

Fall 2023



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Did You Know?

Greetings from Victoria County Warden Bruce Morrison

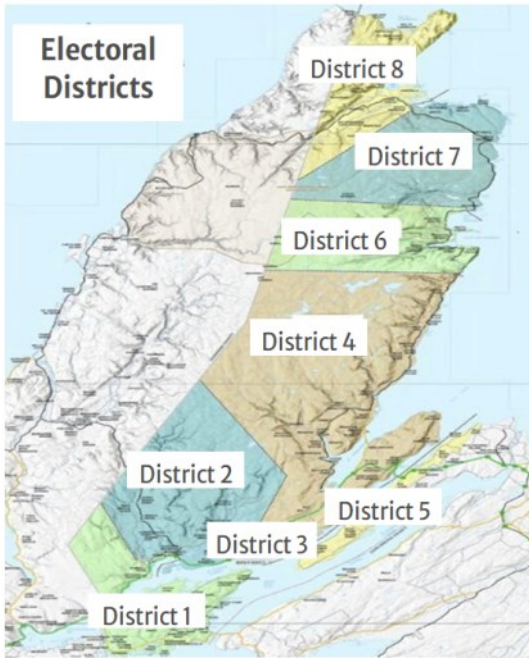
On behalf of Council, as Warden of Victoria County, we are pleased to continue serving you. Our commitment in helping move our County forward, prosper and grow remains our priority for our residents who call Victoria County home.

As we navigate through change and a growth in population, we are staying steady, keeping our eye on the ball, our values strong to guide us forward.

The Municipality's strategic priorities into 2025 remain focused in developing responsible infrastructure, keeping growth sustainable, unifying our connections and keeping our partnerships strong with a willingness to collaborate, compromise and be flexible during a changing environment.

Con't on Page 2

Con't: Message from Warden



We're driven to succeed in Victoria County, and it's helped us land on our feet through this "post-pandemic" period. We're now in the enviable position of economic growth, new development opportunities and investment potential we haven't seen in many years. Whether it's celebrating our partnership with Wagmatcook First Nation, supporting the re-investment in Little Narrows Gypsum and Cape Smokey developments, or honouring the longtime success of our local producers such as Victoria Co-operative Fisheries Ltd. to the Baddeck Valley Wood Producers Co-op, we are staying connected.

We pledge to you our residents to continue serving you professionally and consistently on behalf of your interests.

