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Launch of Victoria County's News & Views Introducing a new Municipal Newsletter

Welcome to the first issue of **News & Views**, a printed newsletter delivered to your local post office!

Whether you live in Iona, Wreck Cove, Neil's Harbour, Bay St. Lawrence, or anywhere in between, **News & Views** will keep you informed of what's happening in council matters, municipal programs/services, and keep you informed about municipal projects.

This first issue is designed to give residents an overview of how the county is governed, how it operates and what services are offered. While a lot has changed since incorporation in 1851, a lot has remained the same.

You will meet your Victoria County Councillors, municipal staff and get to know more about the departments, who to contact, and who is best to answer your questions. In the **Fall Issue**, the newsletter will focus less on municipal information and more on municipal **News & Views**.

So put your feet up, have a cup of tea and get to know your municipality a bit better!

Council Office Hours

Warden Bruce Morrison:

2nd Wed every month 10:30 – Noon
@ Municipal Courthouse Building.

Councillor Norm MacDonald:

1st Tues/Wed of month 10:00 –
Noon @ Bay St. Lawrence Cape &
North Cultural Centre

Councillor Paul MacNeil: Wed
Aug 16th 10:00 – Noon @ Grandona
Legion Branch 124 & Wed Sept 13
10:00 – Noon, location TBD.

Dep Warden Larry Dauphinee:

Call for appointment 902-322-
7102.

Councillor Jackie Organ:

First Wednesday morning of the
month from 10—12 @ Neil's Har-
bour/New Haven Volunteer Fire Dept
starting in September.

Councillor Perla MacLeod:

Thursday, Aug 17 10:00 – 11:00 am –
Sept 7, 10:00 – 11:00 am @ Muni-
cipal Courthouse Building

Councillor Fraser Patterson:

1st Wednesday of the month starting
Sept 6 @ Ross Ferry Fire Hall @ 2
pm, Big Bras d/Or Fire Hall @ 7 pm.
Call 902-674-2703 or 902-565-
5767

Councillor Barbara Longva:

1st Wednesday of the month 6 pm @
North shore & District Fire Hall—or
call 902-304-0123.



Left to right (back row)

Paul MacNeil – Councillor – District #1

(902) 295-8477 paul.macneil@victoriacounty.ca

Bruce J. Morrison – Warden – District #3

(902) 565-8229 bruce.morrison@victoriacounty.ca

Norman MacDonald – Councillor – District #8

(902) 285-4333 norman.macdonald@victoriacounty.ca

Larry Daughinee – Deputy Warden – District #6

(902) 322-7102 larry.dauphinee@victoriacounty.ca

Fraser Patterson – Councillor – District #5

(902) 674-2703 fraser.patterson@victoriacounty.ca

Left to right (front row)

Barbara Longva – Councillor – District #4

(902) 304-0123 barbara.longva@victoriacounty.ca

Perla MacLeod – Councillor – District #2

(902) 295-0229 district2@victoriacounty.ca

Jackie Organ – Councillor – District 7

(902) 336-2212 jackie.organ@victoriacounty.ca

Municipal Administration



Leanne MacEachen, CPA, CA Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

Leanne's role is to oversee municipal staff to ensure Council's direction is implemented. She is responsible for managing operations, planning budgets, and hiring employees. The CAO is Council's only employee. The CAO advises Council and takes direction from them as well.

Leanne.MacEachen@victoriacounty.ca 902-295-3654

Steff MacLeod – Executive Assistant who assists the CAO in carrying out her duties. As primary contact and liaison for the CAO, Steff connects directly with municipal residents, stakeholders, community organizations, department managers and municipal staff on the day-to-day operations.

Steff.macleod@victoriacounty.ca 902-295-3659



Steff MacLeod

Alix Redden, MBA, CPA, CMA – Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

As CFO, Alix oversees the financial operations of the municipality in accordance with the Municipal Government Act.

Alix.redden@victoriacounty.ca 902-295-3231 (currently on leave)

Allan Bragg, CPA, CMA, CIA – Manager of Accounting and currently covering as CFO. Allan is responsible for financial reporting, standard compliancy, managing and overseeing the daily operations of the accounting department.

Allan.bragg@victoriacounty.ca 902-489-7967

Zina MacNeil – Accounts Payable & Payroll Administrator.

Zina handles vendor invoices or bills and ensures all employees are paid by the Municipality.

