

Council Brief – Monday, April 14, 2025

Attendance

The individual meetings for Council and Committee of the whole attendance for Monday, April 14, 2025, included, Mayor Nancy Dicks, Councillors Jim McKenna, Dawn Peters, Clyde Fraser, Joe MacDonald, Jessica MacDonald. Chief Administrative Officer, Lisa MacDonald, Deputy Clerk Alison Tait and Town Solicitor Frank DeMont.

Regrets: Deputy Mayor Jocelyn Dorrington

The following Senior Staff Members were also in attendance, Kim Livingston, Earl MacKenzie, Michelle Ward, Rebecca Lewis-MacNeil, Ross White, Ryan Leil, Sean O'Connor, and Kim Dickson.

Petitions/Delegations/Presentations

Long Service Awards

Mayor Dicks and Council were pleased to present the Federal Police Exemplary Service Medal, on behalf of the Governor General of Canada, and expressed their gratitude to Corporal Allan Chabassol for 20 years of dedicated service with the New Glasgow Regional Police.

Since becoming a sworn member in 2005, Corporal Chabassol has held various roles within the Platoon, Pictou County Street Crime Unit, and the Criminal Intelligence Service Unit of Nova Scotia. Thank you, Corporal Chabassol, for your dedication and years of service!

Presentations

Maddy From of Food Cycle Science met with Mayor and Council to present municipal food waste solutions aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and lowering waste management costs.

Proclamations

Earth Day, April 22, 2025

The Town of New Glasgow plays an important role in engaging and educating citizens on environmental issues, while also supporting meaningful actions to protect and enhance both our natural and built environments. On April 22, we encourage our community to take action to reduce their environmental impact and to advance climate action and sustainability in celebration of Earth Day!



Human Values Day, April 24, 2025

The Town of New Glasgow proudly recognizes Human Values Day on April 24 as a meaningful opportunity to reflect on and promote the core values that strengthen our community. We encourage all residents to commemorate the day by engaging in thoughtful conversations, participating in community initiatives, and embracing the principles of compassion, respect, and unity that define us as a town.

National Volunteer Week, April 27-May 3, 2025

Volunteering offers all Nova Scotians—young and old—the opportunity to engage with their community and contribute their time, talents, and resources to address important local issues. The Town of New Glasgow is proud to celebrate National Volunteer Week from April 24 to May 3, 2025, and extends heartfelt thanks to all those who help make our community a better place to live, work, and thrive.

Environmental Sensitivities Awareness/Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Month, May 2025

Environmental Sensitivities, including Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS), are recognized as chronic conditions that affect the health and quality of life of many Canadians. The Town of New Glasgow hereby proclaims May 2025 as Environmental Sensitivities Awareness Month. We encourage all residents to reflect on how individual and collective actions can contribute to a more accessible, inclusive, and health-conscious society.

World Lupus Day, May 10, 2024

On May 10, the Town of New Glasgow joins communities around the world in recognizing World Lupus Day, raising awareness of this chronic autoimmune disease that affects millions of people globally. Lupus can affect anyone, yet it often remains undiagnosed or misunderstood. By acknowledging this important day, we stand in solidarity with those living with lupus, support continued research efforts, and promote greater understanding of the challenges they face.

Melanoma And Skin Cancer Awareness Month, May 2025

The Town of New Glasgow recognizes May as Skin Cancer Awareness Month and joins communities across the country in promoting education, prevention, and early detection. As the most common form of cancer in Canada, skin cancer impacts thousands of individuals and families each year. Yet, it is also one of the most preventable cancers—with awareness and proactive sun safety measures making a significant difference.



Lyme Disease Awareness Month, May 2025

The Town of New Glasgow is proud to recognize May as Lyme Disease Awareness Month, emphasizing the importance of early detection, prompt treatment, and preventative measures. Residents are encouraged to stay informed and take simple precautions—such as performing regular tick checks and wearing protective clothing—while enjoying the outdoors, to help keep themselves and their families safe.

Gaelic Awareness Month, May 2025

2025 marks the 29th anniversary of Gaelic Nova Scotia Month which is a time to embrace, honour and celebrate the history, culture, language, contributions, and achievements of Gaels across the province. The Town of New Glasgow is proud to recognize May as Gaelic Awareness Month.

Fibromyalgia Awareness Day, May 12, 2025

The Town of New Glasgow proudly recognizes May 12, 2025, as Fibromyalgia Awareness Day. This observance reflects our commitment to health advocacy and underscores the importance of continued research, education, and public understanding. It is also a day to honor the strength and resilience of those living with fibromyalgia and to acknowledge the need for increased visibility and resources to help improve their quality of life.

