



THE Town Beacon

NEWS & INFORMATION FROM THE TOWN OF YARMOUTH



Heading into the home stretch

Work on the expansion project at Mariners Centre has moved quickly, and the new building is scheduled to open later this year. It's safe to say that work happening at the site now is truly heading into the home stretch. The Town Beacon (TB) recently checked in with Construction Project Manager, Marc Brophy (MB), for an update.

TB: Where is the project right now—what major work has just finished and what are crews doing next?

MB: The building envelope is nearing completion, and we are watertight with some temporary doors at the entrances. Siding the building is underway and will be completed this spring.

TB: What are the next big construction milestones we should expect over the coming months?

MB: Completion of floor slabs, and the installation of pool mechanical equipment are key milestones as we head into spring and summer.

TB: Is the project on schedule for the planned opening? If not, what is the current target timeframe?

MB: Work has progressed on schedule and we are still tracking for a fall completion. The actual opening date will be determined later.

TB: How is the budget tracking—are we on target, and have there been any unexpected costs so far?

MB: The project is tracking on budget. We added a solar system that was intended as a future upgrade, but we were able to include it within the current construction budget. The solar system will help offset future costs during operation of the complex.

TB: What parts of the build have been most challenging from a construction point of view?

MB: Pool Mechanical work is the most challenging. The system is complex, starting with the network of below pool deck water piping, then the pumps, filters and water treatment equipment in the mechanical room.

TB: As a reminder, what are the key features residents should look forward to when the facility opens?

MB: The finished project will feature a fully accessible building, a

6-lane pool with viewing gallery, and a leisure pool with a hot tub. The fitness area is approximately the same size as the space at "Mariners on Main", with some new equipment, including accessible gym equipment. There will be a walking track at the perimeter of the gym - 7 laps is 1 km.

TB: How has construction been managed to minimize disruption for neighbours and for users of the existing Mariners Centre?

MB: We've been working within a fully fenced, stand-alone construction site so there has been minimal disruption to the rink complex.

TB: Can you describe any sustain-

ability, accessibility or safety measures built into the new building?

MB: It's a one-storey building, which is best for providing accessibility. Another accessibility feature is a lift for the lane pool gallery. Both pools have accessible ramps with railings, and the hot tub has a wheelchair lift. Everything is designed to meet Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility standards. The building is also designed to be Net Zero Ready. Aside from the emergency generator, there will be no hydrocarbons used for energy. We also added 400 solar panels to the gym and pool roofs.

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IN THIS ISSUE

From the Mayor's Desk - spring has arrived! Mayor Mood offers ideas on how we can keep our town beautiful, and build community in the process. **PAGE 2.**

Lake George Watershed Protection Plan Approved - the plan lays out why protecting the watershed matters now more than ever. **PAGE 4.**

Parking Management Strategy - key findings from last year's study of parking in downtown Yarmouth. **PAGE 4.**

Capital Budget - the budget for 2026-27 includes investments in paving, Mariners Centre Expansion, new fire trucks, and more. **PAGE 5.**



From the Mayor's Desk



J. Mood

Welcome Spring! What Can We Do For You?

Lots of smiles abound as we finally make our way through the winter hump and find ourselves melding into spring. Just as when a visitor comes to the door, we can ask the same to spring: "What can we do for you?" Weird, I know. Yet, spring brings us so much. The least we can do is return the favor! So let's take a peek at all those things that will help spring, and in turn, our lives, be that much better.

First, with the excitement we get as the snow melts away and the grass and leaves begin to turn a vibrant smile-bringing green, there's an equal amount of confusion around the amount of litter we see. Coffee cups, fast-food wrappers, cigarette butts by the thousands line the sidewalks and hug closely to the curbs. For 13 years I shook my head and admittedly a bit of anger drifted into my being. In my 14th year, things have changed. I've finally realized, and I say this respectfully, we can't expect everyone to understand the importance and positive impacts of having respect for one's community by doing the simple things like not littering. We can't. But we CAN, despite the frustration many feel, go out and pick up after those who don't know better. That's not harsh. That's a fact I've come to realize. There will always be those who care and those who don't. And we occupy the same space. What can we do for spring? Grab a bag, put on a determined

smile and walk our street(s) picking up anything that looks like litter. The "Adopt-a-Block" program is happening right now as well (see details on page 6). We will feel better for it. Trust me! And thanks to those who are already doing so... we see and appreciate you!

