

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Minutes of a Meeting of Municipal Council

Held in Council Chamber, 10 Allée Champlain Drive, Cookville, N.S.

Tuesday, July 28, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.

Attendance

Mayor Elspeth McLean-Wile

Deputy Mayor Chasidy Veinotte, District 10

Councillor Morgen Reinhardt, District 1

Councillor Martin Bell, District 2

Councillor Wendy Oickle, District 3

Councillor Pam Hubley, District 4

Councillor Cathy Moore, District 5

Councillor Alison Smith, District 6

Councillor Edgar Burns, District 7

Councillor Kacy DeLong, District 8

Staff

Tom MacEwan, Chief Administrative Officer

Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO

Tina Robichaud-Bond, Executive Assistant

1. Call to Order

Mayor McLean-Wile called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. and began by acknowledging that the meeting was held in Mi'kma'ki, the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

2. Announcements/Acknowledgements/Recognition

Councillor Oickle reported that she attended a National Trust of Canada event in Lunenburg celebrating the 50th anniversary of Canada's participation in the UNESCO World Heritage Convention.

3. Public Input

Caroline Corkum, Laconia Road, addressed Council regarding the Clean Energy Financing Program. She expressed support for the administrative transition but raised concerns that pausing active, pre-approved projects created unintended barriers for residents who were ready to proceed. Ms. Corkum requested that Council consider providing additional funding for applications currently on hold, with priority given to pre-approved projects that can be completed before the administrative transition.

4. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Hubley, seconded by Councillor Moore that the Agenda be approved as circulated. Carried unanimously.

5. Approval of Minutes – July 14, 2026

The Minutes of the July 14, 2026 Council meeting were approved as circulated.

6. Business Arising from Minutes - Nil

7. Awarding of Tenders/RFPs

7.1 River Ridge Commons Playground

A report from Trudy Payne, Director of Recreation, Parks & Tourism, titled “River Ridge Commons Playground Replacement”, was circulated with the agenda, providing details on options identified for the replacement of the playground equipment at River Ridge Commons and recommending Tessier Recreo-Parc as the successful proponent.

Ms. Payne gave a presentation, “River Ridge Common Playground Replacement” (attached to Minutes) outlining the options for the replacement of the playground equipment with four key playground features:

- Freestanding slide
- Swing sets
- Bird nest swing
- Climbing area

It was noted that installation of new playground anticipated to be October, to avoid any disruption to the summer season and would take approximately one week.

Council discussed:

- potential health impacts of pressure treated wood - staff to find additional information
- accessibility of the freestanding slide
- playground surface material to remain wood chips due to costs
- public notification of new playground to be done throughs social media channels
- possibility of repurposing usable playground equipment and liabilities associated with doing so

2026-100 Moved by Councillor Oickle, seconded by Councillor Moore that Municipal Council award the River Ridge Common Park playground upgrades to Tessier Recreo-Parc in the amount of \$104,12517 plus HST; and further, that the additional unbudgeted funds for the project be paid from the Open Space Capital Reserves. Carried Unanimously.

8. Presentations/Scheduled Times

8.1 Fort Point Museum Strategic Plan

Ruth Simon, President of the Lunenburg County Historical Society Board of Directors, and Jesse Grieg Farquhar, Museum Director, gave a presentation on “Fort Point Museum Strategic Plan” (circulated with the agenda) providing details on the Museum’s strategic plan and provided an update on recent activities and future priorities.

The presentation also highlighted:

- Programming & Events
- Facilities Management
- Financial Sustainability & Organizational Effectiveness
- Communications & Outreach
- Looking Ahead: 2026-2031

9. Consideration of Correspondence - Nil

10. Recommendations from Committees & Boards

10.1. Policy & Strategy Committee

10.1.1 Letter of Support – NS Working Woodlands Trust

Mayor McLean-Wile explained that the Policy and Strategy Committee approved a letter of support for the NS Working Woodlands Trust’s application to the Sustainability Challenge Fund, and due to timing constraints, the letter was provided prior to Council’s approval. To ratify the previous decision authorizing the Mayor to submit the letter of support, the following motion was required.

2026-101 Moved by Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor DeLong that Municipal Council ratify and confirm the administrative decision to have the Mayor provide a letter of support to the NS Working Woodlands Trust for their application to the Sustainable Communities Challenge Fund, which was undertaken prior to Council consideration due to time constraints. Carried unanimously.