Bruce Morrison, Victoria County Warden



Municipal Building

Mailing Address:
495 Chebucto Street
P.O. Box 370
Baddeck, N.S.
B0E 1B0

Tel: (902) 295-3231
Fax: (902) 295-3331

Email:
info@victoriacounty.ca

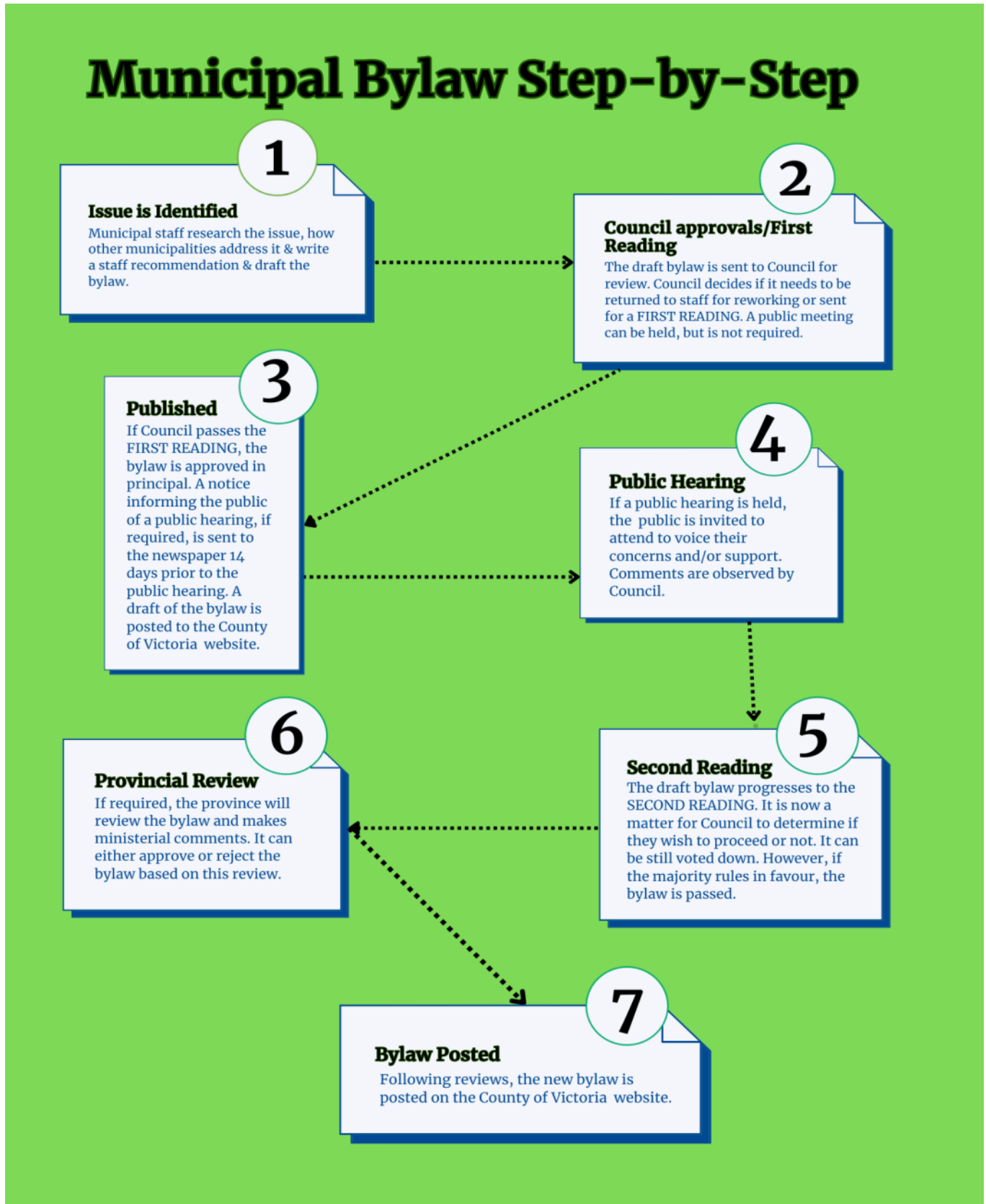
Administration Hours:

Monday to Friday
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Raising the Mi'kmaw Flags at the Municipal Building with Warden, Chief and Councils

Municipal Bylaw Process

Municipal governments follow the Municipal Government Act (MGA) - here's how bylaws get approved.



Get in touch with your District Councillor

There are many ways connecting. By phone call, by email or you can meet with them in-person. They're also available to meet in the community on specific dates if you want to drop by.