For those of you brave enough, you may want to bring an extra-thick bag to take down the decorative and colorful plethora of full poop bags hanging from hedges of people who don't even have dogs. Again, some people don't know better. They actually should not have pets if they can't look after them fully. If you managed to get the poop into a bag, you can manage getting it home and into the trash. I've often wondered for those who allow their dogs to poop on the sidewalk and just leave it there, do they have children and let them do the same? Because if we can carry a diaper home, we can carry a dog bag. Just a thought. Thank you to the responsible pet owners. You are certainly making a difference!

Spring is also the time our most plentiful "Town pets" have their offspring. You'll see lots of fawns around late spring. We know how "cute" they are. Please don't feed them or their parents. It'll result in a \$1000 fine and many more deer in your neighborhood and that affects your neighbors and the entire community. We're still working on solutions, and in the meantime: please do not feed them.

Spring is when the CAT comes back! I can't help but recall what the Town looked like a short 12 years ago, when we had lost the ferry. Jobs were lost, businesses closing, business owners couldn't paint or update their properties, entire families had moved west for work; it was ugly and sad. I hope we equally recall what this community did to ensure we were ready for visitors when the CAT returned. We painted buildings, cleaned litter, weeded gardens, planted flowers, did customer service training, oh, the list is long and the community did it ALL. My hope is that we gather together to do that again this

spring. Pride in community makes us all winners! Ideas? Grab some friends and/or like-minded folks and plan to do something together that will make a difference!

In the meantime, town staff will be tidying up our parks and gardens, planting, cleaning the sidewalks and streets, trimming, clearing and so much more. It's a busy, fun time where things are coming back to life, color is pushing through and life has an extra spring in its step. A heartfelt thank you from the community goes to our Parks team who have worked through the winter and are even more excited for spring to hit...they never stop! And let's not forget our dedicated gardening volunteers who also take time to spiff up our downtown. Thank you for what you do.

Folks are already out and about a lot more, walking with friends, going for drives, hopping on bi-

during business hours, and for after-hours public works emergencies such as a water leak or major pothole, call 1-833-460-8709. If it's a real emergency, call 911.

Things are not perfect here but I've traveled enough throughout Nova Scotia, Canada, the US, internationally, to know that we have it really good in comparison. Thankfulness for what we have and where we live (especially given the world stage as of late) mixed with patience and grace will go a long way towards building community and getting things done. I'm excited for what's next!

For some of you, inside and outside your homes, winter has revealed things that may need to be fixed by your landlord. I say "may" because it's case dependent, but worth checking out. Things that are not allowing you to live the quality of life you should be living can be looked into. Go to www.townofyarmouth.ca and navigate to "Town Hall", then to "Bylaws" and you'll find the Minimum Housing Standards bylaw. Please take a look and if you fit into anything less than minimum housing standards, reach out and someone will look into it. I know some of you feel fear when reaching out in this regard as you don't want to lose your living spaces. No fear. This is our living conditions we are talking about.

I've often said the days of the cowboy were difficult but they always knew they would be looked after. Community was spread out but everyone came together to get things done: a fence that needed mending, meals that needed to be cooked, tending to livestock, rebuilding a barn, helping with children. They only got what they worked for and fully understood that way of life. Things have changed but for the most part the great things of old that built community are still here and can grow. It's up to each one of us. "Someone else" shouldn't have to do it. We can do it together. Be "part of". Belong. We can throw entitlement out the window and take up our gratitude and lift up our service to community (and hence each other) tools and all be better for it.

"What can we do for you, spring?" we ask. And spring responds, "Look for ways to build community. There are many. Then do them, unasked. And I'll do my part to brighten your day as you do your thing."



What can we do for spring? Grab a bag, put on a determined smile and walk our street(s) picking up anything that looks like litter. The "Adopt-a-Block" program is happening right now as well (see details on page 6).

cycles. Don't forget our active transportation trails! They're built to accommodate bikes, strollers, wheelchairs, walkers and more. Take advantage! They were built to make life easier for all.