10.2 Nominating Committee

10.2.1 Representation on Lunenburg County Wheels Board

A recommendation from the Nominating Committee, including a report titled “Appointment of Council Representative – Lun. County Wheels Board” was circulated with the agenda.

2026-102 Moved by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Bell that Municipal Council accept the recommendation of the Nominating Committee and appoint Councillor Oickle as Council’s representative on the Lunenburg County Wheels Board, with a term ending October 2028. Carried unanimously.

11. Staff Reports

11.1 Planning & Development

11.1.1 Proposed Private Roads Standards

Tom MacEwan, CAO, explained that the object of the proposed revised Private Roads Standards (circulated with the agenda) was to support residential development by establishing practical private road requirements while maintaining appropriate construction standards.

He noted that a key change was that responsibility for designing, constructing, and certifying private roads would rest entirely with the developer's engineer, with the Municipality relying on professional engineering certifications to confirm compliance.

He also outlined a new phased development approach intended to help developers finance projects. Under the proposal, developers would be permitted to create and sell up to five lots on a private road that was designed but not yet constructed, allowing them to generate revenue to fund continued development. Additional lots could not be created until the road was constructed to the required standard.

Mr. MacEwan advised that amendments to the Subdivision Bylaw would be brought back to Council in September for consideration.

It was clarified that the first two lots constructed would be created with driveways to the public road and are therefore exempted as they would not use the private road. This permitted a total of 7 lots to be developed prior to the construction of the private road.

Council recessed at 10:16 a.m. and resumed at 10:23 a.m.

11.1.2 Household Water Supply Upgrade Program Funding

Abhi Jain, Manager of Climate Change and Sustainability reviewed the report, "Household Water Supply Upgrade Program Funding and In-House Transition" (circulated with the agenda), providing details on the transition of the program to an in-house delivery beginning September 1, 2026, and the required additional funds to support the current applications to continue accepting applications to end of March 2027.

Mr. Jain explained that to meet the earlier timeline and avoid any service disruption, staff training would be sped up, and internal operational procedures would be prepared more quickly. He also noted that internal adjustments would be made to ensure staff were ready to take over processing applications when the change occurred.

2026-103 Moved by Councillor Smith, seconded by Deputy Mayor Veinotte that Municipal Council approve an additional \$500,000 from General Operating Reserve for the Water Supply Upgrade Program.

Elana Wentzell, Director of Finance, confirmed that not all budgeted funds for the program were spent in the last fiscal year, therefore leaving enough money in reserves to support the additional funding for the program.

The Motion on the floor was voted on and carried unanimously.

2026-104 Moved by Councillor Reinhardt, seconded by Councillor Burns that Municipal Council approve transitioning the administration of the Water Supply Upgrade Program from Clean Foundation to in-house delivery by the Municipality, effective September 1, 2026. Carried unanimously.

11.1.3 Climate Resilience and Sustainability Dashboard

Abhi Jain, Climate Change & Sustainability Manager, introduced a new Climate Action Plan dashboard designed to improve how Council and residents track progress on climate-related initiatives. Progress updates were mainly provided through an annual report, which only offered a single yearly snapshot. The new dashboard would provide more accessible, up-to-date information on projects, including what was completed, what was underway, and opportunities for public involvement such as grants, stewardship activities, and volunteer programs.

Mr. Jain explained that the project had three main components:

- Automated data management to reduce manual data collection and analysis.
- An accessible, user-friendly dashboard that is easy for residents of all ages to navigate.
- An automated annual PDF report, which would significantly reduce staff time by generating reports with a few clicks rather than requiring months of manual work.

Abdul Rahim, Sustainability Summer Intern, gave a demonstration of the dashboard. Attached to the Minutes are images taken from the dashboard demo.

Council discussed the advantages of the dashboard, and made suggestions and recommendations:

- dashboard could be linked to the municipal app and would also have a mobile-friendly design to ensure easy access on smartphones
- survey results integrate into the dashboard and could also be accessed through dedicated project pages on Engage MODL, however not yet automated
- suggested that technical terms such as KPI (Key Performance Indicator) should be clearly defined for the public
- recommended that context be provided for CO₂ emissions reductions by translating emissions data into tangible, easy-to-understand examples.
- a brief video tutorial was planned once the dashboard design was finalized

11.2 Engineering & Public Works

11.2.1 Removal of Streetlights, Hirtles Beach Road

Tyler Richardson, Municipal Engineer, reviewed the report “Removal of Streetlight on Hirtles Beach Road” (circulated with the agenda), providing details on the request to remove a streetlight on Hirtle Beach Road.

