



Council Brief – Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Attendance

The individual meetings for Council and Committee of the whole attendance for Tuesday May 20, 2025, included, Mayor Nancy Dicks, Deputy Mayor Jocelyn Dorrington, 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.

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

Petitions/Delegations/Presentations

Presentations

Mayor and Council were delighted to welcome New Glasgow artist Steve Cleroux and his wife, Bonnie, for the unveiling of his 150th commissioned art piece. This significant milestone watercolour artwork will be proudly displayed in the Town Hall. Prints of the piece will be available for purchase at the Town Hall front desk.

Wes Surrett, Chair of the Ship Hector Society; Vern Shea, Ship Restoration Manager; and Rebecca Whiffen, Tourism Manager, presented to Council on the history of the Ship Hector and the ongoing restoration project. The initiative aims to transform the Ship Hector from a dockside attraction into a fully operational passenger sailing vessel. To date, \$1.8 million has been raised through private donations in support of the project.

Proclamations

VON Week, May 18-24

The Town of New Glasgow is proud to recognize VON Week from May 18–24, 2025. This week-long celebration underscores the vital role the VON plays in supporting individuals to live independently in their homes and communities. Through compassionate care, VON staff and volunteers provide essential health services, respite, and social connection, enhancing the well-being of residents across Nova Scotia. By celebrating VON Week, New Glasgow reaffirms its commitment to community health and the invaluable contributions of those who make a difference in the lives of others.

Access Awareness Week, May 25 – May 31, 2025

The Town of New Glasgow proudly acknowledges Access Awareness Week, taking place from May 25 to May 31, 2025. This week serves as an important opportunity to recognize



the ongoing efforts to remove barriers and promote accessibility and inclusion for persons with disabilities in our community. As a Town we are committed to fostering a community where everyone, regardless of ability, can participate fully, contribute meaningfully, and feel a true sense of belonging.

World Menstrual Health Day May 28, 2025

On May 28, 2025, the Town of New Glasgow is proud to acknowledge World Menstrual Health Day, an international observance dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of menstrual health and hygiene. This day serves as a platform to advocate for equitable access to menstrual products, challenge stigma, and promote education on menstrual health and period poverty. By recognizing this day, New Glasgow reaffirms its commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive community where all individuals have the resources and knowledge to manage their menstrual health with dignity and respect.

National Day Against Gun Violence, June 6, 2025

The Town of New Glasgow recognizes the devastating impact of gun violence on communities across the country and stands united in support of efforts to reduce and prevent such violence. On June 6th, National Day Against Gun Violence, we take a moment to reflect on the lives lost, the communities affected, and the ongoing need for collective action to address this critical issue. This day serves as a reminder of our responsibility to create safer communities through advocacy, education, and meaningful policy change. New Glasgow is committed to working with local, provincial, and national partners to advance solutions that protect lives, promote peace, and build a future free from gun violence.

Recreation and Parks Month June 2025

the Town of New Glasgow is excited to celebrate Recreation and Parks Month, a nationwide initiative that highlights the vital role parks and recreational activities play in enhancing community well-being. This month-long observance encourages residents to engage in outdoor activities, explore local parks, and participate in community events that promote physical, social, and environmental health.

Pride Month, June 2025

The Town of New Glasgow is proud to acknowledge Pride Month each June as a celebration of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and a commitment to inclusion, equality, and human rights. Recognizing Pride Month affirms the town's dedication to creating a safe, welcoming, and respectful environment for all, while honoring the history, resilience, and contributions of 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals.



National Indigenous Peoples History Month June 2025 and National Indigenous Peoples Day June 21, 2025

The Town of New Glasgow is proud to recognize June as National Indigenous Peoples History Month and National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21. This month is a time to honor the history, culture, and contributions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples, and to reflect on the enduring strength and resilience of Indigenous communities. National Indigenous Peoples Day, held on the summer solstice, is especially significant as it celebrates the diverse cultures and traditions of Indigenous peoples across Turtle Island . By acknowledging these observances, New Glasgow reaffirms its commitment to reconciliation, education, and building respectful relationships with Indigenous peoples, while encouraging residents to learn, reflect, and participate in local initiatives throughout the month.

National Health and Fitness Day, June 7, 2025

On June 7, 2025, the Town is pleased to recognize National Health and Fitness Day, a nationwide initiative encouraging Canadians to get active and embrace healthier lifestyles. Whether through local events, outdoor recreation, or everyday movement, this day serves as a reminder that small steps toward fitness can lead to stronger and healthier communities.