As winter fades away and spring emerges, we'll see how tough the past season was on sidewalks, roads, buildings. If you see something that needs to be fixed, and it's not an emergency, please use the "Report a Problem" form on our website or download the Se-eClickFix app. Fill in the issue and staff will take care of it as soon as possible. Please keep in mind that this way of reporting isn't monitored 24/7. Requests placed over weekends or holidays may not be looked at until the following official business day. You can also call the Public Works office at 902-742-9423





From Town Hall



COUNCIL MEETINGS ROUNDUP

Here's a quick roundup of some key discussions and decisions from the January, February, and March Town Council Meetings. You can find **more detailed information on all of these items** and other decisions made by accessing minutes from each meeting at www.townofyarmouth.ca

January 8th, 2026

- Council approved changes to the Town's Penalty Bylaw to change the minimum penalty from \$118.95 to \$237.00 to be consistent with the province.
- Council approved changes to the Council Meetings Bylaw to amend section 12.0 to include Committee of the Whole minutes being approved at Town Council meetings.
- A public hearing was held for Housing Accelerator Fund Action Plan – Planning Amendments. The proposed amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw included clarifying permissions for accessory dwelling

units, refining residential lot requirements, enabling more housing downtown and updating regulations for supportive housing. After the hearing, Council decided to schedule another public hearing for February 12th to allow more time for residents to familiarize themselves with the proposed changes.

February 12th, 2026

- Following the second public hearing for the Housing Accelerator Fund Action Plan – Planning Amendments, Council approved the proposed amendments to the Land Use Bylaw and the Municipal Planning Strategy.
- Council accepted the Fisheries Museum Relocation Feasibility Study.
- Council awarded the tender for the municipal tractor (sidewalk plow) to Saunders Equipment Ltd. for \$207,857.00 plus HST.
- A motion was passed to install a crosswalk on Main Street at Yarmouth Links, from hole #7 to #8, as recommended by staff.



YARMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

A dedicated team of community-minded leaders guides the Town of Yarmouth, committed to building a vibrant, welcoming, and forward-looking town. Mayor Mood, Councillors, and staff work together to strengthen local services, support economic growth, and ensure the Town of Yarmouth remains a place we're all proud to call home. Their shared focus is simple: listening to residents, taking action on community priorities, and helping shaping a bright future for our town.



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QUICK CIVIC TIP: "COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE" MEETINGS

Town Council meets each month for regular council meetings. Did you know they also meet every month (except for December) for a "Committee of the Whole" meeting?

Committee of the Whole meetings - nicknamed "COW" meetings by council and staff - are meetings where councillors meet to discuss issues, review staff reports, and explore policy options in a less formal, more conversational setting. Its purpose is to allow detailed discussion and information-sharing on items such as budgets, strategic plans, capital projects, or complex policy and bylaw matters before formal council decisions are made. COW meetings help to reach clearer positions and prepare substantive motions for adoption at regular council meetings. It allows time for second sober thought.

Typically, a COW meeting is:

- Chaired by the Mayor or a designated presiding officer such as the Deputy Mayor or a Councillor.
- Involves staff reports and presentations, questions, and councillor discussion.
- Produces recommendations or direction but usually does not result in final, binding decisions (formal votes are often deferred to a regular council meeting).
- They are open to the public, and livestreamed. Meetings are recorded in minutes, which are forwarded to a subsequent council meeting for decision.

Check the schedule on page 4 for upcoming council and "COW" meetings.





From Town Hall

(Council Meetings Roundup Continued from Page 3)

- Council upheld the Order of the building inspector for 42 Argyle Street (former church) and to proceed to demolition.

March 12th, 2026

- Council approved the sale of the town-owned property at 22 Chester Street to Wenjikwom Housing Commission Society for \$1 for the purpose of developing a four-unit (4-plex) affordable rental housing building.
- Council approved a proposed street closure, rezoning and associated Municipal Planning Strategy map amendment to facilitate the closure of a portion of an undesignated road right-of-way adjacent to 1 Forest Street (former Visitor Information Centre).
- Council accepted the Parking Management Strategy conducted by WSP, an independent consultant (see article to the right).
- Policy items: Council adopted the Baton Policy, and approved amendments to the Light Up Request Policy. Policies can be found on our website at www.townofyarmouth.ca
- Council directed staff to prepare a report on deceased animals.
- Council directed staff to conduct a jurisdictional scan and prepare a report with different options regarding expanding the ATV trails on Town streets.

Council Adopts Lake George Watershed Source Water Protection Plan

At its March 12th meeting, Town Council adopted the Lake George Watershed Source Water Protection Plan. Lake George is our drinking water lifeline — the Lake George Watershed supplies treated water to the Town of Yarmouth, Wasoqopa’q First Nation and to some residents of the Municipality of Yarmouth. The Lake George Source Water Protection Plan lays out why protecting this watershed matters now more than ever: increasing drought risk and shifting climate patterns threaten

both water quantity and quality.

The plan identifies the major risks to our source water: natural hazards (wildlife, wildfire), and human activities (residential development, on-site septic systems, agriculture, illegal dumping, forestry, recreational use, and nearby mineral exploration). It also highlights climate change as a key factor. Droughts can sharply lower lake levels and stress the system.