Mr. Richardson reported that the request was submitted through former Councillor Ben Brooks, as per the Policy 035 Streetlight Policy. Concerns were raised about whether neighbouring residents had been consulted. It was noted that consultation was generally expected to occur through the local councillor, but information confirming whether this had happened was unavailable.

Given Councillor Brooks' resignation, it was determined to be prudent to speak with local residents before proceeding and agreed to work with staff and engage affected residents as needed while the matter proceeded administratively.

11.3 Administration

11.3.1 Proposed Fire Tax Rates 2026-2027

A report from Chris Kennedy, Fire Services Coordinator, titled “Proposed Fire Tax Rate for 2026-2027” was circulated with the agenda.

2026-105 Moved by Councillor Hubley, seconded by Councillor Bell that Municipal Council approve the fire tax rates per \$100 of assessment for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2027, as presented. Carried unanimously.

12. Mayor's/Deputy Mayor's/Councillors' Matters

12.1 LCLC Update

Deputy Mayor Veinotte's update on matters of the Lunenburg County Multi-purpose Lifestyle Community Centre is attached.

An update on the LCLC voucher program was provided as follows:

- Michael Graves, Executive Director of the United Way of Lunenburg County, was invited to present a business case at a meeting of local mayors, wardens, and deputy mayors, based on the fact that the vouchers are used across multiple municipalities.
- The intent was for the voucher program to become the responsibility of individual municipalities rather than the LCLC, since the program serves residents from several municipal units, some of which contribute to the LCLC and some of which do not.

12.2 Deputy Mayor's Update

Deputy Mayor Veinotte advised that she attended to regular duties as assigned as Deputy Mayor.

12.3 Mayor's Update

Mayor McLean-Wile's update is attached to the Minutes.

13. Added Items – Nil

Council recessed at 11:15 a.m. and resumed at 1:07 p.m.

14. In Camera

At 1:08 p.m., it was moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Hubley that Municipal Council go In Camera to discuss the following items:

14.1 Contract Negotiations under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA

14.2 Contract Negotiations under Section 22(2)(e) of the MGA

Carried.

Municipal Council In Camera in session.

At 2:38 p.m., Municipal Council came out of In Camera and returned to open session.

Municipal Council in session.

14.2 Exit 12A Memorandum of Understanding

2026-106 Moved by Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Bell that Municipal Council approve the MOU regarding Exit 12A, as presented. Those Opposed: Councillors Smith and DeLong. Motion Carried.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

River Ridge Common

Playground Replacement

Request for Decision

July 28, 2026



Background



- **Cobequid Outdoor Recreation Consultants & Contractors** conducted an assessment of the features at River Ridge Common.
- Report identified **heart rot and splitting** in the **hemlock structures**.
- Report noted several playground and other features that need to be **removed and replaced**.



Focus for 2026



- The focus for 2026 is the installation of new playground equipment to replace the original structures:
 - Slide
 - Swing Set
 - Bird Nest
 - Climbing Section

Budget Allocation of \$100,000



Current State



Bird Swing



Swing Set



Climbing



Slide



Playground Proposals

- Using Kinetic GPO, three providers were asked to submit proposals:

PlayPower

Tessier

Cobequid

- **All companies visited the park** with staff before submitting proposals.
- Companies were asked to **include accessible and inclusive features.**
- They were asked to submit proposals for four playground elements:
 - **Slide**
 - **Swing Set**
 - **Bird Nest**
 - **Climbing Section**

*Cobequid did not submit a proposal due to their workload.