International Trails Day, June 7, 2025

The Town of New Glasgow is proud to celebrate International Trails Day on June 7, 2025. This day is dedicated to recognizing the vital role that trails play in promoting active living, environmental stewardship, and community connection. Our local trails are more than paths; they are spaces for recreation, reflection, and reconnection with nature, offering safe and accessible routes for people of all ages and abilities. We encourage residents and visitors to explore and enjoy the beauty of our trail systems, and to join us in supporting their ongoing care and preservation for future generations to experience and enjoy.

Town Council Reports

Committee of the Whole Report

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

- Recommendation to approve the purchase of the watershed land from Jessie and Robert MacKay for 77 acres, within PID 00897231.
- Recommendation for the approval of the land swap transaction PID 00934851 for MacGillivray Properties Limited subdivided Parcel B of PID 65191702.
- The recommendation of the adoption of the new Development Assistance Policy.



- Recommendation of the approval of the 2025 Town of New Glasgow Volunteer Nominees. The complete list of winners can be found via the Town's social media channels.

Engineering and Public Works

As of April 30, 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 commenced on April 28th; the work is progressing well.
- HVAC Energy Upgrades are currently underway at the Town's Fire Hall, with work expected to begin at Town Hall in June, with completion in August. The Contractor for the project is Bird Mechanical Ltd.
- The Wastewater Capacity Study is currently underway and is being overseen by Dillion Consulting Ltd.
- The contract for the Library Renovation Project has been awarded to PCL Constructors. Fathom Studio has completed the "Issued for Construction" drawings based on the finalized scope of work, and work is expected to commence June 1, 2025.
- The contract for the Westside Water Pressure Study has been awarded to the sole bidder, Dillion Consulting Ltd. The validation hydraulic model is now complete and work continues 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 89.16 tons of organics was collected during the month of April 2025, as compared to 104.36 tons of organics collected for the month of April 2024. 58.83 tons of garbage was collected during the month of April 2025, as compared to 61.25 tons of garbage collected for the month of April 2024, a total of 36.94 tons of recycling was collected during the month of April 2025, as compared to 38.94 tons of recycling collected for the month of April 2024.



New Glasgow Regional Police

Operations & Public Safety

Three individuals have been charged with weapons possession of 11 charges. One individual was referred to Restorative Justice, while another is currently before the courts.

One male has been charged with seven Criminal Code offences following a break and enter at the Christian Fellowship Church. These include three counts of failing to comply with release orders and numerous property-related offences. The matter is currently before the courts.

One male and one female have been charged with possession for the purpose of trafficking cocaine. This matter is also currently before the courts.

In April, the New Glasgow Regional Police responded to a total of 552 occurrences, resulting in 28 arrests. Notable call drivers included 72 incidents of trespassing at night, 61 related to protection of property, 46 Motor Vehicle Act violations, 34 vehicle thefts, 29 thefts, 18 threats, 11 assaults, and 3 assaults with a weapon. Other calls involved mental health concerns, child welfare, and robbery.

NGRP Training & Development

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

- Canadian Criminal Intelligence Systems
- Sexual Violence Training
- Major Case Management

Department of Community Development

The highlight of April was the Town of New Glasgow's Volunteer Awards, held at Glasgow Square on April 29th. This annual celebration honours the vital contributions of citizens across arts, culture, heritage, and social justice. The event was well attended and deeply appreciated by the community.

Additionally, the Beautification and Maintenance team has been busy with spring maintenance and preparations for various events. Work included support for community centres, the Farmers' Market, and conducting safety checks on Town-owned assets. Significant focus was placed on the Marina opening, including safety inspections and training related to the fueling facilities. The Beautification and Streetscaping Supervisor has been permanently assigned to the Marina to support these operations



Make Your Move New Glasgow (MYMNG) is currently in full swing, with MYMNG Weekly Challenges for the month of May with programming that includes:

- Week – May 5-11: Share your movement story
- Week 2-May 12-18: Walk or bike to work/school
- Week 3 May 19-25: Explore local trails
- Week 4 May 26-31: Outdoor play

The Town of New Glasgow, in partnership with neighbouring municipalities that have municipal physical activity leaders, is once again offering 9 guided coastal hikes from May 14 to July 23. All hikes begin at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. Participants completing all hikes will earn the Hike Nova Scotia Pictou County Coast Badge.