What the plan does next is practical and proactive. Key actions already in place or recommended include:

- Protected Water Area designation and regulations to limit risky activities;
- Regular water monitoring and dam outflow tracking;
- Public education, signage, and a Watershed Advisory Committee to engage landowners and stakeholders;
- Forest management on Town lands and rules for large forestry operations;
- A septic tank pumping program to reduce contamination risk from failing systems;
- Emergency response and contingency plans for spills or sudden contamination;
- Long-term strategies such as targeted land acquisition and annual review of the Plan to respond to new challenges.

Why it Matters

Lake George is a resilient body of water. Over the last decade, despite multiple droughts, lake levels have continued to rebound. This plan provides the tools and shared responsibilities needed to ensure the lake remains clean, safe, and available for future generations.

The plan is currently under review and awaiting acceptance by the province. You can learn more and read the full plan at: www.townofyarmouth.ca/lakegeorge

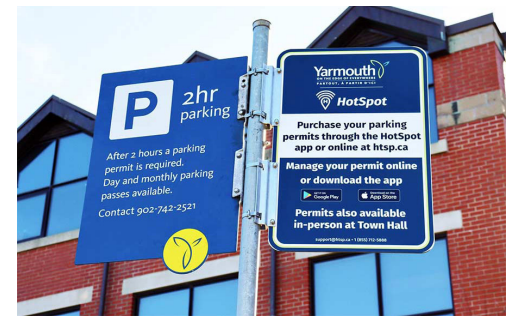


Parking Management Strategy - What it means for people who park downtown

Last summer, WSP Canada Inc. was hired to study parking as part of the Town’s Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) Action Plan. The purpose for creating a parking strategy is to improve efficiency, accessibility, and sustainability of parking in Yarmouth to support new and existing housing, local businesses, residents, and visitors. The consultants measured parking use, mapped supply vs. demand, reviewed rules, and spoke with residents, businesses and stakeholders. A key engagement piece was an online survey that received 588 responses.

Here are some key findings:

- Most visitors follow the two-hour rule — only 6% of observed parkers stayed longer than two hours. Short visits to the downtown are finding spaces.
- On-street parking is free for two hours; the study notes this and says free on-street parking remains reasonable given current use.
- Some municipal lots a short walk from Main Street are underused while curb spaces in the core are busier. Walking a block can increase your chances of finding a spot.



- Residents and businesses want safer, easier streets, clearer signs, and consistent enforcement. The study recommends clearer signage and clarified bylaw language as options to address this.
- The study suggests aiming for about 4% of curb spaces to be accessible and considering greener designs for off street lots to improve accessibility and environmental performance.
- To support more housing, the report presents options such as allowing fewer required parking spaces for some new buildings and piloting overnight permit zones (Town-owned lots) to allow some overnight on-street parking (Main Street).

What Happens Next?

Pending available resources and budget, Town staff may consider pilots or bylaw updates to implement key recommendations contained in the strategy. To read the full strategy report and presentation prepared by WSP, visit: www.townofyarmouth.ca/plansandstrategies

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Yarmouth’s Town Council meets on the second Thursday of every month at 6:30 PM in the Council Chambers at Town Hall, 400 Main Street. Everyone is welcome to attend. You can also watch our regular monthly council meetings live on Eastlink Community TV, or through our livestream service on our website at www.townofyarmouth.ca. “Committee of the Whole” meetings are open to the public, and available to watch through our livestream service.

Thursday, April 23rd, 3:30 PM
Committee of the Whole Meeting

Thursday, June 11th, 6:30 PM
Regular Town Council Meeting

Thursday, May 14th, 6:30 PM
Regular Town Council Meeting

Thursday, June 25th, 3:30 PM
Committee of the Whole Meeting

Thursday, May 28th, 3:30 PM
Committee of the Whole Meeting

Thursday, July 9th, 6:30 PM
Regular Town Council Meeting

Please Note: meeting dates are subject to change. When dates change, we issue notices on our website, through our “Alertable” community notifications service, and on our Facebook page. If you can’t make it to a meeting, video and minutes can be found on our website.

ACCESSIBILITY UPDATE: ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE

In an effort to provide for better accessibility, we now have assistive technology available for hearing-impaired individuals to participate in public meetings. If you plan to attend a council meeting and would benefit from using a hearing device, please ask and we will gladly accommodate you.





