", which is the English translation of the former Town of Liverpool Coat of Arms motto. The sun and the blue and yellow stripes represent the Atlantic Ocean and spectacular sunsets for which the Region is known. The pine trees were chosen as they provided housing materials for many early mills and still play an important role in the forestry industry. The bald eagle is representative of local First Nations. The salmon is a symbol that existed on the former Town of Liverpool crest, and is indicative of our early important sport fishing industry. The deer and moose are local wildlife, and the Hansa Rose is the official municipal floral emblem. Sand, rocks and sand dollars evoke the ocean shoreline and our dependence on the water.

Council Meeting Schedule

Region of Queens Regular Council meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 9 a.m. During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, each quarter there will be an evening Council meeting, held at 6 p.m; dates: April 10, July 10, and October 9, 2018 and January 8, 2019. Council meets in Council Chamber, Administration Building, 249 White Point Road, Liverpool, NS. The public is welcome to attend. Unable to attend? Agendas, minutes and audio recordings of meetings are posted on the website www.regionofqueens.com/council-governance/council-agenda-minutes-audio. Those who are unable to attend a meeting, but have information to share, may contact the Councillor of their District. Contact information is on the website www.regionofqueens.com/council-governance/council-mayor-for-cg

2018 – 2019 Municipal Planning Review

In the 2018-2019 Operating Budget, Council approved a \$100,000 expenditure partially funded from the Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) and Land Use Bylaw (LUB) Reserve to start what is anticipated to be an 18-month MPS and MLUB review. Every eight years, Planning documents are required to undergo a formal and comprehensive review process.

Community consultation for the Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) and Land Use Bylaw (LUB) Review will be an integral part of the project. Community input is essential in determining what will be included and updated in the MPS and LUB. You can give your opinion on how you want lands used in Queens over the next eight years. Look for information posted on our website about public engagement sessions; as well, there will be posters in communities, advertisements in local newspapers, on local radio stations, and on Region of Queens Municipality's Facebook and Twitter pages. Get involved; have your say in the direction of our Region.

Investing in Our Community:

GRANTS TO ORGANIZATIONS

On April 10, 2018, Council approved \$50,000 in grants to 18 local community organizations through the "Grants to Organizations" program.

2018-2019 GRANTS TO ORGANIZATIONS

Friends of Hank Snow	\$8,000
Liverpool International Theatre Festival	\$4,000
Mersey Band Society	\$1,000
Milton Community Association	\$500
Milton Heritage Society	\$750
North Queens Board of Trade	\$1,000
North Queens Farmers' Market	\$500
North Queens Heritage Society	\$750
North Queens Medical Centre	\$4,150
Privateer Days	\$10,000
Privateer Farmers' Market Cooperative	\$500
CJQC Radio Society (QCCR)	\$1,000
Queens County Fair Association	\$10,000
Queens County Museum	\$5,000
Queens Learning Network	\$1,000
South Queens Chamber of Commerce	\$600
Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association	\$500
Winds of Change Youth Theatre Group	\$750
TOTAL :	\$50,000

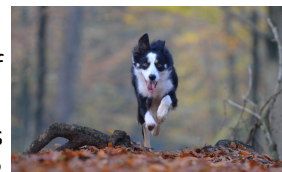
Investing in Infrastructure: Union Street Water & Sewer Replacement Project

On Monday, April 30, 2018, work began to replace century old water and sewer lines, and installation of a new sanitary storm sewer on Union St., Liverpool. This is an \$885,000 infrastructure investment. The portion of Union St. from Main St. to Church St., as well as Mill Lane, will be closed to all but local vehicular traffic while construction takes place through the spring and summer months. The water and sewer pipes are significantly deteriorated from many decades of use, and well past the time for replacement. The asphalt sidewalk will be replaced, and curbs and gutters installed on Union St. The sidewalks will be open as reasonable and practical throughout the project. Motorists are advised to plan their routes accordingly. The patience and understanding of the public is appreciated during the construction period.



Dogs at Large

Did you know that Region of Queens Municipality's Bylaw #3



Respecting Dogs outlines:

- No owner shall permit his/her dog(s) to leave the premises of the owner or person(s) in charge thereof unless the dog is under effective restraint or control. A dog is considered to be running at large if these conditions are not met.
 - The owner of a dog that runs at large contrary to this bylaw is guilty of an offence under this bylaw and will be subjected to a penalty of \$237.50
- Restraining your dog when off your property ensures the safety of the dog and the public.