OFFICE LOCATIONS/HOURS

District Councillor	Phone & Email	Location	Date	Time
Bruce Morrison, Warden District #3	bruce.morrison@victoriacounty.ca 902-565-8229	Municipal Building Baddeck	Second Wednesday of every month	10:00 am—11:00 am
Larry Dauphinee, Deputy Warden District #6	larry.dauphinee@victoriacounty.ca 902-322-7102	Office space is limited; please book an appointment by calling 902-322-7102	Anytime by appointment. To book, call 902-322-7102	Anytime by appointment. To book, call 902-322-7102
Barbara Longva, Councillor District #4	barbara.longva@victoriacounty.ca 902-304-0123	Indian Brook Fire-hall	First Wednesday of every month	6:00 pm—8:00 pm
Norman MacDonald, Councillor District #8	norman.macdonald@victoriacounty.ca 902-285-4333	Cape North Cultural Centre	November 17 2023, remaining meetings will be posted on Facebook.	10:00 am—12:00 pm
Paul MacNeil, Councillor District #1	paul.macneil@victoriacounty.ca 902-295-8477	Various locations throughout District #1	Third Thursday of every month	10:00 am—12:00 pm
Jackie Organ, Councillor District #7	jackie.organ@victoriacounty.ca 902-336-2212	Neil's Harbour/New Haven Fire Department	November 17, 2023, January 2024 mtg will be on Facebook.	6:00 pm—8:00 pm
Perla MacLeod, Councillor District #2	perla.macleod@victoriacounty.ca 902-295-0229	Municipal Building Baddeck	November 23, 2023 December 11, 2023	10:00 am 11:00 am
Fraser Patterson, Councillor District #5	fraser.patterson@victoriacounty.ca 902-674-2703	Ross Ferry Hall Big Bras d'Or	1st Wednesday of every month	2:00 pm Ross Ferry 7:00 pm Big Bras d'Or

Public Works



Baddeck ReUse Centre

Since opening in April 2018, the ReUse Centre has been a huge success! Open every summer from April to October, non-profit groups operate for three consecutive Saturdays from 9—12 pm. All materials in the building are donated by residents. The goal to divert useful items from the landfill, has given local non-profits an opportunity to raise funds and allow people to buy gently-used items at a discounted price. Groups interested in getting involved for the 2024 season can apply beginning late January/early February. Applications submitted by the set deadline are placed in a draw, chosen at random, and the first group is assigned to the first three Saturdays, the second group the next three Saturdays and so on.

Non-profit Group	3-Week Total 2023
Crowdis Mountain Snowmobile Club	\$1,768.30
St. Ann's Bay Community Group	\$1,900.00
Bras d'Or Archer's Association	\$1,855.60
Theatre Baddeck	\$1,887.00
Bras d'Or Day Camps	\$1,846.35
Hospital Auxiliary	\$2,200.00
Baddeck Valley Community Hall	\$1,262.20
Class Trip 2024	\$2,415.20
2023 TOTAL (April—Oct 2023)	\$15,134.65

183 average visits every Saturday

7% increase in revenue totals from 2022 to 2023



Do you know what happens after your recycling materials are picked up?

Follow along with us on a behind-the-scenes view of recycling in Victoria County.

Watch “Recycling Ready” and “Keep it Clean” [Waste Management Services - Victoria County](#) starring our Waste Management Collection and Sorting team.

Got a Waste Management Question? Our Educator, Maddy MacPherson can help you! Call 902-295-0575



Property Tax Information



What is the 2023 Tax Rate in Victoria County?

- ◆ Resident property owners pay \$1.22 per \$100 of the property assessment
- ◆ Commercial property owners pay \$2.12 per \$100 of the property assessment
- ◆ Resource property owners pay \$1.22 per \$100 of their property assessment



How are my property taxes calculated?

- ◆ The amount of property taxes you pay is based on the Tax Rate X your property's assessed value and then divided by 100.
- ◆ **The current taxation fiscal year goes from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024**
- ◆ **Your property taxes are due on August 1, 2024**

Questions? Here's how to contact the Revenue staff:

Cathi MacKenzie— Revenue Coordinator 902-295-3653

Lauri MacAuley— Revenue Clerk 902-295-2470

Cathlin Deveau— Customer Service 902-295-3231



Cathlin Deveau— Customer Service



Cathi MacKenzie— Revenue Coordinator

Please make sure your address is correct

Property tax bills arrive annually = 1 x a year / Water bills arrive quarterly = 4x a year

Please make sure the Municipality has your postal address OR consider having your property tax emailed!

