

MUNICIPAL MATTERS

Fall/Winter 2021/2022



HIGH SPEED INTERNET TO THE HOME PROJECT CONTINUES AND PLANS FOR MORE AREAS

Progress continues with the high-speed fibre-based internet rollout in Queens. With the support of Region of Queens Municipality and Develop Nova Scotia, Bell Aliant are deep into the next, and biggest, phase of trimming trees, running cables, and making connections, bringing world-class internet access to businesses, residents, and visitors to the county.

Building on the first phase, which connected more than 1,300 premises in and around Caledonia and Greenfield, this next phase has extended the coverage North and East to the county boundaries, and has continued filling in the central section. To date, this latest phase of the rollout has connected approximately 1,013 households and businesses in communities including Albany New, Colpton, North Brookfield, Tupper Lake, Molega, New Elm, and Middlefield. Work is scheduled to complete the central section of Highway 8 soon. In early 2022, work will move to the Port Joli area, and also to the Medway River Road, and thereafter, South and Central Port Mouton, East Port Medway and area, Brooklyn, and West Berlin.

Maps and anticipated completion schedules are available, for those with an internet connection, at: <https://internet.developns.ca/zones/south-shore/> or you can call Richard Lane, Region of Queens Municipality's Business Development Officer at 902-354-5741 to discuss plans for your area.

UPCOMING PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING MUNICIPAL WATER RATES AND CHARGES

For the first time in 19 years, Region of Queens Municipality is applying to increase Water Utility rates and charges. The Municipality, on behalf of its Water Utility, has applied to Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (NSURB) who will hold a public hearing as a part of the review of proposed changes.

A public hearing to consider proposed amendments to the Schedule of Rates and Charges for Water and Water Services and proposed amendments to the Schedule of Rules and Regulations will be held on Monday, November 29, 2021, at 10:30 am in the Municipality's Council Chamber, 249 White Point Road, Liverpool, Nova Scotia (this public hearing may be held by GoToWebinar video conferencing, based on the COVID-19 Public Health Protocols at that time).

There are several ways for residents to participate in the NSURB Hearing, which is open to the public:

- To speak at the hearing, notify NSURB by **Tuesday, November 23, 2021**.
- Written comments may be sent to the Clerk of the NSURB at P.O. Box 1692, Unit "M", Halifax, NS B3J 3S3, or by email at: board@novascotia.ca, or by fax at (902) 424-3919 by **Tuesday, November 23, 2021**.
- The date has passed (Sept. 10, 2021) to apply to receive formal standing as an Intervener (someone who is allowed to present evidence or cross-examine witnesses). The deadline was advertised in the newspaper, on Municipal social media pages, and the Municipal website.

Upon reviewing the application, NSURB may determine that the proposed amendments should be as requested, higher, or lower. A copy of the Application and any timetable respecting this matter may be viewed on the Board's website at <https://nsurb.novascotia.ca/>, by clicking on "Matters & Evidence", and in the "Go To Files and Documents", enter Matter No. **M10229**.

Information about the public hearing, proposed rates and charges are posted on the Municipality's website: <https://www.regionofqueens.com/council-governance/press-releases-for-cg/2000-notice-of-public-hearing-nova-scotia-utility-and-review-board>



A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR NORMAN

As I reflect upon the first year of office, the fact comes to mind that we are all so fortunate, despite the challenges that present themselves, to live in this exceptional place called Queens. Together Council is learning of the needs and expectations of people who live in the forty nine communities within our boundaries.

Realizing what changes can be made, whether large or small, to positively improve and support business operations and citizens' way of life, is important.

Yes, we must be aware that living within our means is essential to our success.

The holiday season is fast approaching.

Fingers crossed, we will be able to engage in local events while supporting community halls and not for profit organizations. Local businesses that provided goods and services welcome you as a customer. The Community Food Resource Network and the Queens County Food Bank have their doors open for those in need and appreciate all donations.

Stay safe and best wishes to you,



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New!

Receive information about Council matters, public meetings, Planning matters, available committee vacancies, job opportunities, tax sales, and much more!

Sign up to receive emails on the topics of most interest to you! Search for engageQueens.ca and subscribe for email alerts on new topics.