PlayPower

\$99,817.53 + HST

PlayPower
70 Years Serving Canada

View #1

Bird Swing

Climbing

Free Standing Slide

Swing Set

View #2



River Ridge Playground

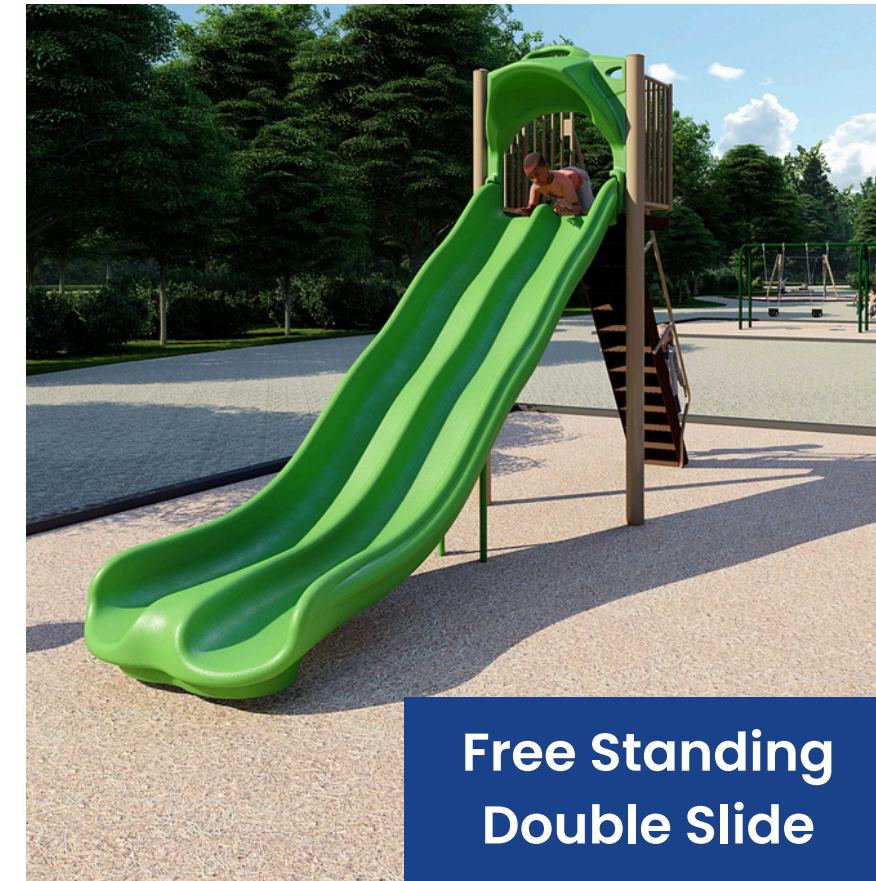
Tessier

\$104,125.17 + HST

Bird Swing



Climbing & Spinner



Free Standing
Double Slide

Swing Set



Option 1



Option 2

Recommendations

- Upgrades to the River Ridge Common Playground be awarded to **Tessier Récréo-Parc** for **\$104,125.17 plus HST**
- The **natural design compliments the character** of the park.
- **Aligns with the budget**, with the additional costs of **\$8,141.69** from the Open Space Capital reserves.



Motion to Council



“That the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg award the River Ridge Common Park playground updates to Tessier Récréo-Parc in the amount of \$104,125.17 plus HST.”



Thank you!
Questions?



Climate Resilience and Sustainability Dashboard

**MODL**Municipality of the
District of Lunenburg

Welcome

Explore how the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg is supporting stronger homes, resilient communities, healthy natural assets, and practical local action for a more sustainable future.

[Learn how to use the dashboard](#)

Explore the dashboard



Community Action Plan

Community-Wide Actions

Discover what the community is doing to build climate resilience, protect natural assets, and support a healthier future for all.

[View Community Action Plan](#)

Corporate Action Plan

Municipal Operations

See how the Municipality is reducing emissions, improving facilities, and taking action toward a more sustainable organization.

[View Corporate Action Plan](#)

Questions about the dashboard?

We would love to hear from you!

[Contact us at sustainability@modl.ca](mailto:sustainability@modl.ca)

Community Action Plan

Community-led actions to reduce emissions, strengthen resilience, and support a healthier future.

Reporting Year

2026



How to use this page: 1) Select **Overview** to have a general overview of the Community Action Plan
2) Select **Focus Areas** to have specific details about it

1. Overview

Overview



2. Focus Areas

1. Homes and Buildings



2. Community Transportation



3. Land, Water, and Nature



4. Local Resilience and Community Preparedness



Actions under 1. Homes and Buildings

1.1. Regional Energy Navigation Program

In Progress



New

1.2. Clean Energy Financing for Home Upgrades

On Hold



1.3. Energy Upgrades in Community Buildings

In Progress



1. Homes and Buildings

1.2. Clean Energy Financing for Home Upgrades

Summary

The Clean Energy Financing program helps eligible homeowners manage the upfront cost of energy-efficiency, renewable-energy, and resilience upgrades through municipal financing.