----- **CUT HERE AND MAIL** -----

Contact the Tax Office at (902) 295-3231 or (902) 295-3653 to give us your email address or fill out the information below and send to:

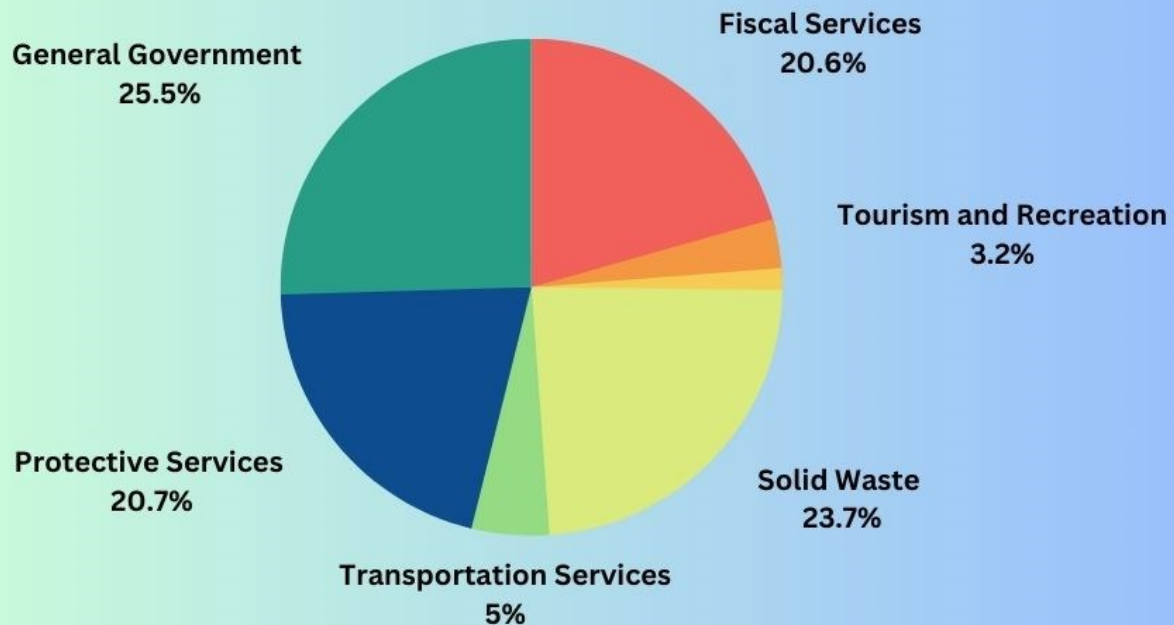
Municipality of Victoria County, 495 Chebucto Street, Baddeck, NS. B0E1B0

Name: _____ Mailing Address: _____

City/Town: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____



Budget 2023 - 2024 Expenditures



- **General Government:** (council, administrative departments, annual grants to organizations)
- **Fire and Protective Services** (volunteer fire department funding, fire services/EMO, planning, RCMP mandatory contribution)
- **Transportation Services** (Maintenance of J class roads and municipality owned roads, streetlights, Victoria County Transit)
- **Solid Waste, Collection and Disposal:** (two transfer stations, two recycling depots, weekly curbside pickup, trucking waste to landfill)
- **Recreation and Tourism Services, Economic Development** (recreation grants to community organizations, school/rink recreation funding, trail development, placemaking, tourism initiatives)
- **Fiscal Services** (banking/debt, mandatory contributions to Cape Breton-Victoria Regional Centre for Education, PVSC, Corrections, CB Housing, Libraries –Baddeck/North of Smokey)

Senior Safety

A Closer Look at the ACTing Collectively Project

ACTing Collectively Dalhousie Team

ACTing Collectively is a project focused on connecting older adults (65+) to local services and programs. In partnership with the Municipality of Victoria County, the project is testing the Age Care Technologies (ACT™) assessment tool. This tool is helping the project team identify and share the concerns of older adults with local planners and decision-makers.

The tool includes an assessment/interview that asks older adult participants to reflect on their life and any concerns they may have. Through a one-hour conversation with a trained Assessor, the participant can learn about local resources available to help them age at home in their community. Information from the interview is summarized and shared with the participant in a personalized action plan.