Your Town News

Council Approves 2026-2027 Capital Budget

The Capital Budget for projects in the Town of Yarmouth has been approved for 2026-2027. This year's budget of just over \$7 million features key investments in paving, infrastructure, community facilities, and major equipment.

Here are some highlights:

Mariner Centre expansion - \$3 million total investment for this year's budget. This amount represents the rest of the town's portion of the \$10 million shared commitment toward the project between the Town of Yarmouth, Municipality of the District of Yarmouth, and the Municipality of Argyle. Work began on the \$40 million expansion in the fall of 2024, and is expected to be completed in the fall of 2026.

Street Paving - \$1.6 million. This amount includes provincial grants. Projects to be completed will be announced later.

Fire Trucks - \$885,000. This year's budget provides an additional \$885k toward the purchase of new fire trucks costing \$3.5 million. The two new trucks will replace a tanker, a rescue unit, and two engines. The expected delivery time is fall of 2027.

-  Mariners Centre Expansion: **\$3 Million**
-  Street Paving: **\$1.6 Million**
-  Fire Equipment/ Trucks: **\$885,000**
-  Wastewater Treatment Plant: **\$1.6 Million**

Wastewater Treatment Plant - \$1.6 Million. An investment of \$1,609,017 will go toward future upgrades of the plant. Design work by CBCL Limited is currently underway for a \$50 million upgrade of the existing primary treatment facility to a secondary treatment plant.

2026-2027
Total Capital Budget:
\$7, 141,300

This year's work will focus on advancing the project from conceptual design to a 99% detailed design stage. The upgrades are scheduled for completion no later than 2040.

Other Budget Items

Ferry Terminal Pontoons - Last year's budget included \$247,050 for work at the terminal. This year will see an investment of **\$160,000** for work on ferry dock pontoons, including \$31,255 carried over from last year.

Yarmouth Curling Club - Another investment of \$100,000 toward a future upgrade of the Yarmouth Curling Club. This is part of a three-year, \$300,000 commitment to assist with improvements to this important community asset.

The Town's operating budget is next on the list, and will be released in the near future. You can find more details on both capital and operating budgets on our website at www.townofyarmouth.ca/budgets

("Heading into the home stretch" continued from Page 1)

TB: As a follow-up to the last question, can you speak to any other "cool factor" items that are now taking shape that people are going to be impressed with?

MB: The water slide and leisure pools should be popular for general swims and birthday parties. I expect many users, especially seniors, will get great use out of the walking track.

TB: How are fundraising and community support being integrated with the construction timeline—are there naming or donor elements that affect the schedule or delivery?

MB: The Fundraising Committee has done a wonderful job to date, and are about to launch the community campaign. If successful, there will be no requirement for additional funds from the three

partnering Municipal Units. Coastal Financial has the naming rights. In the last eight months of construction, the public is welcome to join in. The committee has reached 90% of their extended goal of 10 Million dollars. People have been very generous because the community realizes that this will benefit everyone. While we don't have a naming rights donor for the aquatic centre yet, that doesn't have to be rushed. When the community sees how wonderful it is, that might happen naturally. There are already interested parties.

A charitable operations fund has also been created to support the community after the facility opens. It's called 'PLAY' and will allow people to apply for subsidies and training grants so the facility is more financially accessible to a wider range of people.



Marc Brophy & Mayor Pam Mood at a recent site visit.

TB: What's the best way for residents to stay updated on progress or get involved with final fundraising/community events?

MB: Look for Facebook updates, as well as ads in the Vanguard and Clare Shopper. The best way to get involved in fundraising, or to get more information, is to contact Kerry Muise - kerrymuise@marinerscentre.com. As always, you can donate on the Mariners Centre website.

Learn more about the project, stay up to date, and donate by visiting www.marinerscentre.com

TOWN CONTACTS



GENERAL INQUIRIES / TOWN HALL (Reception)
Phone: 902-742-2521

OPERATIONAL SERVICES
Office: 902-742-9423

After-Hours Emergency: 1-833-460-8709
Services: streets and sidewalks, traffic lights & signs, water, sanitary & storm sewers, snow removal, parks and trees, infrastructure, waste collection, transit.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION
Phone: 902-742-2521

Services: Taxes, billing (water, sewer & solid waste), utilities, financial services, general management.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
Phone: 902-742-1505

Services: Planning, zoning, development & building permits.

FIRE SERVICES
Phone: 902-742-7411

Services: Fire protection, prevention & safety.
For fire emergencies, call 911.

FIRE & LIFE SAFETY
Phone: 902-740-5706

Services: Fire inspections, public fire safety education, code compliance, and enforcement.