Be Engaged - subscribe to engageQueens.ca!

As part of Council's ongoing work to provide timely and relevant information to residents, engageQueens.ca was created as a way for residents to sign up for direct emails on topics of most interest to them. The website shows current Municipal issues and opportunities in which the public may be interested in becoming involved. It's easy to sign up for email alerts - subscribe at the bottom of the page at www.engageQueens.ca

COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Region of Queens Municipality's Council meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m. and the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in Council Chamber at the Municipal Administration Building, 249 White Point Rd., Liverpool, NS. Meetings are open to the public with public health protocols in place. Council meetings are recorded, with audio and a link to the video promptly posted on our website. Those present at meetings may speak for up to 5 minutes during the public comments section of the agenda, or if you are unable to attend, contact your Councillor or Mayor Norman to bring your question forward. Agendas are posted online by noon on the Friday prior to a meeting.

<https://www.regionofqueens.com/council-governance/council-agendas-minutes-audio>.

COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION When you have a question about the Municipality, we encourage you to reach out to Mayor Norman or your Councillor and ask them about it. They are passionate about their communities, and genuinely want to hear from residents.

Maps of Districts: <https://www.regionofqueens.com/council-governance/electoral-districts-for-cg>

For contact information for your Councillor or Mayor Norman, please go to our website:

<https://www.regionofqueens.com/council-governance/council-mayor-for-cg>

NEW! PAY PARKING TICKETS ONLINE

Did you know that you can pay a parking ticket issued by a participating municipality online on or before the due date? After the due date, you need to visit a provincial courthouse to pay it. Region of Queens Municipality is among the participating municipalities in this new program. You can pay a ticket for yourself or on behalf of someone else. Before you start, make sure you have: the license plate number, parking ticket details (ticket number, issue date and amount), and credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express), Interac® Online or debit card.

Details are online: <https://beta.novascotia.ca/pay-a-parking-ticket-online>

NEED A ROAD CLOSED FOR AN EVENT? CONTACT MUNICIPAL OR PROVINCIAL TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

On October 26, 2021, Council approved revisions to Policy 66: Appointment of Traffic Authority. Adam Grant, Director of Engineering & Public Works, was reappointed as Traffic Authority for Liverpool, a role he has held since July 16, 2020. Garrett Chetwynd, Assistant Director of Engineering & Public Works, has been designated alternate Traffic Authority, to serve in Adam's absence. The Traffic Authority reviews requests for road closures, parades, emergency safety plans as they relate to transportation routes, planned detours, traffic signage, etc. Motor Vehicle Act of Nova Scotia requires that each town or former town appoint its own Traffic Authority to enforce certain provisions of the Motor Vehicle Act.

This appointment applies to Liverpool; the Traffic Authority for outside Liverpool is governed by the Provincial Traffic Authority and their Deputy Provincial Traffic Authorities. Please submit requests to:

Adam Grant, Traffic Authority for Liverpool - agrant@regionofqueens.com

NS Dept. of Public Works, Operations Contact Centre - 1-844-696-7737 or email tir-occ@novascotia.ca

UPDATES TO POLICY 84: FLAGS

Flags are symbols reflecting the heritage, culture and values of a government, corporate body or community. Region of Queens Municipality proudly flies flags at various municipal locations. At the October 12, 2021 Regular Council meeting, Council approved an amended Flags Policy. The updated policy provides clear protocols for flying flags on municipal properties, along with direction for when flags are to be flown at half mast, and requests for flags to fly on the Special Purpose flag pole, which is now located at the Town Hall Arts and Cultural Centre. Additions were made to the list of flags that fly each year on the Special Purpose flag pole, to be more inclusive of the diverse population in Queens County. There were also more dates of recognition added on which the municipality will fly flags at half mast each year. Policy 84: Flags is available online: <https://www.regionofqueens.com/document-library/operational-policies/1279-policy-84-flag-flying-policy>



Updated Policy 84 outlines which flags are flown at Municipally owned sites.