Objective

Reduce upfront cost barriers and help homeowners complete upgrades that lower energy use, utility costs, and household emissions.

On Hold

Lead Department: Planning

Last Updated: Jul, 2026

At a Glance

69

Home energy upgrades completed since 2016

\$500,000

2026-27 financing budget committed

\$1,738

Average estimated annual household savings

4.3 tCO₂e

Average estimated annual emissions reduced per household



Current progress

Demand for the program has been exceptionally high in 2026-27, and the full \$500,000 budget has now been committed. Since 2016, the program has supported 69 completed home energy upgrades and provided approximately \$716,496 in financing. Participating households are estimated to save an average of \$1,738 annually, reduce energy use by 51 GJ per year, and reduce emissions by 4.3 tCO₂e per year. The current program administrator's contract with MODL will end on October 31, 2026. The program will remain on hold while the Municipality secures a new service provider.

What's next

Staff will begin procuring a new service provider in fall 2026. The Municipality expects to have a new provider in place in early 2027 and resume the program once the new service arrangement is established and funding is available.

[Learn more](#)

Corporate Action Plan

Track how the Municipality is reducing emissions, improving facilities, and strengthening the efficiency and resilience of municipal operations.

Reporting Year

2026



How to use this page: 1) Select **Overview** to have a general overview of the Corporate Action Plan
2) Select **Focus Areas** to have specific details about it

1. Overview

Overview



2. Focus Areas

1. Municipal Facilities,
Infrastructure, and
Energy



2. Municipal Fleet,
Charging, and
Contracted Vehicles



3. Municipal
Operations Waste



Our plan



About this plan

A roadmap for reducing emissions, improving municipal operations, and building more efficient and resilient facilities and services.



Our vision

Efficient and resilient municipal operations that reduce costs, emissions, and long-term risk.



What this plan covers

- Renewable energy at municipal facilities
- Energy-efficient buildings and infrastructure
- Net-zero and resilient design
- Wastewater facility improvements
- Municipal fleet transition
- Fleet charging infrastructure
- Cleaner contracted services
- Waste reduction in municipal operations

At a glance



3

focus areas



9

actions



Emissions progress

2019 emissions

1,190

tCO₂e

2024 emissions

→ 921

tCO₂e

22.6%

reduction
since 2019

Progress toward 2030 goal

22.6% reduction

64% reduction target by 2030

Key indicators

100 kW

Solar capacity installed

\$19,956

Estimated annual utility cost savings

1

Net-zero municipal facility

5

Electric vehicles in the municipal fleet



Next: choose a focus area above to explore actions and progress.

Plan, Reports and Timeline

Explore the full plans, past progress reports, and the 2025 evaluation. Reporting begins using a streamlined dashboard structure from 2026 onward.



- How to use this page:**
- 1) Select **Full Plan** to view the complete adopted Climate Action Plan document
 - 2) Browse the **Reports Timeline** and click any report card to view that year's progress
 - 3) Use **Learn more** under **About Transition Reports** for background on reporting before the current dashboard format
 - 4) Use the **Annual Progress Reports** table at the bottom to quickly find and open any past report by year
 - 5) Use the **Climate Change Impact Survey Results** to check our survey on climate change

1. Full Plan



Local Climate Change Action Plan 2030

Includes both the Community Action Plan and the Corporate Action Plan. Adopted by Council in November 2022.

[View full plan ↗](#)

2. Reports Timeline



2022-24

First Progress Report

Nov 2022 – Mar 2024

First annual report covering the initial months of implementation after the plan was adopted.

[View 2022-24 report ↗](#)



2024-25

Second Progress Report

Apr 2024 - Mar 2025

Second annual report showing continued action, new initiatives, and lessons learned.

[View 2024-25 report ↗](#)



2025 Evaluation

Plan Evaluation

Completed Fall 2025

Staff evaluation of the plan to assess effectiveness recommend a streamlined path forward

[View evaluation report ↗](#)



2026 and beyond

Current dashboard

Public dashboard reporting using updated structure and calendar-year reporting.



3. About Transition Report

Earlier reports used the original plan structure and different themes and actions. Some themes or actions may have been renamed, consolidated, deferred, or are no longer tracked as standalone actions.

[Learn more ↗](#)



4. Annual Progress Reports

Download published annual progress reports and view upcoming dashboard-generated reports.