Zina.macneil@victoriacounty.ca 902-295-2031

Jennifer Dagsvik – Communications & Marketing Coordinator – Jennifer is responsible for the strategic direction for municipal communications, media relations, marketing, social media, and content. Jennifer.dagsvik@victoriacounty.ca 902-295-8135

Municipal Building

Address:

495 Chebucto Street
Baddeck, N.S.
B0E 1B0

Tel: (902) 295-3231

Fax: (902) 295-3331

Administration Hrs:

Monday to Friday
8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Public Works Department

Public Works looks after resident's waste collection and ensures water and sewer services are well maintained.

Waste Management Services

Learn more: <https://victoriacounty.com/residents/waste-management-services/>

In addition to waste collection services to residents, department staff operate two waste management facilities; Baddeck and Cape North. These are two recycling facilities, a ReUse Centre in Baddeck for gently used items, and two Enviro Depots located in Baddeck and New Haven. The Enviro Depots offer refundable recycling services and are paint and electronics drop-off centres.

Victoria County Water Utility:



More than 500 water customers have access to clean, safe drinking water. The Utility operates four water supplies servicing residents in the communities of Dingwall, Ingonish, Little Narrows and Neil's Harbour.

Field staff repair existing piping and valves, maintain fire hydrants, install water services, water main services, transmission mains, keep storage facilities and pump facilities plus are responsible for water metering and billing.

Kelly Brett - Manager of the Public Works. Kelly leads the team in maintaining all municipally owned infrastructure. kelly.brett@victoriacounty.ca 902-295-3667

Greg Weir, Public Works Technician -
greg.weir@victoriacounty.ca 902-295-3669

Water issues? Leaks? Call 1-855-748-6067

Victoria County's New Waste Management Educator



Got a Waste Management question?

Maddy MacPherson can help you with all your waste-related questions!

Whether you're a resident seeking guidance on proper sorting techniques, a school wishing to organize educational presentations or activities, a business interested in event greening, or a community group looking to conduct waste audits or implement waste reduction strategies, Maddy is here to assist you.

Contact Maddy via email at maddy.macpherson@victoriacounty.ca or call (902) 295-0575.



Victoria County Tax Rates 2022 – 2023

Residential – \$1.22 per \$100 assessment

Commercial – \$2.12 per \$100 assessment

Resource Property – \$1.22 per \$100 assessment

Taxation fiscal year is April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023

Property taxes are due August 1, 2023

Property Tax and Programs

<https://victoriacounty.com/residents/property-taxation-services/>

The main source of revenue (about 75%) for the municipality comes from resident's property taxes. Property Taxes are calculated using the taxable assessed value of a property, times the municipal tax rate (residential or commercial).

In Nova Scotia, properties are assessed by an independent, non-profit organization Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC). Every January, PVSC gives the municipality an assessment roll which is used to calculate resident's property taxes.



Victoria County Property Programs:

Nova Scotia Property Tax Rebate for Seniors – seniors receiving the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) may be eligible for a property tax rebate. This rebate is through the provincial government, but our tax department staff are knowledgeable (902-295-3231).

Municipal Tax Exemption (low income) – if your household taxable income is less than \$35,000 a year, you may be eligible for a tax exemption.

Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (PACE) – Homeowners can apply to municipality's Clean Energy Financing program to help finance home energy upgrades at a lower interest rate.

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Property Tax and Programs (continued)

Victoria County Property Programs:

Water Supply/Septic Upgrade Lending Program – this program helps residents access low interest financing to complete a water supply or septic upgrade for their property. The program operates on a first come, first serve basis until its' budget for the fiscal year has been allocated.

Property Assessment – Assessment is the responsibility of Property Valuation Services Corporation. If you have any questions regarding your assessment, please contact PVSC at inquiry@pvsc.ca or 902-563-2150 or toll-free 1-800-380-7776

Taxation Staff:

Cathi MacKenzie – Revenue Coordinator Cathi.mackenzie@victoriacounty.ca
902-295-3653

Lauri MacAuley – Revenue Clerk Lauri.macauley@victoriacounty.ca 902-295-2470

Cathlin Deveau – Customer Service Clerk cathlin.deveau@victoriacounty.ca 902-295-3231

Building Permits & Inspections



David MacKenzie

The Eastern District Planning Commission (EDPC) oversees the planning, subdivision and building inspection services in eastern Nova Scotia, including Victoria County.

It is a legal requirement to obtain a building permit for all construction projects. This applies to any construction building project; from a new home to large shopping mall renovations.

