

**Municipal Council 2024-2028**



**Warden**

**Deputy Warden**

District 8:  
Wanda Hennick

District 7:  
Jackie Organ

District 6:  
Tim Donovan

District 3:  
Jess Kerr

District 2:  
Perla MacLeod

District 5:  
Fraser Patterson

District 1: Donna  
Matheson-LeFort

District 4:  
Rosella Born

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Organ**

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**Happy New Year Victoria County Residents!**

As we navigate through winter, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to our newly elected Council. Thank you to all who participated and voted in the 2024 Municipal Election.



It is my honour to serve you during the upcoming term by representing both the Council and the constituents in my role as Warden. I promise to do my very best to be fair and transparent in all decisions made. I would like to thank the outgoing Council representatives for their service and welcome the returning and new Council members to the table!

Our most recent election brought forth changes such as: the extension of the District 7 boundary; a historic tie for the elected Council representative in District 8, which was decided by a draw by lot; and the welcoming of many new faces to the Council Table. As we move forward, we strive to succeed in making Victoria County the very best it can be.

This edition of the newsletter includes our 2025 Budget Survey. I encourage all residents to fill this out by hand or electronically, and to return it by February 24th. Your input is vital in helping Council set the priorities for the coming fiscal year during the budget planning process.

Now is a wonderful time to enjoy outdoor winter activities across our County — skiing, snow shoeing, skating, snowmobiling and much more. There are also many indoor events hosted throughout the County that are a great way to socialize as we make our way through the long days of winter. I hope residents will take time to greet your Councillor and enjoy all the County has to offer during this winter season!

# Victoria County Council 2024-2028

## Meet with Your Council Representative

Your District Councillor represents you on the Victoria County Council. Residents are encouraged to reach out by email or phone to set up a time to meet with their Councillor to discuss their concerns and views before Council meets to vote on motions and decide other business.

District #	Some of the Communities in the District	2024-2028 Councillor	How to Contact Your Councillor	Meet with Your Councillor
<b>1</b>	Iona, Bucklaw, Washabuck, Wagmatcook, Little Narrows, Ottawa Brook	<b>Donna Matheson-LeFort</b>	Phone: (902) 418-9993 Email: donna.matheson-lefort@victoriacounty.ca	Anytime by appointment. Call or email to set up a time.
<b>2</b>	Middle River, Big Baddeck, Baddeck Forks, Hunters Mountain, Nyanza to the bridge in Wagmatcook, Shore Road into Baddeck	<b>Perla MacLeod (Deputy Warden)</b>	Phone: (902) 295-0229 Email: perla.macleod@victoriacounty.ca	At the Municipal Building from 11am-noon Feb. 10, Mar. 10, and Apr. 10th - or anytime by appointment.
<b>3</b>	Alderwood Rd. into the Village of Baddeck, out to Crescent Cove	<b>Jess Kerr</b>	Phone: (902) 295-0026 Email: jess.kerr@victoriacounty.ca	At the Municipal Building on the first Tuesday of the month from noon to 1 pm.
<b>4</b>	Baddeck Bay, Big Harbour, St. Ann's Bay, Englishtown, Tarbot, North River, River Bennet, Indian Brook, Jersey Cove, Wreck Cove	<b>Rosella Born</b>	Phone: (902) 295-8394 Email: rosella.born@victoriacounty.ca	Anytime by appointment. Call or email to set up a time to meet in-person, by phone or Zoom.
<b>5</b>	Kempt Head, Big Bras d'Or, South Side of Boularderie, Boularderie East, New Harris, New Campbellton, Ross Ferry, Cape Dauphin	<b>Fraser Patterson</b>	Phone: (902) 674-2703 Email: fraser.patterson@victoriacounty.ca	Anytime by appointment. Call or email to set up a time.
<b>6</b>	Cape Smokey, White Rock, Ingonish Ferry, Ingonish Harbour, Ingonish Beach, Ingonish Centre, West Ingonish	<b>Tim Donovan</b>	Phone: (902) 240-2707 Email: tim.donovan@victoriacounty.ca	Anytime by phone, email, or in person.
<b>7</b>	Ingonish, Neil's Harbour, New Haven, White Point, Smelt Brook, South Harbour	<b>Jackie Organ (Warden)</b>	Phone: (902) 295-0652 Email: jackie.organ@victoriacounty.ca	Anytime by appointment. Call or email to set up a time.
<b>8</b>	Dingwall, Cape North, Aspy Bay, Sugar Loaf, St. Margaret Village, Bay St. Lawrence, Capstick	<b>Wanda Hennick</b>	Phone: (902) 285-0069 Email: wanda.hennick@victoriacounty.ca	Anytime by appointment. Call or email to set up a time.

# 2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET SURVEY

**Background:** Last February, Victoria County launched its first budget survey to gather direct community input. With 271 responses, the survey insights were shared with Council at the outset of 2024-2025 budget deliberations and used to guide decisions. For the 2025-2026 fiscal year, survey responses will continue to inform the budgeting process. **Submission:** Mail, email or fax this paper survey back to us, call to complete the survey over the phone, or fill it in on our website. **Due by February 24th** – please see page 6 for details.

