

# Town of Eastport Newsletter

Winter Quarterly 2025



Happy 2025 to you all!

There is much to be achieved in Eastport this year. Our goals leading up the next general election include finalizing update so the Water Agreement with Sandy Cove, continuing our collaboration with Happy Adventure and Salvage on Shared Services, approving a revised Town Plan and Development Regulations, and working to foster economic growth and opportunities, to name a few.

2025 promises to be another year of hustle and bustle for council and staff, but as always, we are never too busy for residents. The Town Office welcomes the public for all town-related business from Tuesday to Friday, between 9 AM and 4:00 PM. You can contact Denise via email at [townclerk@eastport.ca](mailto:townclerk@eastport.ca) or by phone at 709-677-2161, in-person visits are also welcome.

## What does 2025 have in store for Eastport?

We pride ourselves on transparency, and honestly, when there are exciting plans in store, why keep them a secret? Read on to discover what life in the Town of Eastport will look like in the days, weeks, and months ahead...

## Budget 2025 Highlights

In municipalities such as Eastport, which rely on revenue to fund services, the budget season can often be tumultuous. During the last quarter of 2024, Mayor Powell and Chantal invested significant time and effort into crafting the budget for 2025. The Council identified key priorities, with a primary focus on enhancing services while ensuring that Eastport remains affordable for all stakeholders.

For the upcoming year, the tax structure for Eastport will see minimal changes. The first adjustment is an increase of \$35 per household for Waste Disposal fees, necessitated by rising tipping fees from CNWM. Additionally, the Vacant Land Tax will rise by \$75 per vacant property. This increase was strategically selected to address the demands of current services and to prioritize improvements in specific areas, as it represents the lowest income stream for the municipality.

Budget 2025 has placed emphasis on improving our Public Works and Maintenance operations, and being able to check items off the Capital Works list.

Highlights of these items are:

Over \$400,000 is budgeted for the 2025 capital works and infrastructure plan, including projects like:

- Baxter Drive road upgrades which is expected to go to Tender soon;
  - If approved as a MCWP, Church Street's water, sewer, and road system rehabilitation;
  - Bank Road upgrades to address water runoff and erosion, along with road repair;
- Some other projects which are planned include
- Clearing land adjacent to the Fire Hall, to ensure an adequate parking area;
  - Maintenance on the beach and parking area
  - Maintenance and upgrades to the Art Hunter Memorial Trail

The budget focuses on water, sewer, and waste disposal, including purchasing a Leak Detection

Kit for water maintenance and a flow meter valve for the wastewater treatment plant. The Council decided to contract garbage pickup instead of in-house service as a cost-saving measure after reviewing associated cost like fuel, maintenance and wages.

For more comprehensive budget information, you can request details from the Town Clerk Manager's office; please note that all budget-related information is publicly accessible.

## Recreation Notes:

### TRAIL CLOSURE

Due to the latest storm surge, the High Tide Trail is in need of repair and is temporarily closed. We, along with the Damnable Trail, will advise when it is fixed and safe for use!



Just a glance at this picture brings a flood of carefree childhood memories. Outdoor skating rinks are pure magic when the weather plays nice. Big shoutout to the awesome volunteers who flooded the rink, and made it ready for some ice-tastic fun! We are crossing our fingers for Mother Nature to play nice so we can keep the rink open all winter long!



Upcoming, Regular Public Council Meetings: February 12 & 26, March 12 & 26  
Meetings are held at the Council office and start at 7pm. All are welcome!

### Tax Bills

As in previous years, tax season is upon us. Residents and businesses can expect to receive their tax bills by early February. Payments are due upon receipt of the bill. To avoid incurring interest, which will begin on July 1, 2025, we recommend settling your taxes on or before June 30, 2025. The Town accepts various forms of payment, including EMT, cash, cheque, debit, and credit cards. If you would like to arrange a payment plan, please contact the Town Clerk Manager's office at 709-677-2161.

