



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: February 25, 2025

Subject: Councillor Activity Report – February 2025

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

Meetings & Activities

- **Farewell Open House for Leah Winter – February 1, 20225**

I attended the Farewell Open House for Leah Winter, hosted by the Friends of the Hantsport Public Library, to mark her last day as the Hantsport Branch Manager. It was wonderful to see the community come together to show their appreciation for Leah's incredible contributions. Her hard work has left a lasting impact on the library and its patrons. I encourage everyone to visit the Isabel & Roy Jodrey Memorial Library and enjoy its fantastic programming.

- **Valley REN Liaison & Oversight Committee Meeting – February 3, 2025**

At the Valley REN Liaison & Oversight Committee Meeting, I was honoured to be elected Vice Chair alongside John Bartlett, who was elected Chair. We reviewed the draft Business Plan, which addresses key areas like attracting and retaining talent, supporting businesses, and fostering regional collaboration. These efforts will ensure sustainable growth and prosperity across our region.

- **Strategic Planning Session – February 3, 2025**

The Strategic Planning Session with my fellow Councillors was an inspiring experience. We shared ideas and discussed our vision for West Hants, and it was clear that many of us have

overlapping priorities, not only for our districts but for the Municipality as a whole. This shared focus on growth, inclusivity, and sustainability was energizing.

I want to thank staff for their participation and insights, which are key to turning these ideas into actionable initiatives. Their collaboration highlighted the importance of working together to create meaningful community outcomes. I look forward to seeing these plans develop into projects benefiting all residents.

- **Public Information Session – February 5, 2025**

I attended the Public Information Session regarding the rezoning application for land associated with King's-Edgehill School. It was exciting to hear their plans for potential development. The session was well attended, with residents asking thoughtful questions that were met with clear and informative responses from staff. I want to commend Senior Planner Dunphy and Planner Hong for their excellent work in explaining the process and addressing residents' concerns.

- **Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting**

This was my first meeting as a member of the Accessibility Advisory Committee. I was inspired by the passion and dedication of the members as we reviewed the draft Equity, Anti-Racism, and Accessibility Strategy Plan. The strategy reflects significant community engagement through conversations and feedback and provides a strong foundation for meaningful change.

Michel Bourgeois and Jennifer Davison were elected Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, and I'm confident in their leadership. The action items discussed include short-term opportunities and longer-term initiatives requiring careful planning and resources. Every action is important, and as a Council, we need to prioritize these initiatives while ensuring ongoing engagement with residents.

- **Winter Carnival Events – February 7 & 8th, 2025**

I was happy to participate in several Winter Carnival events, including Winter Palooza, Sweets Corner Hall's Family Fun Day, and the Brooklyn Fire Department Auxiliary's Family Dance. Volunteering as a face painter was a highlight, and seeing so many families enjoying the festivities was wonderful. A big thank you to the staff, community groups, and volunteers who made the Winter Carnival a success.

- **Cunnibel Creek Storm Water System Workshop – February 10, 2025**

At the Cunnibel Creek Storm Water System Workshop, CBCL presented actionable steps to address ongoing flooding issues. While these challenges aren't solved overnight, having a clear plan to move forward is encouraging. The presentation covered storm classifications and their complexities, emphasizing the need for long-term planning and investment.

Flooding concerns extend across the Municipality, and we must prioritize solutions for all affected areas, including Windsor and Brooklyn. I'm looking forward to the upcoming public meeting, where residents can share their thoughts and ask questions. Public input will be crucial as we work toward solutions that benefit the entire Municipality.

- **West Hants Uniacke CHB Community Health Plan Launch, February 11, 2025**

I attended the launch of the Community Health Plan launch, which resulted from an extensive engagement process with over 550 participants. The plan highlights key priorities like housing, income, food security, and transportation, with affordability and accessibility woven throughout.

Seeing how many of the plan's themes align with Council's strategic priorities was inspiring. This shared vision creates incredible opportunities for collaboration between the Municipality and the Health Board to address shared goals. I'm excited about the potential for meaningful change that strengthens the health and well-being of our residents.