## 1. Municipal Services

Please rate the importance of the following services when deciding how to allocate budget funds in Victoria County, using this scale:



	1 - Not Important At All	2 - Not So Important	3 - Neutral	4 - Important	5 - Very Important
Example (please check a box to rate each)			✓		
Active living & recreation (programming, funding, events)					
Communication with residents (newsletter, website, social media)					
Community development & placemaking					
Community supports (funding for community/non-profit groups)					
Economic development (attracting and keeping business)					
Emergency services (fire services, emergency management)					
Green and climate-focused initiatives (public education, infrastructure upgrades)					
New capital infrastructure (new water utility, wastewater facilities)					
Public transit (Victoria County Transit)					
Protective services (building permits, animal control, by-law enforcement)					
Seniors' safety (education, outreach, advocacy)					
Tourism (visitor attraction, cultural and arts festivals and events)					
Trails and green space development					
Upgrading aging infrastructure (existing municipal buildings, water services)					
Waste management (transfer stations, recycling depots, curbside collection)					
Water services (water collection, treatment and distribution)					

## 2. Priorities

Please rate how much priority should be given to the following topics, using this scale:

1 - Not A Concern
2 - Not Much Of A Concern
3 - Neutral
4 - A Priority
5 - Top Priority

1 - Not A Concern
2 - Not Much Of A Concern
3 - Neutral
4 - A Priority
5 - Top Priority

Example (rate the level of concern for each)			✓		
Access to healthcare services					
Access to nutritious food and food security					
Affordable housing/homelessness					
Affordability of daily living (income vs. bills)					
Aging municipal infrastructure					
Availability of childcare services					
Climate change adaptation and resilience					
Community growth and vitality					
Diversity, inclusion, equity and accessibility initiatives					
Economic development/year-round jobs					
Education and school quality					
Emergency preparedness and response					
Environmental sustainability					
Mental health services and support					
Public safety and crime prevention					
Reconciliation efforts with First Nations					
Recreation/active living opportunities					
Resident engagement and participation					
Rural Internet/cellular access					
Senior services and support					
Support for local businesses/entrepreneurs					
Tourism promotion and development					
Transportation options (i.e. Transit)					
Other:					

### 3. Levels of Service

Please rate your level of satisfaction with the following within Victoria County, using this scale:  
(Enter N/A if an item does not apply to you)

1 - Very Dissatisfied
2 - Dissatisfied
3 - Neutral
4 - Satisfied
5 - Very Satisfied

1 - Very Dissatisfied
2 - Dissatisfied
3 - Neutral
4 - Satisfied
5 - Very Satisfied

Example (rate your level of satisfaction for each item, or enter n/a if not applicable)			✓ or n/a		
Access to municipal Councillors					
Availability of public transportation					
Curbside waste/recycling/organics collection					
Customer service (responsiveness and helpfulness of municipal staff)					
Emergency preparedness and disaster response					
Frequency of heavy garbage collection					
Green spaces, parks, and trails					
Municipal communication efforts (website, newsletter, social media)					
Public washrooms					
Recreation and cultural programs					
Response times and availability of local fire services					
Safety and security in your community					
Transfer stations and recycling depots					
Water/wastewater infrastructure and services					

If you indicated dissatisfaction (rating 2 or below) with any of the above, please provide additional comments:

Please answer the following questions to help us understand the diverse perspectives represented from within the County. Circle your answer.

#### 4. District

What District do you live in?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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#### 5. Age Group

What age group do you fall in?	Under 18	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	I prefer not to answer
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#### 6. Additional Comments or Suggestions

Please add additional comments or suggestions you have regarding the budget or the budgeting process in the box below.

*Thank you for participating!*

Please return your completed survey by: **Monday, February 24th, 2025**

- **Return by mail** - P.O. Box 370, Baddeck, NS, B0E 1B0
- **Drop off in-person** - 495 Chebucto St., Baddeck (Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
- **Scan or take photos and return by email** - info@victoriacounty.ca
- **Return by fax** - (902) 295-3331
- **Complete the survey online** - www.victoriacounty.com/budget-survey-2025/
- **Complete the survey by phone** - Call Alix Redden at (902) 295-3651

If you have any questions or encounter any issues while completing the budget survey, please contact Alix Redden, Chief Financial Officer, by calling (902) 295-3651 or by emailing alix.redden@victoriacounty.ca

# Municipal Project Updates

## Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Municipality recognizes that investment in infrastructure supports building our communities, contributing to economic growth and assists in the protection of our environment. With this in mind, Victoria County has committed and approved in their capital budget to build a wastewater treatment plant in the community of Ingonish. A tender has been awarded for the wastewater plant components, and work is expected to begin in early spring in a phased in approach. In addition to the Municipality's contribution, the provincial government has provided funding to assist in the project.

**New Well** - The Municipality has installed a second production well to assist in continuity of water service to customers in Little Narrows. Well redundancy is required under our operating approvals and the well is expected to be brought into service in the coming weeks.