David MacKenzie is the EDPC Building and Fire Inspector for the County of Victoria.

As inspector, he will review building plans and ensure they meet all applicable National Building Code Requirements, conducts on-site inspections at various stages of the construction project to ensure building standards are met.

dmackenzie@edpc.ca 902-295-2900 or 902-295-8101.

Building Permit Fees (Continued)

Residential construction value is determined using an annual Altus Group Canadian Cost Guild or the contracted price of construction. The 2022 Construction cost is \$260.00 per square foot.

Emergency Services

Victoria County Emergency Management Officer (EMO) is responsible for emergency planning, coordinating emergency responses, as well as raising awareness of emergency preparedness for residents and business.

Our municipality relies on volunteer firefighters throughout the County to help keep our residents safe.

Lyle Donovan is the Emergency Management Coordinator and Fire Services Coordinator for Victoria County.



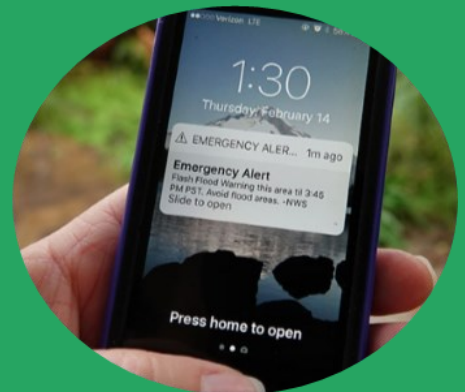
To learn more contact: lyle.donovan@victoriacounty.ca or 902-578-1994.



Victoria County uses an emergency notification system called Voyent Alert. <https://voyent-alert.com/ca/community/>

By signing up for phone call, text and/or email, you will receive notices about any municipal alerts. **Registration is free.**

- Changes to waste collection schedules (cancellation, delays, etc.)
- Municipal closures at any of our facilities
- Disruptions in water service (only available for Victoria County Water Utility customers in Little Narrows, Ingonish, Neil's Harbour and Dingwall.
- Boil orders
- Significant weather impacts on Victoria County.



Seniors Safety Program



Cassandra Yonder

Victoria County's Seniors Safety Program helps seniors stay safe by providing information support and by collaborating to implement projects and programs to assist seniors avoid scams and abuse .

In addition to safety and security, healthy aging means maintaining independence while remaining connected as an active, engaged and valuable participant in the community.

Connect with us!

Cassandra Yonder is Victoria County's Seniors Safety Program Coordinator. Contact seniorssafety@victoriacounty.ca 902-295-3672.

Community Development

<https://victoriacounty.com/residents/community-development/>

To help citizens get involved in their community and support growth, Victoria County offers several development programs to help build initiatives to grow vibrant communities.

Volunteers – hardworking and dedicated volunteers are the backbone to our communities and need to be recognized and acknowledged. Every year, a top Victoria County Volunteer is chosen from submitted nominations to represent us at the Provincial Volunteer Awards Ceremony.

Trail Development – developing trails for residents and visitors is a priority for the County. To support the work done by many community and organization volunteers,



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Community Development

Trail Development (Continued)

there is a Trails Development Support program to financially support new development, trail maintenance/repair or marketing.

Community Placemaking Sessions – this initiative is focused on providing sessions for communities; it focuses on people who live, work, and play in the same community. By asking questions and listening to what people need, it helps communities determine what type of community they want to be.

For more detailed information about the programs, contact:

Dan Coffin is Manager of Tourism & Recreation for Victoria County.

Dan.coffin@victoriacounty.ca 902-294-0060

Colleen Whelan-Smith is Tourism & Community Development Coordinator.

Colleen.whelon-smith@victoriacounty.ca 902-295-0788



Active Living & Recreation



To support and promote active living for all residents, there's a number of opportunities for community groups to get program funding, from youth 18 years old and younger, to support for cultural programs, travel assistance, special events and more.

Victoria County also offers a free, multi-Activity sport program. Participants can try and learn the skills and knowledge needed to play three different sports. All sporting equipment is provided.

For a complete listing of Recreation facilities and Venues in Victoria County, check out <http://victoriacounty.com/residents/recreation/sports-programs-activities-venues/>

Christopher Woodford is Active Living & Recreation Coordinator.

Christopher.woodford@victoriacounty.ca 902-294-0063

Victoria County Tourism

Our residents, many of whom are tourist operators reading this, are the heart and soul of Victoria County.