Resident Concerns & Issues

Traffic Concerns at Brooklyn School

Speeding near Brooklyn School remains a significant concern for many residents. I'm pleased that we are taking steps towards potentially addressing the issue, and I am optimistic that we'll see traffic-calming measures implemented soon.

Equipment Loan Program Accessibility

Several residents in my district and other rural regions have expressed their challenges in accessing the Equipment Loan Program. I plan to bring these suggestions to the Committee of the Whole in hopes we can find ways to make the program more inclusive so that, no matter where they live in WHRM, our residents can take advantage of this resource.

Safety Near the New Rail Trail Crossing

Concerns have been raised about safety near the new rail trail crossing, where the speed limit is 80 km/hour. With trail users parking at the end of Chambers Road, crossing the road in this area has become a potential safety hazard.

Report Prepared by: Chrystal Remme, Councillor District 3

Report Reviewed by: _____

Report Approved by: _____



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To: Council, West Hants Regional Municipality

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

Date: February 25, 2025

Subject: February Councillor Report from Jim Ivey

I am pleased to provide the following as updates for the month of February. 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 January 25 2025.

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

- **January 30, 2025:** West Hants Historical Society's luncheon presentation with Daniel Holland CEO of the Community Foundation of Nova Scotia. Located in Dartmouth the foundation endows funds for donors, manage donation programs, and coordinate conversations that make a positive difference in our communities. As part of the discussion they shared how the community foundation differs from a trust and how CFNS can support the philanthropic, investment and charitable efforts of associations or not for profit groups.
- **February 3, 2025: Strategy Session and Initiatives List:** Council and staff discussion involving the identification of ideas for projects, programs, service delivery ideas policy work. Ideally it serves as a means of initial identification of initiatives we'd like to accomplish or change within our district or the Region in the next four years. At this stage an initial list of ideas has been compiled with future discussion possible for priority setting and aggregation.
- **February 5, 2025 College Road Site Visit for PID 45405784**
The application is to rezone the subject property from Single Unit Residential (R-1) to Institutional (I) and amend the Windsor Land Use By-law to allow agrivoltaics systems as an accessory use to the Institutional zone.
- **February 5 PIM:** Chaired **Public Information Meeting** for the College Road application to rezone the lot #45405784 from single unit residential to Institutional as well as applicable Land Use Bylaw amendment(a).

February 6, 2025: Attended as an observer of the **Accessibility Advisory Committee** meeting which provided a presentation of the Equity, Anti-Racism and Accessibility Plan.

February 10, 2025: Attended with Council and Staff the **CBCL Cunnable Creek Workshop session** reviewing the work of the Phase One and subsequent Phase Two work regarding the flooding issues in the former Town of Windsor flood zones. The session identified that the initiative to address the flooding matters in Windsor, could be as high as \$115 Million. This is substantially less than the previous high-estimate of \$160 million from the Phase 1 report. It must be noted that as of the writing of this report, Council have not received an updated or Phase 2 Report (in document format or as a copy of the power point presentation).

February 11, 2025: Committee of the Whole

February 13, 2025: PAC / HAC meeting cancelled due to weather.

Calls and Visits:

Discussions over the last month has included PVSC Assessments, impacts of increased assessments on tax rates and levels of taxation. Additionally, the subject has arisen regarding tax rate borders, of West Hants which abut Windsor and the varied tax rate that exists between a property to another on the same street with similar the same services. This topic has surfaced previously. Further to the level of taxes and tax rates, detailed discussions have occurred regarding the increased revenues and expenses realized by the Municipality over the last 5 years, the impact on tax rates and taxes payable. While we do have an affordable tax rate assistance program; the question is asked if it can be expanded (income level of volume / value of assistance applied). Conversations on the resident composition of committees has been a hot topic in the past month as well.

Questions and valid concerns continue with respect to flooding, stormwater management, traffic and safety issues. The issues surround the water rate credits also continue to consume time. The yet-to-be-announced Councillor Code of Conduct mandatory online sessions have yet to be announced.