National Denim Day, May 13, 2025

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among Canadian women (excluding non-melanoma skin cancers) and remains the second leading cause of cancer-related death. On May 13, 2025, the Town of New Glasgow proudly recognizes National Denim Day and stands in support of the CURE Foundation for Breast Cancer. This day serves as an important reminder of the seriousness of this disease and the critical role of early detection and regular breast screening in saving lives.

International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Transphobia, May 17, 2025

Despite recent efforts towards greater inclusion of 2SLGBTQIA+ people, homophobia and transphobia are still present in society. On May 17, New Glasgow joins communities worldwide in observing the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia. This day serves as a poignant reminder of the ongoing fight against discrimination and violence faced by 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals.

Town Council Reports

Committee of the Whole Report

The Council approved the following recommendations in the Committee of the Whole report:

- Recommendation for the continuation of the Core Active Transportation (AT) Network Project Option One (Community Engagement and Class D to Class C cost estimates).
- Recommendation for the approval of the updated proposed multi-year Cost Share Capital Paving Program application with the Nova Scotia Department of Public Works.
- Recommendation to approve property tax exemption for the 2025-2026 taxation year in the amount of \$405 for income not exceeding \$24,300 in the 2024 calendar year.
- The recommendation of the adoption of the Accessibility Action Plan for the 2025-2028 period.
- Recommendation of the approval of the revised amount for the library redevelopment project of \$11,028,000 plus HST, as presented by PCL Constructor Canada Inc., and vetted by Fathom Studios bringing the total capital costs to an estimated \$14,941,000.00.
- The approval of the following Council members travels to attend the FCM Annual Conference in Ottawa, Dawn Peter, Jessica MacDonald and Jim McKenna.

Finance Report

April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025, Revenue Actuals equated to \$24,206,877 with a budgeted sum of \$24,244,593 leading to a variance of \$ 37,716. Residents are reminded that the 2025/2026 fiscal year for the Town of New Glasgow commenced on April 1, 2025.

Expenses for the month of March included but were not limited to:

Department or Program	Actuals March 2025	Budget 2024/25
Protective Services - NGRP	\$5,168,875	\$5,509,482
General Government	\$2,468,715	\$2,445,900
Community Development	\$877,959	\$1,079,422
Town Owned Properties	\$89,314	\$115,000
Other Protection-Fire Department	\$2,272,485	\$2,345,017
Transportation Service	\$3,244,860	\$3,607,200
Transportation Equipment	\$829,208	\$950,500
Refuse Collection & Disposal	\$649,846	\$670,922

Engineering and Public Works

As of March 31, 2025, Engineering and Public Works provided an update on the major projects and/or initiatives, which include but are not limited to:

- The 8th Street Sanitary Sewer Expansion Project is expected to commence in Spring 2025. It is anticipated that the original contract price will be adjusted due to delays in the project.
- HVAC Energy Upgrades are currently underway at the Town's Fire Hall, with work expected to begin at Town Hall in April/May.
- The Wastewater Capacity Study is currently underway and is being overseen by Dillion Consulting Ltd.
- The contract for the Library Renovation Project is set to be awarded to PCL Constructors in the coming weeks, upon finalization of the scope of work. Fathom Studio will provide "Issued for Construction" drawings based on the finalized scope of work.
- The contract for the Westside Pressure Study has been awarded to the sole bidder, Dillion Consulting Ltd. The validation hydraulic model is now complete, and work has begun on the water model.
- The Forbes Lake Dam and Spillway Upgrades project has been awarded to MECO Engineering and design work is currently underway.
- The waterline replacement for Little Harbour Road is currently in design phase and near completion, the project is expected to be issued for tender in 2026.

Solid Waste

A total of 81.83 tons of organics was collected during the month of March 2025, as compared to 95.23 tons of organics collected for the month of March 2024. 47.02 tons of garbage was collected during the month of March 2025, as compared to 53.12 tons of garbage collected for the month of March 2024, a total of 32.89 tons of recycling was collected during the month of March 2025, as compared to 37.51 tons of recycling collected for the month of March 2024.

New Glasgow Regional Police

In March, the New Glasgow Regional Police responded to a total of 532 occurrences, leading to 20 arrests. Notable call drivers included 73 protection of property, 66 reports of suspicious persons, 55 motor vehicle, 40 mental health, 38 property checks, 22 thefts, 16 assault, 6 fraud, 3 fatality investigation, 2 child pornography, 1 forceable confinement and 1 sexual assault.



NGRP Training & Development

Throughout March, New Glasgow Regional Police officers participated in several training opportunities, including:

- Canadian Criminal Intelligence System Search and Discovery Training
- Canadian Criminal Intelligence System Search and Discovery and Maintenance Training.

New Glasgow Regional Police have launched a new public awareness campaign to educate the community about hate crimes and hate incidents, including the legal distinctions, how to report them, and the trauma-informed police response. The initiative also promotes community unity and will feature digital content and public engagement activities.

