

**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: October 6, 2026

The following highlights my activities from early September to early October.

- **September 3 – Annapolis Valley Regional Library Executive Committee**

I attended an AVRLE Executive Committee meeting to review and prepare the agenda for the upcoming Board meeting.

- **September 8 – Committee of the Whole**

- **September 12 – Garlic Fest**

I had a great time at Garlic Fest. There was a fantastic turnout and lots happening throughout the day. I even tried the garlic ice cream! It was great to see so many people out enjoying the event and supporting all of the vendors and organizations involved.

- **September 18 & 19 – Nova Scotia Library Association Conference**

I attended the Nova Scotia Library Association Conference, Making Connections, at the deCoste Culture Hub and Murray Family Public Library in Pictou.

One highlight for me was hearing from Yaroslava Soshynska of the Ukrainian Library Association, who spoke about the role libraries have played during the war in Ukraine. She talked about libraries helping to preserve history, culture and community through an incredibly difficult time. Hearing about the devastation communities have experienced, and how important libraries have become, was incredibly moving.

I also attended a panel on public libraries and population health with Dr. Robert Strang, Dr. Pat Craig and Dr. Christina Holmes. I really enjoyed this session. It looked at libraries from a health perspective and the role they can play in people's overall health and well-being. It was interesting to hear that conversation from people outside the library world, and it reinforced how much libraries contribute to their communities beyond books and traditional library services.

- **September 22 – Council Meeting**

- **September 23 – Volunteer Appreciation Banquet**

I attended the Municipality's Volunteer Appreciation Banquet and really enjoyed the evening. We are incredibly fortunate to have so many people throughout West Hants who give their time to their communities. Whether it's community halls, fire departments and auxiliaries, recreation, service organizations, boards, events or any of the countless other things happening across West Hants, so much of it depends on volunteers. This evening is a nice opportunity to recognize some of those people and say thank you for everything they do.

A big thank you as well to our Community Development team for putting together such a wonderful evening and making sure our volunteers were celebrated. I also want to recognize Kathy Johnston Isenor for the work that goes into making this event happen each year.

- **September 24 – Accessibility Advisory Committee**

I attended our regular Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting. I have included a separate Committee Report with an update from the meeting.

- **September 24–25 – Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law Review**

I participated in a workshop organized by our Planning Department and the consultants working on the review of our Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law. We spent most of Thursday and Friday morning working through the draft documents, asking questions and talking through some of the proposed changes.

Some members of the Planning and Heritage Advisory Committee also participated, along with municipal staff who answered questions as we worked through the documents. I found the time really worthwhile. There is a lot to work through with a review of this size, and having everyone in the room gave us the chance to have some good conversations, ask questions and better understand what is being proposed and why.

- **September 26 – Honey Harvest Festival**

Honey Harvest is always one of my favourite community events, and this year certainly didn't disappoint. The community was buzzing, no pun intended! People were everywhere, with lots happening throughout the day, and it was great to see such a fantastic turnout.

A huge amount of work goes into putting on an event like this, and I really appreciate all of the volunteers, organizations, businesses and community members who help make Honey Harvest such a special event every year.

- **September 28 – Valley REN Tourism Gaps Analysis Lunch & Learn**

I attended the Valley REN's Lunch & Learn on its Tourism Infrastructure and Services Gaps Analysis. We were given a look at the tourism asset dashboard developed through the project and heard some findings from the validation sessions held across the region.

The discussion covered wayfinding and signage, seasonality, regional marketing, funding, and collaboration. It was interesting to see how much information has been gathered about tourism assets throughout the Valley, and how that information can help identify gaps and opportunities going forward.

- **October 3 – Windsor Legion Banner Unveiling**

I had the privilege of attending the Windsor Legion's banner unveiling on behalf of Council, and it was an absolutely beautiful event.

Seeing the banners unveiled and hearing some of the stories behind the people featured on them was incredibly moving. The banners give all of us an opportunity to learn about the people from our communities who served, remember them, and recognize the sacrifices they and their families made.

The amount of work that went into this project was very clear, and the final result is spectacular. I was very grateful to be there.

- **October 3 – Hants Harvest & Pumpkin Jamboree**

I popped into the Hants Harvest & Pumpkin Jamboree and couldn't believe how busy it was! There were people everywhere, lots of vendors, plenty of food and so much happening. It was great to see such a fantastic turnout. Congratulations to all of the organizers and volunteers who put so much work into making the event happen.

Discussions/Calls/Concerns:

Some of the topics that have come up in conversations with residents recently include:

- **Road Conditions:** This continues to be the issue I hear about most often. I've heard concerns about the condition of several provincial roads, including potholes, deteriorating road surfaces, and areas residents feel need repair or more regular maintenance.
- **Garbage and Litter:** I've heard concerns about garbage being left along roadsides and on the trail. With so many people using our trails and outdoor spaces, it's disappointing to see garbage left behind, and I've heard from residents who want these areas kept cleaner.
- **Chambers Road and Trail Access:** I've had some concerns raised about parking along Chambers Road for people accessing the new trail, as well as the safety of crossing the road in that area. It's great to see the trail being used, but residents have questioned whether there is a safer way for people to park and access it.
- **Cost of Living and Not-for-Profit Organizations:** The rising cost of living continues to come up in conversations, including the pressure it is putting on individuals and families. I've also had discussions about the impact of increased costs on not-for-profit and community organizations. Their operating costs are rising at the same time many are seeing an increased need for the programs and services they provide, creating real challenges.
- **Homelessness:** I've had a number of conversations about homelessness, some prompted by situations happening in other parts of Nova Scotia. These conversations have also looked at the bigger picture and the systemic issues that contribute to homelessness. There is no single cause or simple solution, and many of the conversations have touched on the different challenges that can lead to homelessness, as well as the supports needed to help prevent it.
- **Community Events and Festivals:** I've had lots of positive conversations about the festivals and community events happening throughout West Hants. The turnout at many of the events I've attended has been fantastic, and it's been nice to hear residents talking about how much they've enjoyed them and appreciating the work that goes into making them happen.

It's been a busy few weeks for community events, and I've really enjoyed getting out to so many of them. Garlic Fest, Honey Harvest, the Hants Harvest & Pumpkin Jamboree, the Volunteer Appreciation Banquet, and the Legion banner unveiling were all very different events, but each reminded me how much happens in our communities because people are willing to give their time and get involved. Thank you to everyone who organizes, volunteers, participates and shows up to support these events.

As always, if something is on your mind or happening in your community that you'd like to talk about, please don't hesitate to reach out.