Victoria County is proud to have a strong tourism industry and through several Tourism Support Programs, help businesses and organizations stay successful.

Support Programs include branding and digital support, developmental support along the different stages, to consultation and training in customer service and resource help.

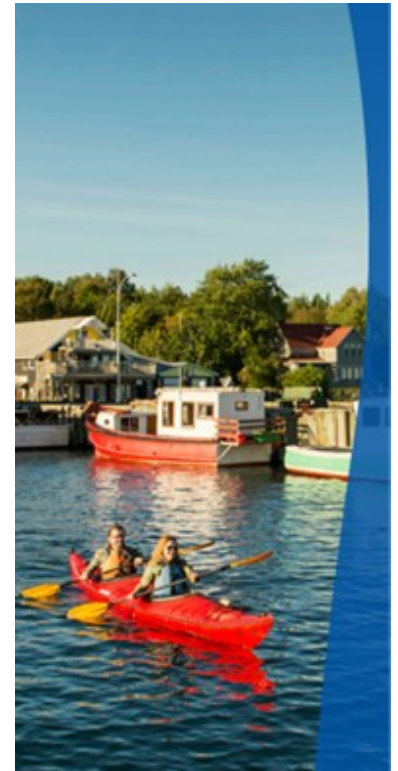


Economic Development



The Municipality works with Cape Breton Partnership, through the Regional Enterprise Network to support economic development activities to ensure economic growth.

Contact: Parker Horton, Economic Development Officer—parker@capebretonpartnership.com
902-294-0126



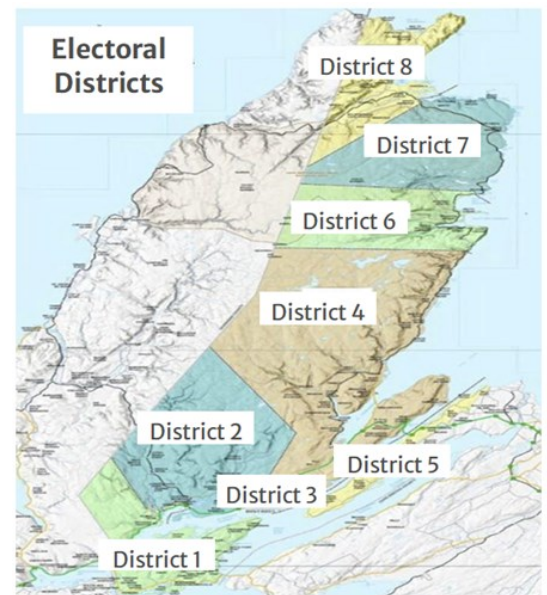
Public Transit

<https://www.vctbus.ca>

Victoria County Transit (VCT) offers riders an accessible and affordable transportation service within the County. The one-way cost is \$7.50 and designed to connect riders wanting door-to-door service.



VCT can be used for appointments, getting to work or hospital visits.



The trained staff take pride in connecting communities and getting to where they need to go.
Call to book a ride 1-855-772-0770





Frequent Questions & Answers



Q: Who is responsible for maintenance of highways and roads?

A: The Nova Scotia Department of Public Works is responsible for building and maintaining highways, roads and bridges which includes plowing, paving, patching, grading, and clearing ditches.

The Honourable Keith Bain is the provincial Member of Parliament for Victoria County. He can be reached at keithbainmla@bellaliant.com or by calling 902-736-0301.

Q: How do I pay my property/water taxes?

A: For all municipal residents of Victoria County, except Village of Baddeck residents, property and water taxes are paid once a year and are paid to the municipality.

For residents of the Village of Baddeck, property taxes, sewer and water services are provided by the Village of Baddeck, not Victoria County.

Q: Does the municipality update my new address?

A: You are responsible for ensuring your address is correct. Please let us know if you move so we can update your civic address and postal information. You can either email at info@victoriacounty.ca or call 902-295-3231

Q: Can I get a municipal form/application/document in print?

A: Yes. Please drop by the Municipal Office (old Courthouse) located at 495 Chebucto Street in Baddeck during business hours (Monday to Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm) If you need a municipal document printed, please drop by.

Have ideas /comments for our next fall issue? Please send to info@victoriacounty.ca



www.victoriacounty.com

Contact Us

Victoria County Municipal Office
495 Chebucto Street, Baddeck,
Nova Scotia B0E 1B0

Telephone: (902) 295-3231
Fax: (902) 295-3331
info@victoriacounty.ca