2026 Progress Report
January to December

Upcoming after year-end

[View all past reports →](#)



5. Climate Change Impact Survey Results

Published survey results will be added when available.

✓ 2025 Climate Change Impact Survey Results

[View results ↗](#)

✓ 2026 Climate Change Impact Survey Results

[View results ↗](#)

About the Dashboard

Learn how to navigate the dashboard, understand what each feature shows, and find the information most relevant to you.



How to use this page: 1) Use the **top menu** to move between Home, Community Action Plan, Corporate Action Plan, and Plan, Reports & Timeline
2) Review the **page guide** below to see what each page covers, from community actions to corporate operations to adopted plans and reports
3) Check the **status and progress legend** to understand what the colors, KPI cards, and progress bars mean
4) Use the **Year** and **Focus Area** selectors to filter data, and select an **Action** to see its indicators, progress, and next steps

1. Terms and Definitions

Glossary

Action	A specific step MODL is taking to advance a goal in the plan.
Community Action Plan	Actions that support residents, communities, businesses, and the natural environment across MODL.
Corporate Action Plan	Actions MODL takes within its own operations, including municipal facilities, fleet, infrastructure, waste, and procurement.
Focus Area	A group of related actions, such as Homes and Buildings or Community Transportation.
Indicator or KPI	A measurable value that shows progress or results. KPI means Key Performance Indicator.
LCCAP2030	Short for the Local Climate Change Action Plan 2030, MODL's adopted plan for community and corporate action.
Reporting Year	The year or reporting period represented by the information shown on the page.

2. What each page shows



Home

High-level entry point to the dashboard and main plan areas



Community Action Plan

Community-wide actions, progress, indicators, and focus areas



Corporate Action Plan

Municipal operations, buildings, fleet, infrastructure, waste, costs, emissions, and resilience actions.



Plan, Reports & Timeline

Adopted Plans, annual, progress reports, evaluation updates, and survey summaries



About the Dashboard

Guidance on how to use and interpret the dashboard

3. Explore Overview or Focus Areas



Overview

Select Overview for the plan-wide summary.



Focus Areas

Select a focus area to filter to related actions.



Actions

Select an action card to open it.



Summary

Review the action summary, indicators, progress, and next steps.

4. How to read dashboard information



Progress bar

Show progress toward a target or change from a baseline year.



Reporting year

Shows the year or reporting period currently being viewed.

2026



Indicators

Show measurable information such as projects completed, residents supported, funds used, emissions reduced, or land protected.



Status labels

Show where each action stands, such as in progress, ongoing, delivery, complete, delayed, or on hold.

5. How to read status labels

Complete	A one-time action is finished.
Discontinued	The action is no longer being pursued.
New Action	Added in the current reporting year.
Now Available	A new service, tool, or resource has launched.
Ongoing Delivery	The action is being delivered regularly or continuously.

Delayed	Work is behind schedule but expected to continue.
In Progress	Work has started, but is not yet finished.
Not Started	Work has not begun.
On Hold	Work is paused and may resume later.



Questions about the dashboard?

We would love to hear from you!

Contact us at sustainability@modl.ca

LCLC Council Update July 28, 2026

At our last board meeting on Thursday, July 16th, the LCLC Board was introduced to our new Finance Manager-Melinda Matchet.

Capital Projects & Operations Update: Capital projects continue to advance across the facility. New aquatic centre signage has been ordered, the remaining dressing room painting and drywall repairs have been completed, and design work is underway for future aquatic tile repairs. The new ice resurfacer is expected to arrive in August. Staff are also managing several equipment replacements and repairs, including arena ventilation, pool pumps, and mechanical systems, while continuing regular maintenance and preparing for future upgrades.

Programming has been very active, particularly in aquatics. The **Spring 2026 swimming lesson session concluded with 455 participants**, demonstrating strong community demand. **Summer swimming lessons began on July 6** and include two two-week morning sessions as well as an evening session. Outdoor pool operations and lifeguard services at Mushamush Beach Park are now underway.

Summer Day Camps have also begun and can accommodate up to **90 participants per day**. The facility also hosted several community events, including the Christine Wentzell Memorial Tournament. Work continues on the new Membership Advantage Program, which is expected to enhance member benefits while creating additional sponsorship and advertising opportunities for the facility. Facility traffic remains strong, with **202,027 visits year-to-date**.

