

**West Hants Regional Municipality
District Councillor Activity Report**

To: Mayor Zebian and members of the West Hants Regional Municipal Council

Submitted by: Chrystal Remme, Councillor District 3

Date: February 12, 2026

The following highlights my activities from December through mid-February.

December 4 – Budget Workshop

Council met for a budget workshop in early December. It was high-level and intended to help us think about pressures and priorities before we get into the detailed work.

December 7 – Hants County Christmas Angels Webathon

I had the privilege of taking part in the Hants County Christmas Angels Webathon. This year's total reached an incredible \$93,108.65.

What really stands out to me is how much this small but mighty team accomplishes. Lisa Bland served as honorary chair, Tim Carr kept the evening moving as emcee, and Roseanna Boyd and the entire Board worked tirelessly behind the scenes. The performers, volunteers, and donors all play a role. It's one of those events that reminds you why community matters and what it looks like when people show up for one another in a very real way.

December 9 – Regular Council Meeting

January 8 – District Town Hall – Three Mile Plains

I attended Councillor Morton and the Deputy Mayor's District Town Hall. It was very well attended, and I always appreciate sitting in and listening to what residents are thinking about. There were questions about taxes, development, water, and recreation, along with positive feedback about work the Municipality is doing. These conversations are important. People want to understand where we're heading, and they want to be heard.

January 13 – Committee of the Whole

January 17 – Strategic Session with Department of Municipal Affairs

Council participated in a facilitated strategy session with our Municipal Advisors. It was great to work through the activities to get us thinking about where we want West Hants to be in the coming years. Having a clear strategy isn't just a document; it helps guide budgets, priorities, and how we respond to opportunities and challenges. There's more work to do to refine and

formalize those priorities, and I'm looking forward to continuing that discussion. Thank you to the staff and our advisors for organizing and facilitating the session.

January 21 – Annapolis Valley Regional Library Funding Meeting

I attended a regional funding meeting for the Annapolis Valley Regional Library with the Mayor and CAO, along with the other municipal funding partners.

There is an upcoming request for municipal units to consider a 50 percent increase in contributions this year due to significant funding pressures. The Board has been discussing this at every meeting, and advocacy efforts are ongoing, particularly around the need for stronger provincial support.

Libraries are so much more than shelves of books. They are safe, welcoming spaces. They provide internet access, literacy programs, youth activities, newcomer support, and community connection. For many people, especially in rural areas, they are one of the only free public spaces available.

This is not an easy conversation, but it is an important one. I believe continued engagement and advocacy are essential as we work toward sustainable solutions.

January 21 – District Meeting – Councillor Paul Morton

I also attended Councillor Morton's district meeting that evening. Again, strong attendance and thoughtful discussion. Residents are engaged, asking good questions, and paying attention to the direction of the Municipality.

January 27 – Regular Council Meeting

January 29 – Accessibility Advisory Committee

The Accessibility Advisory Committee met at the Windsor Elms, and I participated virtually. I submitted a separate report to Council outlining the discussion.

One conversation I'm particularly excited about is the idea of incorporating accessibility considerations directly into the Municipality's special event application. Small prompts, about accessible parking, washrooms, clear signage, and inclusive design, can make a meaningful difference. This has real potential to strengthen events across the region and ensure more people feel welcome and able to participate.

We also continue to rotate meeting locations and are exploring a future meeting at the Hantsport Fire Department. An accessibility review of the Windsor Elms was completed, and recommendations will be shared with the facility.

January 30 - African Heritage Month Flag Raising

I connected with a few community members at the African Heritage Month flag raising on January 30. This event and others across the region give us an opportunity to recognize the

history and contributions of African Nova Scotians and to acknowledge that working on building inclusive communities is ongoing.

February 3 – Special Council Meeting

February 4 – Audit Committee

At the Audit Committee, we received a high-level overview from MNP on the Water Operational Audit. I look forward to reviewing the full report. Strong systems, accountability, and clarity are important, especially when it comes to core infrastructure like water.

February 7 – The Little Mermaid – King’s Edgehill School

Not necessarily a Council activity, but I really want to include that I attended *The Little Mermaid* at the Fountain Performing Arts Centre, presented by Quick as a Wink Theatre Society.

It was truly exceptional. The talent, staging, and energy were outstanding. We are fortunate to have access to this level of arts and culture locally. Opportunities like this really add to the vibrancy of our community. We shouldn’t take that for granted.

February 8 – Tidal Reflections Open House

I attended the open house for Tidal Reflections, where Andrea and Jeremy Parker have transformed the former Kempt United Baptist Church into affordable housing.

Seeing that space reimaged in a way that will directly support people in our region was powerful. Projects like this don’t happen without vision and hard work. It was inspiring to see what has been accomplished and to know residents will soon be moving in.

February 9 – Diversity, Equity & Inclusive Communities Committee

I attended part of the DEIC Committee meeting. The discussion was thoughtful and passionate. The members care deeply about ensuring West Hants continues to grow as a welcoming and inclusive place for everyone.

February 9 – Valley REN Liaison & Oversight Committee

At the Valley REN Liaison & Oversight Committee meeting, we discussed the development of a regional growth strategy and anticipated growth tied to federal investments at 14 Wing Greenwood and CFB Aldershot. Growth requires preparation, infrastructure, housing, workforce readiness, and coordination across municipal units.

REN also shared information about upcoming community asset mapping and connection sessions. I will share details when they are available and encourage participation.

February 11 – African Heritage Month Virtual Panel

I attended a virtual panel organized by Lisa Bland and Sivanah Burgess in recognition of African Heritage Month. The African Nova Scotian Justice Institute presented, followed by a thoughtful

panel discussion with Lance Sampson, Abbey Davidson, Akeelah Brown, and Leah Hart. It was meaningful, informative, and a reminder of the importance of listening and learning.

Discussions/Calls/Concerns:

Over the past couple of months, I've heard from residents on a range of topics:

- **Potholes & Road Conditions:** Winter always brings its challenges, and I've received a number of calls about potholes and road conditions. I understand the frustration. I've helped direct residents to the appropriate department or to the Province, depending on jurisdiction.
- **Payzant & Wentworth Intersection:** I've heard concerns and questions about traffic flow and safety at the Payzant and Wentworth intersection.
- **Warming Centre:** There have been calls about the status and future of the warming centre. This continues to be an important and sensitive topic for many, and I appreciate residents reaching out to share their thoughts.
- **Library Funding:** I continue to hear concerns about the future of our local branches and the broader funding pressures facing the Annapolis Valley Regional Library. These conversations reflect what is being discussed regionally and at the Board level.
- **DMMO / Marketing Levy:** There have been questions about the proposed Destination Marketing and Management Organization and the marketing levy. Residents are looking for clarity on what it would mean and how it could impact West Hants.
- **School Zone Speeding:** Speeding near the Brooklyn school zone continues to be raised.
- **Volunteer Recruitment:** I've also been hearing from community groups who are struggling to find volunteers for events and initiatives.

As always, I remain available and appreciate residents reaching out with questions, concerns, and ideas.