WASTE COLLECTION
Phone: 902-742-9423

Services: Garbage, recycling, compost pickup schedules and inquiries.

BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT
Bylaw & Parking Enforcement - 902-742-4860

Building Issues – 902-742-1505

Property Issues – 902-742-1505

Services: Municipal by-law enforcement, parking enforcement, taxi licensing.

SENIORS' SAFETY PROGRAM
Phone: 902-742-4862

FREE TRANSIT SERVICE
Phone: 902-742-9423

Services: Local bus schedule, route information.

For more information on all of our Departments and Services, please visit our website at: www.townofyarmouth.ca





Your Town Services



Finance

2026 Low-Income Tax Exemption

The low-income property tax exemption is being offered again this year. Please note the following if you plan to apply for an exemption:

1. The exemption is only available for property owners where the property is a single-family dwelling unit which they occupy as their primary residence.
2. The property owner's previous year's taxes must be paid in full at the time of their application.
3. To be eligible, the applicant's income (line 15000 of their Notice of Assessment from Revenue Canada Agency), and total income of ALL persons residing in the household (excluding War Veterans Allowance Act & Pension Act) for 2025 must fit into one of the following:
 - Less than \$25,000.00 - tax exemption = **\$750.00**

- More than \$25,000.00, but less than \$29,000.00 - tax exemption = **\$350.00**
- More than \$29,000.00, but less than \$39,000.00 - tax exemption = **\$200.00**

Applicants must provide a copy of their 2025 Notice of Assessment from Revenue Canada, as well as copies of the 2025 Notice of Assessments from Revenue Canada from all persons living in the household.

The Property Tax Exemption Policy and application are available at Town Hall, and can be downloaded from our website at www.townofyarmouth.ca

Applications for the 2026/27 tax year must be filed at the Town of Yarmouth's office by **5 pm on August 7th, 2026.**

The application **MUST** be signed by you as the property owner.

Please forward to: Town of Yarmouth, 400 Main Street, Yarmouth NS, B5A 1G2.

For more information, please contact our tax department at 902-742-2521, ext 226.



Parks & Trees

2026 Tree Planting Rebate Program

The Town of Yarmouth will again be offering cash rebates to residents and businesses toward the purchase price of trees planted within town. The intent of the program is to provide an incentive to Yarmouth residents to plant new trees as part of the town's urban forest: vital green infrastructure which provides many benefits to us all, far beyond mere aesthetics. The Tree Committee's Urban Tree Planting Program is encouraging residents to plant new trees in our community.

Under the rebate program, participants may apply for a rebate of 50% of the purchase price for up to ten (10) trees per property, to a maximum of \$50 per tree. Labour costs to have trees planted are not eligible for the rebate. To qualify for the rebate, trees must have been purchased from a commercial retailer, be appropriate for our plant hardiness zone (Canadian Zone 5 or hardier), and a copy of the original sales receipt must be provided. The program runs between May 1, 2026 and September 30, 2026, or until program funding has run out.

Applications are available at Town Hall and online at: www.townofyarmouth.ca/programs



Waste Collection

Adopt-A-Block

Adopt-a-Block is back for 2026! Communities in Bloom Yarmouth NS is again encouraging individuals, organizations, businesses, or a group of friends to "Adopt-a-Block" and get together to tidy

up our community. The 2026 spring program is underway now and **runs until April 30th**, so there's still plenty of time to get out and make a difference!

To register your cleanup area, please visit www.nsadopta-highway.ca/register-today/

For more information, call the Waste Check office at 902-742-1312. Help us keep Yarmouth beautiful!



Water Utility

FAQs



Water Meter Replacement Program

The Town of Yarmouth Water Utility has begun replacing meters for water customers. Current meters need upgrading and will be replaced by meters that provide advanced leak detection, improved accuracy, and detailed consumption information. Below are a few **frequently asked questions** designed to provide key information and reassure water customers regarding the installation of the new meters.

Q: How will I be notified about the installation of my new water meter?

A: Customers will be contacted by phone to schedule an appointment for installation.

Q: Do I need to be home during the installation?

A: While it is preferable for someone to be present, it is not mandatory. If you can't be home, you will need to ensure you provide access to the basement or meter location for the installation.

Q: Will there be any interruption to my water service?

A: Yes, there might be a temporary interruption during the installation, typically lasting no more than an hour.

Q: Will there be any cost associated with the new water meter installation?