Department of Community Development

In March, the Town of New Glasgow focused on the completion of the Equity and Anti-Racism Plan, "Celebration of Diversity: The Path Forward for Our Future," and is pleased to share the report has been submitted to the AMANS and the Office and Equity and Anti-Racism to ensure compliance with the Province for all Municipal units. Additionally, a two-page synopsis of the Plan has been developed for public consumption and has been shared to the Town of New Glasgow website.

The department was also proud to support the "Turning Intentions into Impacts" event at Glasgow Square, which was co-sponsored by the Town of New Glasgow in partnership with the GALMA Society of New Glasgow. Over 50 individuals participated in the event which encouraged people to examine their own role in perpetuating racism in their community and shared information on how to recognize opportunities for self-reflection and being a better ally.

The first draft of the Make Your Move New Glasgow Strategic Plan is currently under development and is nearing completion. Residents will soon see Make Your Move signage throughout the Town encouraging residents to find small ways to increase their physical activity. Following the success of the Winter Guided Hikes, the Department is pleased to work with Hike Nova Scotia for a series of Spring and Summer guided hikes and walks from May 14-July 23rd. Participants who complete all nine hikes will earn a Hike Nova Scotia Pictou County Coast Badge!

The Town along with partner organizations also hosted several events over the March Break, which included but was not limited to; a free skate, puppet shows, movie night and crafts and games days at two of our community recreation centres. Summer programming opportunities will also be shared in the coming weeks!



Upcoming April events include, but are not limited to, The Led Zeppelin Experience, Trivia Night, Town of New Glasgow 2025 Volunteer Reception, and various private bookings within the Glasgow Square facility.

Sustainability remains a key focus for the Town of New Glasgow, with ongoing projects, workshops, and funding opportunities that include:

- Low Carbon Resiliency Pilot Program
- Towards Net Zero Housing Project
- Resilient Home Retrofits
- Net Zero Atlantic-District Energy Project
- Climate Ready Infrastructure Services
- Greening Future Summit 2025

Residents interested in learning more about these initiatives are encouraged to contact Rohan Mishra, Environment & Sustainability Lead, at rohan.mishra@newglasgow.ca.

Business Development Report

The East River Business Park is progressing with key development activities, which includes but is not limited to:

- Ongoing development work in collaboration with a company regarding lot 5C, which also includes an extension on the due diligence period, which has been moved to April 8, 2025, in support of obtaining full construction quotations.
- The final site plan and rendering has been accepted for lot 10A. Survey work is currently ongoing and will allow for a small parcel of land to be consolidated with main lot to allow for parking accommodation.

Department of Fire and Fire Inspection Reports

The New Glasgow Fire Department responded to a total of 13 calls during the month of March. Major call drivers included four alarm activations and two mutual aid responses. Additional incidents involved electrical issues, dumpster fires, a cardiac arrest, and an encampment fire. The department also participated in three training sessions over the course of the month.

In addition, a total of six fire inspections and follow-up visits were conducted throughout the month of March.

With warmer temperatures and dry foliage along the trails and wooded areas in town, residents are reminded to exercise caution and be mindful of their activities in these spaces. In 2022, the Town adopted the Fires and Burning of Material By-law, which outlines the proper and safe ways to enjoy outdoor fires. Residents are also encouraged to check the provincial burn restrictions, updated daily at 2 p.m., for the most current information on when burning is permitted.

The By-law can be accessed at: <https://www.newglasgow.ca/town-hall/council/by-laws.html>

Building Permits

Throughout the month of March, the Town received requests for 5 Building Permits. Permit requests included commercial, agriculture and residential. Permits issued throughout the month of March equate to an estimated value of \$2,611,000 in local building and renovation costs. Accumulated permits from January 1, 2025, to March 31, 2025, equate to \$6,939,061. In comparison, permits generated from January 1 to March 31, 2024, amounted to \$9,498,141

Information Technology

Departmental activities and projects include but are not limited to:

- **Software Implementation:** A Contract has been awarded to Thinkdox Inc for the CityWorks/ArcGIS integrations.
- **Infrastructure:** The fibre integration at the water distribution facility has been completed, prioritizing high availability and redundancy.
- **Security Awareness:** CCTV cameras have been installed under the George Street Bridge, with recording set to begin in April.

Department of Human Resources and Corporate Communications

March key highlights and initiatives include but are not limited to:

Employee Relations

A significant focus was placed on negotiations for the Atlantic Police Association Collective Bargaining sessions, in addition supporting other union-related matters and issues.