### ILLEGAL DUMPING WON'T BE TOLERATED

In Newfoundland, there is a provincial law that regulates illegal dumping. The only approved waste disposal location in this region is the CNWM facility, located off the Trans-Canada Highway, west of the Route 310 intersection. However, Council has received ongoing reports of illegal dumping at the old incinerator site on the road to Salvage. This site is being misused for the disposal of household waste, appliances', vehicle wrecks and parts, tires, toys and more. It is unlawful to discard garbage anywhere other than an authorized disposal site. Individuals caught dumping may face fines. The Council wants to reassure the public that we are working with other agencies to tackle this problem and will continue to monitor activities at this site. The Council will not tolerate this blatant ignorance and disregard for the environment and the law.



The **Eastport Peninsula Volunteer Fire Department** would like to remind residents that the number to call in case of emergency is 911...  
If you require the assistance of the fire department, please call 911, give the operator your name, number, physical location and nature of the emergency!



### Update on Town Plan

In November, **Smith Community Consulting** secured the contract for reviewing and revising the Town Plan. Following the timeline outlined in their proposal, they have conducted an initial consultation with the Council, organized a public meeting, distributed a survey, and completed a draft of necessary background information. This foundational work is essential for developing a revised plan that effectively guides the Council in addressing the current and future needs of all stakeholders in the Town of Eastport.

As we wait for the building permit data related to new housing starts, the current focus is on completing a draft of the Municipal Plan and Development Regulations by the end of February. This proactive approach will provide additional time for necessary refinements. Council did receive a letter in which it was believed that a Planner who is consulting with Smith Community Planning, was in a Conflict of Interest. As we are obligated to address all such complaints, Council did follow-up on this matter. Sufficient assurances were given, that conflict of interest is not a factor.

### Check out some Events

Sundays starting at 7pm, at the Legion, hosted by Friends of the Firehall - "CHASE THE ACE"

JUSTIN MARTIN will be performing at the Legion on February 15th, tickets available at the Legion.

On Tuesdays & Thursdays between January 21 - March 27, the Beaches Heritage Centre is hosting a wonderful **SENIORS PROGRAM** - definitely worth checking it out!

### ABOUT COUNCIL

The council consists of seven local residents who, despite receiving a quarterly stipend, essentially serve as volunteers. These individuals bring a diverse range of skills in administration, finance, and construction, with backgrounds in education, social work, business, banking, trades, and the Canadian Forces. Our primary objective is to enhance the community of Eastport for all its residents. We embrace new challenges as opportunities for growth and refer to the Towns and Local Service Districts Act as well as our Town Plan and Development regulations as two primary resources in our decision-making processes.

### COMMUNICATION & SOCIAL MEDIA

While social media can serve as a useful tool for communication, it also has the potential to disseminate misinformation. The council is committed to transparency and accountability, encouraging residents to submit their concerns in writing, or come address them with us at a meeting, we will endeavor to find solutions that work best for the Town and stakeholders.. The Town's Facebook acts as one of many communications channels, providing stakeholders with updates on situations that could affect daily operations, along with announcements for activities, events, and more. However, it is not monitored regularly and should not be relied upon by residents for voicing concerns.

### ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY

According to legislation, decisions stemming from a development application can be appealed through a defined process managed by Municipal Affairs. The Council values these procedures as they enhance accountability for the Town.

In late 2024, the Town Clerk Manager, Mayor Powell, and Public Works Chair, Councilor Decker, participated virtually in an appeal concerning the Council's decision to deny a development application for a Commercial Septic Disposal Site within the town. This experience, like any new situation, provided valuable lessons for us. Following legal guidance to maintain accountability and ensure procedural compliance, the Town extended an offer to the appellant to resubmit their proposal for further consideration, which is where this issue currently sits.

### AUDIT'S, ATIPP & ADMINISTRATIONS

The Council is presently examining the 2023 financial statements and expects to propose a motion for adoption at the upcoming regular meeting. Even more exciting is that preparations for our 2024 audit have already commenced, putting us well ahead of schedule. Audits are crucial for council operations, but heavily depend on busy administrative staff. The influx of requests funneled through the Access to Information and Privacy office strains their ability to manage daily tasks. While supporting public access to information, we urge stakeholders to check council meeting minutes available on our website for the past seven years to reduce unnecessary requests. This month alone, we've received nine ATIPP requests, burdening our office staff to ensure continuation of ongoing operation in all facets of town business.