



WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY REPORT

Information ☐	Recommendation ☐	Decision Request ☐	Councillor Activity X
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To: WHRM - Council

Submitted by: Chrystal Remme, Councillor District 3

Date: January 28, 2025

Subject: Councillor Activity Report – January 2025

Property ☐	Public Opinion ☐	Environment ☐	Social ☐	Economic ☐	Councillor Activity X
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DISCUSSION

Meetings & Activities

- **Intermunicipal Agreements Orientation – December 11, 2024**
I attended a joint orientation session on intermunicipal agreements, which featured presentations from the Annapolis Valley Library, Valley REN, Kings Transit, and Valley Waste. Each organization highlighted the unique opportunities and challenges they face and the collaborative efforts that intermunicipal agreements enable. It was a great session that deepened my understanding of how these partnerships support our communities.
- **Valley Regional Enterprise (VREN) Meeting – December 19, 2024**
I met with the CEO of VREN to discuss the roles and responsibilities of the Local Organization Committee (LOC). Later that day, I attended the Valley Business Hub's Christmas Social, where I had the chance to connect with local businesses and learn more about the Hub, which houses the Valley REN, CBDC, and the Annapolis Valley Chamber of Commerce.
- **VCFN Meeting – January 6, 2025**
I participated in a meeting of the Valley Community Fibre Network (VCFN). Discussions focused on budgeting, strategic planning, and exploring ways to improve cell service

across the region. The VCFN has successfully achieved several goals and continues working toward others. I am particularly excited to explore ways the VCFN can improve cell service throughout the region.

- **Municipal Sites Tour – January 11, 2025**

I participated in a tour organized by staff, visiting several key municipal sites, including the Waste Treatment Plant, Water Treatment Plant, fire stations in Windsor and Brooklyn, the Public Works Garage, and the Administration Building on King Street. These visits provided valuable insight into the essential services that keep our municipality running smoothly.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all staff involved for organizing this informative tour and providing detailed explanations of their operations. Witnessing their dedication was truly inspiring.

- **Annapolis Valley Library Board Meeting – January 16, 2025**

I attended the Annapolis Valley Library Board's orientation meeting, where discussions centered on challenges like increased demand for services, budget constraints, and staffing shortages. Libraries are vital resources for free programs, computer access, and books. However, programming has been reduced by 50%, a significant concern.

- **Code of Conduct Training – January 20, 2025**

I participated in Code of Conduct training that covered important topics such as conduct, confidentiality, gifts, and use of municipal property. I have follow-up questions and look forward to further clarification in the online sessions scheduled for February.

Resident Concerns & Issues

Concerns Regarding Speed Near Schools in Brooklyn

Several residents have raised concerns about speeding near schools in Brooklyn. This issue has been directed to the Police Advisory Committee, and I am hopeful actionable steps will be taken to enhance safety.

Access to Equipment Loan Program

Some residents have expressed difficulty accessing the free equipment loan program due to its location in Windsor. I am exploring potential solutions to make this program more accessible for residents in outlying areas.

Streetlight Request at Chambers Road (Follow-Up)

A resident followed up on a previous Council motion regarding a streetlight at the end of Chambers Road. This area is a popular parking spot for trail users, and a streetlight would improve safety. I understand that Nova Scotia Power is currently handling the installation.

Pickleball Courts at the School

Several residents have expressed interest in adding pickleball courts to the tennis facilities at

the school. I informed them that the school received grant funding to move forward with this initiative.

Road Conditions and Potholes

Residents have raised concerns about potholes and poor road conditions in several areas. Additionally, questions were raised about the status of the Smiley's Park and McKay Section bridges.

Report Prepared by: Chrystal Remme, Councillor District 3

Report Reviewed by: _____

Report Approved by: _____



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Information ☐	Recommendation ☐	Decision Request ☐	Councillor Activity x
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To: Mayor Zebian and Council

Submitted by: Councilor Francis

Date: January 23, 2025

Subject: Update

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

RECOMMENDATION or DECISION REQUEST

Over the last few months, residents have engaged with me on numerous issues within our Municipality that I want to share some of these with Council.

BACKGROUND

Property ☐	Public Opinion ☐	Environment ☐	Social ☐	Economic ☐	Councillor Activity x
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DISCUSSION

Residents have voiced concerns related to flooding; one specific location of concern is within the Woodland Development area. Staff have consulted and received recommendations from DesignPoint for potential changes, which resulted in staff engaging with the Developer to see these improvements through. There is also a component for a Provincial Public Works recommendation as well as a Municipality recommendation. I appreciate the time and work that staff have dedicated in working towards addressing this issue from a municipal stance.

A request for playground signage has been asked for in the Newport Station area on Wentworth Road Extension. As this is a Provincial Road, it will be an ask to their Public Works Department.