Recruitment and Retention

In March, recruitment efforts concentrated on the final stages of the Non-Commissioned Officer Promotion Routine, the Atlantic Police Academy Sponsorship Seat selection process, which involved a comprehensive interview process, and the identification of two



police cadet candidates. Additionally, the search for a full-time Constable continued, alongside the early stages of Summer Student recruitment

Marketing & Communications

- **New Glasgow 150 Branding:** Ongoing development of marketing materials with the New Glasgow 150 branding, including updates to social media and the website.
- **Housing Accelerator Fund:** Collaboration with an external consultant to promote public engagement pop-up sessions continues. These sessions were held at the New Glasgow Farmers Market, Glasgow Square and the New Glasgow Public Library to inform citizens about the public engagement process.
- **Volunteer Awards 2025:** March focused on the launch of the online and paper surveys for nomination, as well as the nomination process.

Strategic Initiatives & Projects

Throughout March progress has been made on a range of strategic initiatives, with a focus on the New Glasgow 150 celebrations. Efforts have included community engagement with local organizations and cultural partners, assisting in the development of branded marketing collateral, and coordination of a Legacy Art Project in partnership with Pictou Landing First Nation and local artists.

Motions and Notices of Motions

Motion to Adopt Policy- Tax Exemption

Council approved the motion of the recommendation to adopt an updated Tax Exemption, that a property tax exemption in the maximum amount of \$405.00 for the taxation year 2025-2026 be granted to a person whose property is assessed as taxable property in the Town of New Glasgow and is occupied by that person as their principal residence and whose total income for the calendar year 2024 from all sources, including the income of a spouse or partner and other family members residing at the same property but excluding an allowance or pension paid pursuant to the War Veterans Allowance Act, is equal or less than \$24,300.00.

Motion to Order the Demolition of 154 Alexander Street

Pursuant to Section 346(3) of the Municipal Government Act, the Town of New Glasgow Council has approved the demolition order to be placed on the property located at 154 Alexander Street, originally put forth during the March 17th regular Council Meeting due to dangerous or unsightly conditions as defined under the Act. The homeowner was provided with opportunity following the March 17th meeting to provide Council through the Office of the CAO with a comprehensive plan and engineers report addressing all safety hazards and concerns identified in the Building Inspector's report by April 7th, 2025 and has failed to



produce the required documentation for Council's consideration. The owners are now required to demolish the dwelling within 30 days time, remove all debris, and fill in any resulting holes.

Recommendations from In-Camera Meetings

Council approved the purchase of 77 acres of watershed land from Jessie and Robert MacKay, located within PID 00897231.

Council approved the land swap transaction involving PID 00934851 in exchange for Parcel B, a subdivided portion of PID 65191702, owned by MacGillivray Properties Limited.

Committee of the Whole

Recommendation-New Development Assistance Policy-2025, Director of Engineering and Public Works

The Town of New Glasgow Council has approved the recommendation to adopt the Development Assistance Policy. This policy provides infrastructure development assistance funding, under certain conditions, to qualified private developers and non-profit community-based organizations that align with key Municipal strategies for housing and future land-use development.

Funding decisions will be merit-based, with the scoring evaluation and breakdown available through the Public Works Office.

Memorandum - Resilient Home Retrofits Final Report 2025, Environment & Sustainability Lead

Council received a memo regarding the 2025 Final Report for the Resilient Home Retrofits (RHR) Program. Through the RHR Program, 12 homeowners in New Glasgow received upgrades designed to make their properties more sustainable. On average, each homeowner received approximately \$7,500 worth of improvements.

Unfinished Business

Memorandum-Spring Debenture

Council received a memo containing the recommendations for the spring debenture and has approved the authorization of borrowing, not to exceed \$1,800,000 for general capital and \$260,000 for water capital. These amounts are to be repaid over terms not exceeding 20 years for general capital expenditures, with an interest rate not to exceed 6.5%

Municipal Corporation and Committee Reports

The Council received updates through memos from the Pictou County Shared Services Authority, Mayors and Warden Committee, as well as from the Pictou County Wellness Centre Building Authority Inc.

New Business

Mayor Dicks and Council received the following letters and memos:

- A letter from Crombie REIT requesting an exemption from By-law Number 20-Noise Control By-law- During the sweeping and line painting of the parking lots of various properties within the Crombie REIT portfolio throughout the Town of New Glasgow between April 22-May 14, 2025. Council approved the exemption for the specified dates.
- A grant request for Budget 2025-2026 consideration from the Festival of the Tartans in support of their events for \$5,000. The request has been referred for consideration during the 2025–2026 budget deliberations.
- A letter of request from Pictou Landing First Nations seeking contributions in support of their 33rd annual Mawio'mi. The request has been referred for consideration during the 2025–2026 budget deliberations.

Council was also presented with the 2025 Volunteer Awards list of nominees to be recognized at the Volunteer Reception. The event will take place during a private ceremony on April 28th at Glasgow Square.