Mayor's Report

July 28, 2026

Over the past two weeks, I have had the opportunity to participate in several meetings and events that reflect both the opportunities and challenges facing our municipality and our region.

One of the more significant meetings was with David Benoit, CEO of Build Nova Scotia, and Nate Morrissey. David provided a detailed overview of the Province's current cellular infrastructure program for western Nova Scotia and discussed the Request for Proposals for Phase II of the project. Unfortunately, there is currently no provincial commitment to fund this next phase, which is discouraging given the ongoing connectivity challenges many of our residents continue to experience.

We also reviewed the municipal initiative we undertook last year encouraging residents to identify areas with inadequate cellular service through Build Nova Scotia's mapping tool. More than 8,500 Nova Scotians participated, and the information submitted closely aligned with Build Nova Scotia's own field research, where staff travelled throughout the province identifying dead zones and areas with poor service.

During our discussion, we explored whether there may be opportunities for municipalities to partner with Build Nova Scotia on future projects. While further discussion is needed, we also offered municipal lands as potential locations for cellular towers where that might help advance coverage. My conclusion following this meeting is that we must continue advocating with our provincial representatives for funding to proceed with Phase II of the cellular expansion project.

It was also a pleasure to participate in the reopening of Indian Falls Park and the unveiling of the **Indian Falls Stories** public art installation. It was a beautiful afternoon that began with our neighbour, Peggy Wentzell, offering a prayer, song, and water ceremony in keeping with Mi'kmaq tradition.

The stories shared through this project celebrate generations of salmon fishing, swimming, and enjoying this beautiful place, while also acknowledging the relationship between the Mi'kmaq people and the settler community. In preparing for the event, I learned more about the history of Reserve 19A, later known as Elmwood, and the Municipality's role in requesting the federal government to disestablish the reserve in 1934. The motivation at that time was to place the lands on the tax roll. The school was closed, the land was sold, and the residents lost their status under the Indian Act.

Learning about this history has caused me to reflect on our municipality's role in reconciliation. While we cannot change decisions made by previous generations, we can acknowledge them,

learn from them, and ensure our actions today are guided by respect, understanding, and a commitment to building stronger relationships.

The Mayors of Mahone Bay, Lunenburg, Bridgewater, the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg, and the Region of Queens Municipality met to continue discussions on regional economic development. This work is aligned with the review currently being undertaken by Stiletto Consulting, whose report is expected to be presented to the mayors in September. I look forward to reviewing their recommendations and identifying opportunities for greater regional collaboration.

I was pleased to attend the official opening of the new MRI unit at South Shore Regional Hospital. This project was made possible through the remarkable fundraising efforts led by local business owners and residents of the municipality - David Himmelman and Tim O'Regan, together with generous community support, including a contribution of \$750,000 from the Queens General Hospital Foundation.

The new MRI service is expected to provide approximately 3,000 scans during its first year and increase to 5,000 annually in its second year. Priority access will be provided to residents of Lunenburg and Queens counties, while maintaining capacity for emergency patients from the hospital. The excitement and pride shown by the staff demonstrated just how significant this addition is to healthcare services on the South Shore.

I also attended the Annual General Meeting of the South Shore Open Doors Association. This organization has experienced tremendous growth over the past year and continues to play a vital role in addressing homelessness and supportive housing needs across Lunenburg and Queens counties.

Their new shelter on Elm Street provides a welcoming and dignified space for those experiencing homelessness, replacing the temporary location that had operated from the Phoenix Street church hall. Their future plans include expanding transitional housing and acquiring additional affordable housing units to ensure long-term housing opportunities remain available within our region.

Tomorrow evening, Council will consider what I hope will be the final steps in adopting our new Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law. This has been a lengthy process involving extensive public consultation, thoughtful discussion, and many revisions. I want to thank Council, staff, and everyone who participated throughout this process. Reaching this milestone represents an important achievement for our municipality and provides a strong foundation for future growth and development.

As we conclude our regular Council meetings before the summer break, with one final Special Council meeting on Monday, I encourage all of us to reflect on the past year. We have accomplished a great deal together, but there are always opportunities to improve how we conduct our business, engage with one another, and serve our residents.

Over the coming weeks, staff and I will begin planning for the fall, and following Tuesday's special meeting I will be asking members of Council for feedback on our processes, meeting flow, and overall effectiveness. I welcome your suggestions as we continue working to strengthen Council's governance and ensure we are serving our communities as effectively as possible.