Speeding remains a concern for many. With our Irishman's Road Park right around the corner residents have small children they walk to the park. As a previous school zone, the speed limit has been increased and with truck traffic it has become more of a safety issue. Sangster Bridge Road is another area residents have concern with speed within a School Zone.

Cell service remains a concern for many in the area. There are three businesses in Newport Station who struggle with service. These business owners identified they need to be in the "right location" in their yard or outside their building to have reception for calls. This would also be a concern for many residents should they need to get through for an emergency.

Last Thursday January 16, 2025, Councillor Ivey and I attended the Let's Talk about Equity, Anti Racism and Accessibility session in Three Mile Plains. There was a great turn out with residents engaged in the conversation. Kevin Waters our Active Living Coordinator did a great job, along with the consultant team. I look forward to seeing their recommendations.

Report Prepared by: Councillor Francis



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To: Council, West Hants Regional Municipality

Submitted by: Councillor Jim Ivey, District 11, Windsor South

Date: January 28, 2025

Subject: Councillor Report

I am pleased to provide the following as updates for the month of January. It reflects summary account of highlights over the last month as well as ongoing items brought to my attention or addressed since our last Council Meeting on December 10 2024.

Along with Council and Committee of the Whole, I was able to attend Committee's of Council meetings & events including:

- Dec 12 2024 & January 9, 2025 Planning and Heritage Advisory Committee
- January 11, 2025: Municipal tour of West Hants facilities and assets including:
 - Windsor Fire Department – 100 King Street
 - Windsor town offices and chambers – 100 King Street
 - Falmouth wastewater treatment plant (Exit 7)
 - Windsor water treatment plant – Windsor Back Road, Three Mile Plains
 - Brooklyn Civic Center and Fire Station facilities
 - DAR Rail line
 - Public Works Facility - Park Street Windsor Industrial park
- January 13, 2025: Visit with residents experiencing flooding on Gray Street in Windsor in the company of Councillor Bonnie Smith.
- January 15, 2025: Review from Planning staff Will Hong and Alex Dunphy at 1177 King Street regarding application for conversion from R1 to R2.
- January 16, 2025: Visit of the Windsor waterfront sewer and stormwater facilities with Councillor Debbie Francis, Councillor Paul Wheadon and myself covered: Pump Station 1, Pump Station 7 and the headworks facility off Wentworth Road.

The month also included calls and discussions with residents and businesses during the month on a variety of matters including budget considerations, tax rates (and expectations for reductions resulting from the

increased valuation for this year's assessment), flooding concerns, stormwater management, traffic and safety issues, pending water rates, dangerous intersections, speeding and the like continue to be received.

All of these sessions have served to provide insight into the work done by staff which leads to the information presented to Council and the decisions that we make as Councillors. The time of staff and residents in sharing their experience and concerns on an ongoing basis is appreciated.

In closing, upcoming sessions that we can all look forward to include the Strategy and Planning Workshop in preparation for budget development (February 3rd, the Cunnable Creek Stormwater Workshop for staff and Council, Feb 10th and the yet-to-be-announced Councillor Code of Conduct mandatory online session. I feel compelled to say that we might be better served to have the stormwater workshop in advance of the strategy and planning session for budget preparation. Given the potential scale and financial investment that may be necessary for a stormwater initiative, it will certainly impact the discussions we want to have on strategy and budget planning in the coming year and for many more to come.

Item of Note

One item of note that caught my attention during the January Planning & Heritage Advisory Committee meeting is the plan for the [Housing Accelerator Plan in West Hants](#), is planned to come to Council for First Reading in February and Second Reading In March.

This is a vitally important housing initiative that presents a plan to expand the housing stock and affordability within West Hants. The three primary goals of the initial initiative that we will be seeing in the coming month are:

- #1: Allow greater density as-of-right
- #2: Create affordable housing policy requirements
- #3: Reduce parking requirements

Achieving these desirable goals will serve to place more roofs over the heads of residents in West Hants. The report is segmented into three sections; one for each of Windsor, Hantsport and West Hants, with the public responses aggregated from the input across the region as a whole.

One item that I feel deserves highlighting, is that each section contained in the plan identifies that the individual Municipal Climate Action Plans for Windsor, West Hants, and Hantsport was not considered in the proposed changes. The climate action plans for each of the three areas can be found in the links that form the sub-titles of the plans below.

[**MUNICIPAL CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN – WINDSOR**](#)

[**MUNICIPAL CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN – HANTSPORT**](#)

[**MUNICIPAL CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN – WEST HANTS**](#)

The importance of the preceding MCAP documents can be gauged by the mitigation measures identified for policy and bylaw considerations as drafted in 2013 and 2014 (10-11 years ago). While each of us may come to different conclusions on these, the information is provided is for the opportunity to review in advance.

The final item I will identify as being very time consuming, relates to the continued discussions relating to the credit adjustments implemented between the two water utilities in 2023. I will speak to this item in general terms or provide a handout as appropriate.