- May 14 – Jitney Trail
- May 21 – Waterside Beach
- May 28 – Powell’s Point Trail
- June 11 – Caribou-Monroe’s Island
- June 18 – Six Mile Brook
- June 25 – Roy Island Loop
- July 9 – Lighthouse Beach
- July 16 – Rushton’s Beach
- July 23 – Melmerby Beach

April’s major events taking place in Glasgow Square included but were not limited to: Zed, The Led Zeppelin Experience and the Volunteer Awards Reception.

Planning continues for the Town’s 150th Anniversary, with ongoing coordination around the Black Gala Homecoming, Miss Miles, Johnny Miles Race, Carlton’s Community Bash and Disability Pride.

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

- District Energy Project
- Green Municipal Fund Community Building Retrofits Project
- Stats Canada Survey of Commercial and Institutional Energy Survey
- Low Carbon Communities Grant
- Municipal Planning Strategy & Land Use Bylaw Work



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:

- Contractor's pricing has been received for lot 5C, the buyer will be moving forward with the purchasing of the lot.
- A Plan of Subdivision/Consolidation has been submitted to the Town in regard to lot A-1 and abutting 1.4 acre parcel.
- Survey work has been completed on lot 10A, work with consulting services from a civil design firm is on going.

Department of Fire and Fire Inspection Reports

The New Glasgow Fire Department responded to a total of 23 calls during the month of April. Major call drivers included five medical, three MVU and two encampment fires and one transformer fire. The department also participated in two training sessions over the course of the month.

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

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 April, the Town received requests for 10 Building Permits. Permit requests included residential and agriculture. Permits issued throughout the month of April equate to an estimated value of \$559,966 in local building and renovation costs. Accumulated permits from January 1, 2025, to April 30, 2025, equate to \$7,496,027. In comparison, permits generated from January 1 to April 30, 2024, amounted to \$9,856,641



Information Technology

Departmental activities and projects include but are not limited to:

- **Training & Conferences:** The Director and Tier II Technician attended the Atlantic Security Conference (April 10–11) and key Municipal IT/Police IT meetings (April 9) focusing on cybersecurity and tech upgrades.
- **Connectivity Improvements:** Enhancement of network resiliency via connection to the Toronto Internet Exchange (TorIX), keeping Town data within Canada is underway.
- **Cybersecurity:** Continued rollout of Two-Factor Authentication (2FA) for all staff emails and applied urgent firmware security updated.
- **Infrastructure Projects:** Replacement of the East River Weather Camera maintained downtown surveillance and community center Wi-Fi systems. The feed can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nsa_uhhiogA
- **Police Tech:** The department is working in collaboration to provide supporting digital evidence systems and planning upgrades for body-worn and in-vehicle cameras, pending budget.
- **Computer Evergreen Planning:** A finalized list for 2025–26 PC replacements due to Windows 10 end-of-life has been prepared.
- **Ongoing Support:** Regular support for Council meetings and general IT operations.

Department of Human Resources and Corporate Communications

April 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 April, recruitment efforts were focused on the continued search for a full-time Constable, as well as the hiring and placement of Seven Town of New Glasgow Summer Students, Two Labourers and one Environmental Maintenance Worker. Additionally, the Director of Human Resource and Corporate Communications attended the Pictou County Career Fair in support of upstreaming a robust talent pipeline for future openings.

Learning & Development

The Director of Human Resources and Corporate Communications attended a Balsam Indigenous Training session. A staff and community partners learning and development session is in the works for Fall 2025.



Marketing & Communications

New Glasgow 150

- Design and roll out of marketing materials.
- Continued collaboration with local historians for weekly social media updates.
- Development of communication materials in support of the launch ceremony.

Housing Accelerator Fund

- In collaboration with various Town of New Glasgow Departments, the public access portal and webpage development is underway.

Volunteer Awards 2025

- Development and rollout of materials in support of the volunteer award ceremony, including speaking notes, invitations, and press releases and design of certificates.

Strategic Initiatives & Projects

Throughout April, a large focus was placed on The New Glasgow 150th Anniversary Launch that took place on May 6th. Communications efforts included media coverage, social media, and promotional partnerships, helping boost community engagement and visibility.

Staff continue to advance efforts in sponsorship outreach, event planning, and community collaboration. Early preparations are underway for major upcoming initiatives, including the International Town Crier Competition and other signature events, which include but are not limited to, the weekly "Music Shapes New Glasgow" series, the antique car show, and a pre-Canada Day celebration.