LOW INCOME TAX EXEMPTIONS, AND HOME HEATING REBATES AND ASSESSMENTS

Municipal tax exemptions of \$250 for 2021-2022 property taxes are available for households with combined incomes less than \$24,624, subject to the application guidelines. Please contact the Finance Department at 902-354-3453 for an application, or download and submit a PDF by **February 28, 2022**:

<https://www.regionofqueens.com/municipal-services/finance/property-taxes/tax-exemptions>

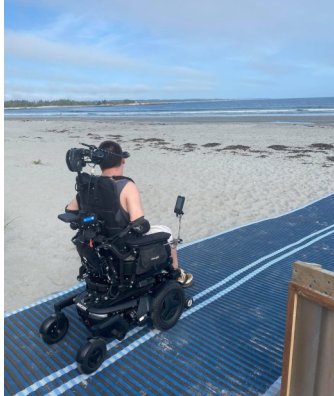
Provincial Property Tax Rebate Program for Low Income Seniors helps low-income seniors with the cost of municipal residential property taxes. Apply until December 31, 2021: <https://beta.novascotia.ca/apply-property-tax-rebate-property-tax-rebate-seniors>

Heating Assistance Rebate Program helps low-income Nova Scotians with the cost of home heating. Rebates range from \$100 to \$200. Starting Monday, October 18, you can apply until March 31, 2022:

<https://beta.novascotia.ca/apply-heating-assistance-rebate-heating-assistance-rebate-program>

Home Warming Assessment Program helps people living on lower incomes benefit from energy efficiency and feel comfortable at home. See if you qualify for a no-charge energy assessment and potential upgrades, some of which are at no cost to qualifying people: <https://www.homewarming.ca/>

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC) UPDATE



AAC member Tyler Roy enjoying the beach on new MOBIL Mat. The mat will be placed seasonally at Boardwalk 2 at Beach Meadows Beach.

Queens Municipal Accessibility Plan was made public in the spring of 2021 and approved by Council in late summer. Specific recommendations have already been addressed such as making digital material accessible to residents who are hearing or visually impaired. Queens also installed a wheel-friendly MOBIL mat and boardwalk benches at Beach Meadows Beach, partially funded by the provincial Community Access-Ability grant, along with the power operator for the Queens Place Emera Centre arena door and the new elevator and washroom signage. The Queens Community Health Board also provided funding, approving a Wellness Fund grant for six barrier-free Hobby Development sessions, which were well received. A few more sessions will follow. Meanwhile, Queens Universally-designed Playpark has reached its fundraising goal. The municipality will be overseeing its construction through the next year. The next big project will be Liverpool's Town Hall and Cultural Centre, which includes Astor Theatre. Please reach out to Elise Johnston, Accessibility Coordinator, who appreciates residents' insight on accessibility in Queens - email: ejohnston@regionofqueens.com or phone: 902-354-3455.

If you or someone you know is interested in the free Hobby Development sessions, contact Elise Johnston ejohnston@regionofqueens.com to sign up, or to learn more about the program.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION ACTION TEAM UPDATE

The Diversity and Inclusion Action Team (DIAT) has been involved in some exciting projects! Region of Queens Municipality has made a permanent installation of the Mi'kmaq Grand Council Flag at the Administration Building. DIAT has given out several small grants to local diversity and inclusion projects, and there have been several policy changes to make Region of Queens Municipal practices more equitable and inclusive. We are looking forward to new projects upcoming, so check our website at <https://www.regionofqueens.com/council-governance/diversity-inclusion> or contact the Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator at diversity@regionofqueens.com.

DIAT is looking for a new member of the team, and also for community members interested in starting a Queens County Pride organization. Contact the Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator for details on either of these opportunities.



On Sept.30, 2021, the Mi'kmaq Grand Council Flag was raised as a permanent flag flown at the Municipal Administration Building.

STAY INFORMED: COVID-19 UPDATES

For accurate, up-to-date information about vaccination requirements and passports, current COVID-19 cases, and Public Health guidelines in Nova Scotia, check the Provincial website:

<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/>

Community organizations based in Queens County are reminded that the **Community Investment Fund (CIF) Operational Grants deadline is Jan. 31, 2022.**

Shop local! Look for the Queens Coast 2021 Local Holiday Gift Guide in Queens County's businesses, starting in late November. **#ShopEatEnjoyLocal**

Region of Queens Municipality

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