Village Update

November 2025

In September, the Village Commission was pleased to provide the Municipality of the County of Victoria with a proposal that sets out ways that we feel the Village and the Municipality can work together for the benefit of all of Victoria County. This document was prepared in response to a request from the Municipality that the Village provide such a proposal. We highlighted 8 areas that we think are perfect for collaboration and where we think residents' tax dollars should be spent. A summary of these 8 items is included here.

There is no doubt that Baddeck is part of Victoria County, but we know that the structure of the Village and Municipality can be confusing, and it's not always clear who should be doing what. Ultimately, residents and businesses of the Village of Baddeck pay the same Municipal tax rates as those throughout Victoria County, as well as an additional Village rate. The focus of our efforts is to ensure those tax dollars come back to the communities where they are generated, including Baddeck.

Partnership Proposal

VHCC Property Lease

The Village signed the lease for the property where the rink is currently located, in order to ensure that agreement continues. The mandate of the VHCC is County-wide in scope and the Municipality is better suited to assume that lease agreement. There is no cost associated with this lease.

Beautification, Safety & Maintenance

The Village will continue to provide beautification projects on Village-owned properties and would like to collaborate with the Municipality to expand these projects throughout Baddeck and ensure essential maintenance services continue to be provided throughout Victoria County.

Sidewalks

The Village is requesting that the Municipality take responsibility for the ongoing clearing, repair and maintenance of the sidewalks, as they do in other communities within the County.

Accessibility

We would like to work with the Municipality to ensure that our accessibility projects are aligned so that the whole of Victoria County is a safe, accessible place to live, work and visit

Community Club Property

We would like support from the Municipality in the planning and development of this public space for the benefit of all those living in, working in and visiting Baddeck and area.

Waterfront Baddeck

We welcome the Municipality's involvement in the exciting work being done by Waterfront Baddeck and hope that they will support upcoming capital projects and ongoing operations.

Water & Wastewater Infrastructure

The Village continues to manage and operate the water and wastewater systems that extend beyond the Village boundaries. We're hoping that the Municipality will commit capital investment to help us complete the necessary upgrades and expansions to those systems.

Canadian Community Building Fund

This federal funding is paid directly to the Municipality, with the intention that it will be appropriately allocated to communities. The Village hopes to continue to receive the 15% of the total allotment received by the Municipality each year.





What's next?

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The Municipality has provided the Village with a response to our proposal. We were surprised by the Municipality's counter-proposal, which includes the following excerpts from the letter that accompanies the document.

> We have received and reviewed your Partnership Proposal. The terms contained therein are not acceptable to the Municipality of the County of Victoria (the "Municipality"). The proposal is rejected in its entirety.

> Council is prepared to move forward with the enclosed *Terms Document*, which outlines the conditions under which the Municipality will provide services for Village of Baddeck residents. These terms are contingent upon the transfer of legal title to the following key assets and infrastructure:
>
> - Sidewalks within the Village of Baddeck
> - The Village of Baddeck Water Utility
> - The Village of Baddeck Wastewater System
> - The ground lease for the property on which the Victoria Highland Civic Centre is located

> The enclosed *Terms Document* is non-negotiable and must be accepted in its entirety. Should the Village Commission agree to the terms, the transitional process as outlined in the document will begin. Acceptance must be confirmed by signing and returning the document within 30 days.
>
> If the Village Commission chooses not to accept the terms, Council will understand that the Village intends to continue complete ownership and operation of all assets without change to serve Village residents.

We will discuss the response fully at our next Commission meeting, which will be November 18 at 6:30pm at the Masonic Hall. In the meantime, we would just like to highlight a few of our concerns for you to think about.

Why does the Village not have the opportunity to negotiate or propose different terms?

What about the items addressed in the Village proposal that have been ignored by the Municipality?

Where are the tax dollars that Village residents pay to the Municipality being spent?

Why is the Municipality imposing conditions on residents who are already paying taxes for these services?

What will this counter-proposal mean for tax rates, staffing, the future of the Village?

Village Meeting

Tuesday, November 18th

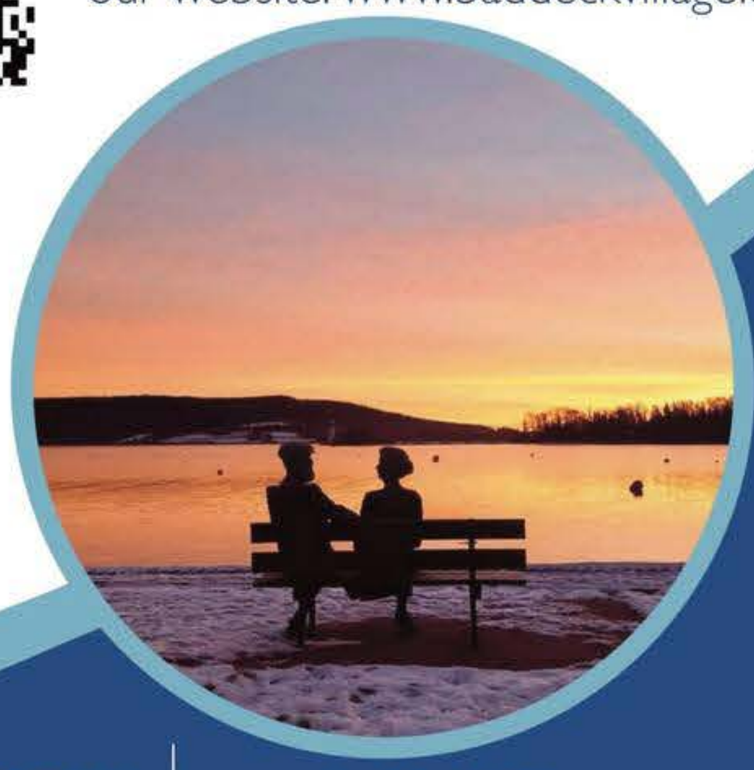
6:30pm

Masonic Hall

24 Queen Street, Baddeck

Our monthly meetings usually take place on the second Wednesday of each month, however, due to an event that the Municipality scheduled for the same night as our November meeting, we've rescheduled to November 18, so that residents can attend both.

You can see the Village's full proposal and the Municipality's response documents on our website: www.baddeckvillage.ca



Village of Baddeck | 492 Chebucto Street, Baddeck | 902-295-3666 | www.baddeckvillage.ca