In addition, staff have supported strategic planning initiatives, volunteer recognition activities, and key community observances such as Red Dress Day and Go Clean Get Green.

Presentation of Budgets for Fiscal 2025-2026

Council approved the adoption of the following budget recommendations as put forth by the Director of Corporate Services for fiscal 2025-2026.

- Tax Rate Resolution
- General Operating Budget
- Water Utility Budget
- Capital Budget
- Water Utility Capital Budget

The Town is pleased to announce that tax rates will remain unchanged, with residential properties taxed at \$1.84 and commercial properties at \$4.45. The wastewater rate will continue



at \$1.40 per cubic meter. However, the solid waste fee will increase to \$183 per unit. A complete detailed report can be found on the Town of New Glasgow Webpage.

Motion to Adopt Development Agreement

A first reading of the development agreement proposed by Sueann MacNeil/Beloved Homes was presented for the construction of two 4-unit residential buildings on North Avenue, New Glasgow (PID: 01006337). On February 18, 2025, Council requested a supplementary development report to address concerns raised by residents, which was received by council in the May 20th Package. A public hearing will be held on Monday, June 16, 2025. Following the hearing, a decision will be made during the regularly scheduled Council meeting, once a stormwater management plan and power servicing easement has been received.

Recommendations from In-Camera Meeting Motions and Notices of Motions

During the regular scheduled Council Meeting in April, Council approved the motion to proceed with facilitating the demolition of 269 Mitchell Street, PID 00955716, through a contractor and apply the costs to the tax account for the property. The demolition occurred on Thursday April 10, 2025 and was completed by Verhagen Demolition Ltd.

Committee of the Whole

Memorandum – Municipal Fees Policy 2025, Senior Planner/Development Officer

Council received a memo regarding the Municipal Fees Policy – Appendix A: Building Permit Fee Revisions. The purpose of these revisions is to keep permit fees reasonably aligned with those in other jurisdictions. Specifically, the memo outlines that the Town of New Glasgow has established specific fees for various items, including but not limited to; licenses, inspections, permits, applications, approvals, processes, and municipal services.

Recommendation-Infrastructure Priorities for Outside Funding, Assistant Director of Engineering and Public Works.

The Town of New Glasgow Council has approved a recommendation to endorse specific infrastructure priority projects for funding applications that require a Council resolution. These applications pertain to identified priority infrastructure projects. The critical projects include, Little Harbour Road, Watermain Extension, Trenton Road Watermain Rehabilitation, Forbes Lake Dam & Spillway Upgrades.



Unfinished Business

Letter From Pictou Antigonish Regional Library

Council received a letter from Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library (PARL) outlining their shortfall of \$188,640 for the upcoming fiscal year. PARL has requested the eight municipalities they serve to increase their total funding by \$25,000, with \$3,584 of that specifically from the Town of New Glasgow. The requested amount has been approved in the Town's budget.

Municipal Corporation and Committee Reports

The Council received updates on regular meetings through memos from the Pictou County Shared Services Authority, Mayors and Warden Committee, as well as from the first Regional Urban Deer Management Committee meeting.

New Business

Mayor Dicks and Council received the following letters and memos:

- A letter from Minister Kim Marsland advising a comprehensive review of Nova Scotia's fire services will be taking place to improve governance, operations, and preparedness for climate-related emergencies. The Fire Services Association of Nova Scotia will undertake the comprehensive review and submit it to the province.
- A letter from Minister John Lohr addressed to Mayor Pam Mood, President of the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities, about upcoming legislative, regulatory, and policy changes that may impact municipal revenues or expenditures starting in fiscal year 2026-2027. The letter also outlines cost implications related to RCMP policing services and procurement obligations under international trade agreements.
- A memorandum from Chief Administrative Officer, Lisa MacDonald in addition to supporting documents outlining the Town of New Glasgow's resolution to designate the installation of emergency backup power generators at the ERECC Wastewater Treatment Plant as its top funding priority under the 2025 Provincial Capital Assistance Program. The project, costing \$840,842, is essential for meeting regulatory requirements and protecting the East River.

Citizen Appointments to Committees of Council

Council approved the citizen appointments who submitted expression of interest regarding volunteer committee appointments. Vacancies remain on several committees; the Town will continue to advertise openings, a list of vacancies can be found at:

<https://www.newglasgow.ca/town-of-new-glasgow-call-for-citizen-applications.html>