The project has also provided an opportunity for the Municipality to connect with community-living older adults.

Email: actns@dal.ca

Facebook Page: [ACTing Collectively Project](#)

Website: <https://www.actingcollectively.ca/>



Cassandra Yonder, –Seniors Safety Coordinator

acting collectively

WHAT IS THE ACTING COLLECTIVELY PROJECT & WHY SHOULD YOU GET INVOLVED?

A COMMUNITY-FOCUSED PROJECT
The project is testing an assessment tool in three Cape Breton counties, including Victoria County.

FIND LOCAL RESOURCES
The assessment is designed to help older adults (65+) find local programs and services.

HELP YOUR COMMUNITY
Taking part in the project will let your municipality know what resources older adults need.

PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE
The assessment can help you think about and prepare for what you may need to age well.

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY NOVA SCOTIA health CARP BRIC NS ACT Northwest ICG IRG CAP BRETON VICTORIA COUNTY

“Conducting assessments has been a beautiful way for me [as Senior Safety Program Coordinator] to develop relationships with the seniors I serve here in Victoria County. Personally, I have learned a great deal about what it means to live well into old age.”

Cassandra Yonder, Seniors Safety Coordinator

If you're interested in learning more about the ACTing Collectively Project or would like to take part, please call (902) 295-3672 or email seniorssafety@VictoriaCounty.ca

2023 Volunteer Award Winner! Big Bras d'Or Community Hall Volunteers



Congratulations to Big Bras d'Or Community Hall for being presented Provincial Volunteer of the Year (2023) on behalf of Victoria County!

In September 2023, at the Annual Provincial Volunteer Awards, Mike MacDonald accepted the award (without his cap and apron!) on behalf of Big Bras d'Or Community Hall at a ceremony in Halifax! The ceremony was livestreamed and posted on our website and Facebook site. You can still see it and learn how the Big Bras d'Or group has contributed to the community.

Our thanks to the huge number of community volunteers who give of their time and were nominated in 2023. There were a total of 18 individuals/groups from Bay St. Lawrence to Washabuck to Ross Ferry whose names were brought forward by their neighbours and communities.

It's also time to think about which group or person you'd like to nominate for Volunteer of the Year in 2024! Information on how to nominate will be available in the next Newsletter issue.

Municipal Grants 2024

The Municipal Grants Applications for the fiscal year 2024/2025 year opens in early January 2024. Keep an eye out on our website for the application as the deadline will be March 31, 2024.

Recreation and Active Living



Chris Woodford, Victoria County's Recreation and Active Living Coordinator giving a demonstration to a group attending BOLD Community in Baddeck. There's a variety of games and equipment available.

Get in touch with Chris to request a presentation to your community group!



Recreation Survey Update

Thanks to residents for giving their input on the Victoria County Summer Recreation Survey! Feedback included a request to expand the equipment loan program for not-for-profit groups, the introduction of a multi-activity program to provide residents an opportunity to participate in recreation, sport and non-sport activities, and the creation of a new walking series. Based on your input, the Recreation and Active Living Department has been implementing new programs and will be delivering a new spring program in 2024.

As we're refining the specific programs to be delivered, be on the lookout for an opportunity soon to express your recreational/active living wish list, coming soon!

Tell us your ideas! You can email, write or call Christopher Woodford at christopher.woodford@victoriacounty.ca, 495 Chebucto Street, PO Box 370, Baddeck Nova Scotia B0E 1B0 Call 902-294-0063.



The Hiking Group in Dalem Lake was just one of many successful community hikes which happened in October. The hike was organized through Victoria County and NS Walks partnership!

Winter Outdoor Fun in Victoria County

Grab your mitts, hat and long johns, and head outside! Victoria County offers abundant opportunities to stay active year-round, especially during the snowy season!

Baddeck Nordic Club

Newest club on the scene with an enthusiastic group of dedicated local skiers and in 2022, a generous landowner offered their land to develop a network of groomed and signed trails nestled at the foot of the Cape Breton Highlands.