A: The installation of new water meters is provided at no cost to our customers as part of our service upgrades. However, there may be costs associated with necessary plumbing upgrades. The water utility will make every attempt to minimize costs to the customer.

Q: How will the new meter's accuracy affect my billing?

A: The new water meters are more accurate than older models, which may result in a change to your billing. Customers may see an increase or decrease in their monthly usage charges based on actual water consumption. This change reflects our commitment to fair and transparent billing based on precise measurements.

Q: What if I don't want my meter upgraded? Is this program optional?

A: No, there is no option to keep your current meter. All mechanical water meters must be replaced.

Q: How do the new meters contribute to water conservation?

A: The new water meters are equipped with advanced leak detection technology that allows for the early identification of leaks. By quickly pinpointing leaks, we can address issues promptly, reducing water waste throughout the entire system. This capability enhances the overall efficiency of our water utility by minimizing unaccounted-for water losses.

Q: What if I have questions or concerns about the installation?

A: If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at:

Phone: 902-742-2521 Ext. 226

Email: billing@townofyarmouth.ca

Read More FAQs at: www.townofyarmouth.ca





Your Town Services



Waste Collection

Collection Reminders

- Metals and white goods are collected on the last Friday of each month. Waste wood is picked up on the first Friday of each month from April to November (excluding holidays).

- Please Secure Your Waste.** The best practice is to place your waste at curbside **the day of collection**. It's also important to secure your waste by using waste cans/bins with tight sealing lids. **Here's Why:**

WIND - when placed out too early and not secured in cans,

waste often ends up strewn throughout the town.

WILDLIFE - waste put out too early and in bags only can attract pests such as rats and other wildlife that feed at night. The result is torn open bags, waste scattered throughout the streets, and more unwanted wildlife in town.

Access the waste collection schedule from our website at www.townofyarmouth.ca/wastecollection



Recreation

Volunteer Week is April 20-24th

Do you know a particularly outstanding volunteer or group of volunteers who have had a positive impact on their community? The Town of Yarmouth would like to honour the exceptional efforts of these people, children, and groups that donate their time and talents to offer services and activities around the community.

Nomination applications are available at www.yarmouthrecreation.ca. As a part of Volunteer Week, Yarmouth Recreation is hosting a Volunteer Summit planned for April 25th, 2026 at the Rotary Centre.

Day Camps

Yarmouth Recreation Day Camp Registrations opened on April 15th. \$25 per day per person – Check out www.yarmouthrecreation.ca to register!

- Child Camp (ages 5-7) at Meadowfields Community School
- Youth Camp (ages 8-10) at Maple Grove Education Centre
- Teen Camp (ages 11-13) at Lake Milo Boat House

Summer Kick Off

Spring has just begun, but it's never too early to get excited about summer! Here are a few

things to look forward to:

- Lake Milo Lakefront opens July 1st, lifeguards are on duty daily from 10 am - 7 pm.
- Canada Day Carnival at Gateway Ball Park.
- Canada Day Concert Killam's Wharf followed by fireworks over the harbour.



Fire Services



Backyard Fire Permits

Property owners are reminded to apply for a permit, or renew expired permits from the previous year.

Fee Removed

The \$50 annual permit fee was removed in the fall of 2025. There is no cost to apply for a permit.

Permit applications are available online, and paper copies may be obtained at Town Hall, 400 Main Street. For more details, please visit:

www.townofyarmouth.ca/firepermit



Operational Services

Coming Soon: Bus Shelters!

The Town is committed to enhancing accessibility and inclusivity within our community infrastructure, working toward ensuring that all residents have convenient and comfortable access to public transportation facilities.

As part of that commitment, bus shelters will soon be installed at five locations along the Town of Yarmouth's FREE Transit route. Two locations: the Korean War Memorial at the corner of Pleasant Street and Parade Street, and Coronation Park on Main Street in Milton, are expected to be in place this spring. **Three other locations:** Main Street at Freshmart, Main Street at RBC, and the Yarmouth Regional Hospital, are planned for installation this summer.



A shelter will soon be installed at the corner of Pleasant & Parade.



A shelter will also be installed at Coronation Park on Main Street.

Watermain Flushing: Check for Updates

The Yarmouth Water Utility plans to begin its annual watermain flushing program on April 20th. Some discoloration and fluctuation in water pressure may be experienced during the flushing program. Customers are advised to not wash clothes while flushing takes place in their area.

For daily updates on areas affected, please stay tuned to Y95/CJLS, visit our website or Facebook page, or use our 'Alertable' service. The program will take approximately three weeks to complete.