EMO Emergency Updates

For updates on developing or potential emergency situations in Queens, check www.regionofqueens.com, Facebook and Twitter. We will also update on local radio stations (CKBW 94.5 FM, Hank FM 100.3 FM, and QCCR 99.3 FM) to alert of situations. If the nature of the emergency warrants it, door to door communications will be enabled. Important safety tips for emergency preparedness are listed under the EMO tab on Region of Queens' website.

It's Construction Season

Now that Spring has sprung, making improvements to properties or building something new is on the minds of many residents. A great first step before beginning any work on your property is to contact your Building Inspector, Bill Leighton, to discuss your plans for new construction, renovations, additions, or demolitions. He can meet with you to advise on any regulations pertaining to your project, and provide assistance in navigating the process. You can contact the Building Inspector at 902-354-3455.



**WATER & SEWER
EMERGENCY PAGER**

Please contact our Emergency Pager

1-902-354-4749

in the event of an after hours water or sewer related emergency on the Municipal Utility System.

REMINDER: Dog registrations for 2018/2019 were due on April 1, 2018. Is your dog registered? Dogs wearing their Region of Queens tag are easily identified and reunited with their family if found or impounded. Registration fees are \$10/neutered/spayed dog, and \$30 for an unspayed/unneutered dog. The fine for unpaid dog registration is \$237.50 per household dog.



Welcome Home!

Let's show our new residents our warm Queens County "Welcome"! We've had a swell of newcomers move into communities throughout Queens recently, and more are finding out about all the things that make Queens a great place to call home! If you have noticed new faces in your neighborhood, take a moment to introduce yourself, welcome them to the Region of Queens, and let the Region of Queens know of your new neighbors. New home owners will be visited, and provided with community information. We're happy to see our community growing, and are always excited to hear the reasons new citizens of Queens have for moving into Queens and making their home here. If you've recently moved to Queens and bought a home, please contact Heather Cook, Community Development Coordinator, email: hcook@regionofqueens.com, phone: 902-354-5741. We'd love to meet you!



POLICY 56: MILESTONE RECOGNITION



Did you know that if you have a family member or friend celebrating a birthday of 80 or more years, or a married couple reaching an anniversary of more than 40 years, you may request a certificate from the Mayor and Council to mark that special occasion?

Contact Shelley Connolly, Executive Secretary at 902-354-3453 or sconnolly@regionofqueens.com, to request a certificate. Community organizations may be recognized in increments of not less than 5 years. The Region of Queens will also recognize residents who become Canadian citizens. All recognition certificates are signed and sealed by the Mayor and the Councillor of the District in which the honouree resides.

SUMMER 2018 recreation program brochure

If you have a program, activity, sport or event taking place between mid-June and the end of September, Recreation and Healthy Communities Department staff would love to hear from you!

Submit your event details by **12 noon, Wednesday, May 23, 2018** to dhenley@regionofqueens.com

Be sure to include:

- Community group/organization
- Program/activity/sport/event name
- Date(s)
- Time(s)
- Cost
- Registration information
- Contact information
- Brief description of the program

The Summer brochure is distributed to over 5000 homes and businesses.



Coming Soon! Equipment Loan Program

Youth and adults who want to try skateboarding, go for a pedal on a bike, or ride a scooter will soon be able to sign out this gear and a helmet for free at Queens Place Emera Centre in Liverpool. These new additions are an expansion of the Equipment Loan Program offered by RQM's Recreation and Healthy Communities Department, which currently loans ice skates, snowshoes, Nordic walking poles, a GPS unit, flag football, ladder golf, and more! Details will follow as the start of the program draws near.

Carter's Beach Update

Nova Scotia Department of Environment continues to gather information as efforts proceed towards designating Carter's Beach as a Nature Reserve. A Community Liaison Committee has been established under the direction of Department staff, which is mainly comprised of residents of Port Mouton. This committee is expected to help guide actions on issues such as interpretive signage, the ecological significance of sand dunes and endangered plants, archaeological sites, proper outhouse facilities, parking issues, and waste management, such as 'pack in, pack out' policy. A Councillor of the Region of Queens attends meetings as an observer to convey the Region's perspective. No parking signs were installed along the entire east side of Carter's Beach Road in 2017 to ensure emergency vehicles would have access to the end of the road. The Region has agreed to pump out the large tanks below the vault privies, once they have been installed. It will require a collaborative effort to ensure that Carter's is preserved for future generations to enjoy.



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