## Plan Victoria County - Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-Law

The Municipality has until March 31st, 2025 to meet the Province's deadline to adopt a municipal planning strategy and land use by-law in accordance with Bill No. 58 of the Municipal Government Act. Final amended draft documents are being prepared for Council by Upland Planning & Design Studio. They will be publicly available two weeks before a Public Hearing is held.

## ReUse Centre Community Fundraising

If you are a member of a non-profit group ANYWHERE in the municipality, and interested in applying to run the Reuse Centre, **we will be putting out a call for applications in the coming weeks.** Groups are selected by random draw. Those who have been selected, operate the Reuse Centre for three consecutive Saturdays, May - October. Once the draw is completed, a meeting will be held with the successful applicants to answer questions, and review operational requirements as outlined in the application. This is a great way to **raise money for a non-profit organization, keep useful items out of the landfill AND** buy items at discounted prices!

Raised by non-profits in 2024:

**\$20,756.90**



The ReUse Centre is located at the Baddeck Waste Management Facility

## A First for Victoria County: Councillor Elected by Lot

Victoria County Voter Turn-Out:

Overall Participation

**60.9%**

3,270

People Voted



Judge MacRury confirms the tie results presented by Returning Officer Blair Gallop, as Councillor candidates Amy MacKinnon and Wanda Hennick observe at the Sydney Courthouse (11/02/2024).

During the 2024 Municipal Election, held on October 19th, Victoria County had the first tie in its electoral history. Councillor candidates Wanda Hennick and Amy MacKinnon both received 145 votes in the race for Councillor in District 8.

The process to break the tie included a recount in Provincial Court on November 22nd, where Judge MacRury observed the results, certified the tie, and ordered a draw by lot, as required by the provincial Municipal Elections Act, to determine the new Councillor. Under the Judge's supervision, names were written on two pieces of paper and placed into a box. The Returning Officer was selected to conduct the draw and drew Wanda Hennick's name from the box. After a nail-biting month, Councillor Hennick was declared elected by lot.

# Recreation and Active Living



<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>AGES</u>	<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>TIMES</u>
*activities are not held every week, check our website or call to confirm dates			<b>MONDAY*</b>
<u>PICKLEBALL</u>	<b>15+</b>	North Highlands Elementary School, Aspy Bay	<b>3PM - 5PM</b>
<u>PICKLEBALL</u>	<b>15+</b>	Rankin School of the Narrows, Iona	<b>6PM - 8PM</b>
			<b>WEDNESDAY*</b>
<u>FLOOR HOCKEY</u>	<b>15+</b>	Rankin School of the Narrows, Iona	<b>6PM - 8PM</b>
<u>PICKLEBALL</u>	<b>15+</b>	Boularderie Consolidated School, Boularderie	<b>7PM - 9PM</b>
<u>VOLLEYBALL</u>	<b>18+</b>	Baddeck Academy, Baddeck	<b>7:30PM - 9PM</b>
			<b>THURSDAY*</b>
<u>PICKLEBALL</u>	<b>15+</b>	North Highlands Elementary School, Aspy Bay	<b>5PM - 7PM</b>

 <https://victoriacounty.com/residents/recreation/victoria-county-recreation-activities-program/>

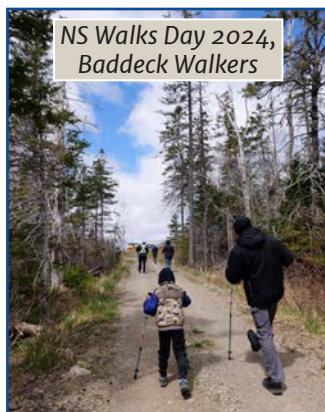
The **Recreation Activities Program** is able to offer the activities listed above with the help of Community Champions. The programs are *free of charge and all equipment required to participate is provided if needed*. These programs, delivered in school facilities, are not available when the school is closed (i.e. weather, holidays). Participants are required to wear athletic shoes with non-marking soles in the school gym. Before heading out to join in the fun, please visit our webpage to register and to check the program schedule, as there are some dates when the activity is not offered.

## Looking forward to spring...

Recreation programs on the horizon:

- Night Disc Golf
- Night Pickleball
- Spring Walking Series

**Recreation and Physical Activity Coordinator**  
**Christopher Woodford**  
 (902) 294-0063  
[christopher.woodford@victoriacounty.ca](mailto:christopher.woodford@victoriacounty.ca)



### Who will you nominate for Volunteer of the Year in 2025?

Nomination time is coming up, so get those names ready! It's a time to recognize and celebrate individuals and groups making a difference.



[www.victoriacounty.com](http://www.victoriacounty.com)

#### Contact Us:

**Municipal Building**  
 495 Chebucto Street, Baddeck  
 Nova Scotia, Canada B0E 1B0

**Telephone:** (902) 295-3231

**Fax:** (902) 295-3331

**Email:** [info@victoriacounty.ca](mailto:info@victoriacounty.ca)