North Highlands Nordic

Located in Cape North, North Highlands Nordic offers equipment rentals, warming facilities, learn to ski clinics for kids. Plenty of groomed trails for snowshoes and skis. Both Baddeck Nordic and North Highlands Nordic are partnered with Ski Nova Scotia - to become a member of either, go to Zone4.ca

Crowdis Mountain Snowmobile Club

Part of the 20 snowmobile clubs in Nova Scotia, this active club has over 120 members that includes cross-country skiers, snowshoe enthusiasts and snowmobilers. The club maintains approximately 225 kms of groomed trails.

Ski Tuonela - Telemark ski area

Ski-in destination offering the only serviced Telemark ski area in the Maritimes. 4 kilometre backcountry/outback skiing with gladed hill. 18 kms cross-country trails, equipment rentals, chalet accommodations and sauna.

Ski Cape Smokey

Ski hill offers skiing and snowboarding with stunning views of the Cape Breton Highlands. Located near Ingonish and offers 15 downhill runs or for those interested in snowshoeing, hike the back country trail to Hawley's Lake.

Rather stay inside and read a newspaper?

Welcome The **Victoria** Reporter to the County of Victoria!

Starting November 22nd, the Strait Area Reporter, a newspaper available in print and reports on regional news in the Strait Area community will include a biweekly supplement called The **Victoria** Reporter, as part of it's newspaper.



The **Victoria** Reporter will report news and current affairs stories from Victoria County, cover municipal council matters, and include advertising opportunities for local businesses.

The newspaper will be offered for a cost at various retail outlets throughout Victoria County.



Did you know?



Who is responsible for maintenance of highways and roads?

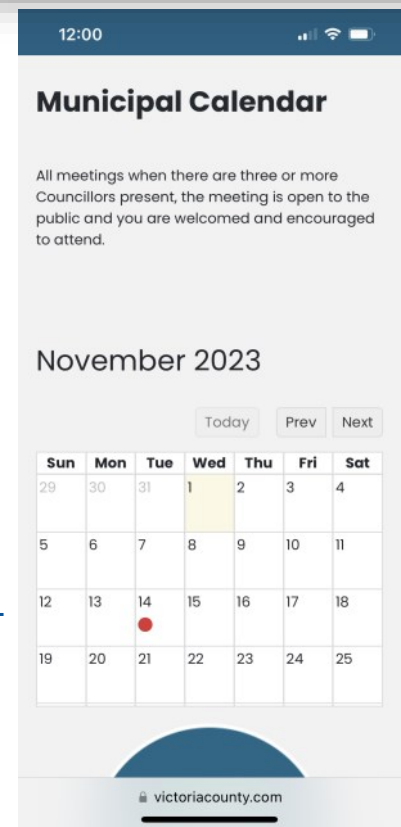
A: The Nova Scotia Department of Public Works is responsible for building and maintaining highways, roads and bridges which includes plowing, paving, patching, grading, and clearing ditches. Public Works Contact 1-844-696-7737 or tir-occ@novascotia.ca

The Honourable Keith Bain is the provincial Member of Parliament for Victoria County. Contact keithbain-mla@bellaliant.com or by calling 902-736-0301.



When does Council meet and can the public attend?

A: Whenever there are more than three Councillors meeting together, the meeting is open to the public to attend. Council meetings are livestreamed on our website unless there are technical issues. You are encouraged to attend and learn more about municipal issues. All meetings are found on the Victoria County website. Look under Municipal Calendar and find out when meetings are scheduled.



When does my property assessment come out?

A: Look for your 2024 Property Assessment Notice in January 2024. Assessments are determined by Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) and they will be mailed to you by PVSC. Municipalities use this property assessment to determine your property tax for a given year.

Email: inquiry@pvsc.ca



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



www.victoriacounty.com

Contact Us

Victoria County Municipal Office
495 Chebucto Street, P.O. Box 370
Baddeck, Nova Scotia B0E 1B0

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