Planning & Development

Planning Review is Crossing the Finish Line!

The Town of Yarmouth is nearing completion of the Municipal Planning Review project which will result in new planning documents and updated regulations for development in the town. The new planning documents have been developed after two years of community engagement, and the final drafts will be available for public review and comment before they move through the formal adoption process.

We want to hear what you think!

Visit the project website at www.getinvolvedyarmouth.ca/planningreview **between April 13th and 27th** to share your comments on the draft zoning map, or share your comments using the online feedback form. You can also send us an email at planningreview@townofyarmouth.ca

Scan the QR code below to be taken to Get Involved page for the project!



Final Draft Engagement
April 13- 27th 2026





Around Town



COMMUNITY EVENTS

There's always something happening on the edge of everywhere! Here's a list of a few upcoming spring and summer community events, plus where you can find more details and stay up to date on what's happening in the Town of Yarmouth.

5th Annual Yarmouth Earth Weekend Cleanup - Friday, April 24 to Sunday, April 26 - Mariners Centre

Yarmouth Spring Living Show - Friday, May 1 to Sunday, May 3 - Mariners Centre

Comedy Misfits Tour - Tuesday, May 12 - Portside Pub

Dressed2Kill: A tribute to KISS - Saturday, May 16 - Th'YARC

Y-CON 2026 | Yarmouth Gaming & Comics Convention - Friday, May 15, to Sunday, May 17

Hear! Here! Society presents Cindy Thong - Saturday, May 16, 7 PM – 8:30 PM & Sunday, May 17, 3 PM – 4:30 PM - Yarmouth County Museum and Archives

Wickedly Enchanted Gala at Rodd Grand - Saturday, May 23 - Rodd Grand Hotel

Brushstrokes of Hope (fundraising event taking in support of Lupus Canada) - Saturday, May 30 - Rodd Grand Hotel

Ultramarine: Music & Arts Festival - Friday, June 19 to Saturday, June 20 - Holy Trinity Church (Friday & Saturday Night) & Rudder's Tent (Saturday Night)

Maud Lewis Coming Home: Art Exhibition - Sunday, June 21 to Sunday, September 20 - Lands End Arts & Culture Centre

Yarmouth Rotary Ribfest - Friday, June 26 to Sunday, June 28 - Mariners Centre

Canada Day at Killam's Wharf - Wednesday, July 1 - Killam's Wharf

Mayor's Tea - 11 AM to 1 PM every Thursday in July and August - Yarmouth Town Hall

Yarmouth Annual Car Show - Friday, July 10 to Saturday, July 11 - Downtown Yarmouth - Main Street

Yarmouth Seafest - Friday, July 10 to Friday, July 17 - Downtown Yarmouth

Fire Truck Muster 2026 - Saturday, July 11 - Firefighters' Museum of Nova Scotia

Thunder on the Coast Motorcycle Rally - Saturday, August 1 to Sunday, August 2 - Downtown Yarmouth

Western Nova Scotia Exhibition - Wednesday, August 5 to Saturday, August 8 - Mariners Centre



Yarmouth Farmers' Market
Open Saturdays,
9 AM – 1 PM
15 Hawthorne St.



Yarmouth Night Market
76 Water Street
Fridays starting
June 5th to August
28th - 5:30 pm to
8 pm.

Please note: event dates and times are subject to change. This is not a complete list of events happening in the Town of Yarmouth. For more events and detailed information, please visit:

www.yarmouthandacadianshores.com
www.townofyarmouth.ca/events



LOOKING BACK

In February, the federal government, along with the province of Nova Scotia, announced more than \$2.9 million to support retrofits and upgrades to 8 James Street. Currently under extensive renovations, the former Sunset Terrace home is being converted into modern, affordable homes by the Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia.



Also announced in February, the Town sold 341 Main Street to Land's End Arts & Culture Society to realize a downtown arts hub. The historic building is an important piece of infrastructure on Main Street and will receive a new life in the hands of Southwest Nova's newest arts organization. Land's End is committed to preserving 341 Main Street as a permanent home for arts, culture, and community activity in Yarmouth.

SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK

Thanks for taking the time to read the first issue of the Town Beacon, the Town of Yarmouth's quarterly newsletter. We hope it becomes a valuable source of information for residents and businesses, and that starts with hearing YOUR ideas. Do you have feedback or suggestions on what to include in future issues? Please email comms@townofyarmouth.ca, or drop off your comments at Town Hall, 400 Main Street.

SIGN UP FOR "ALERTABLE"

Through our **FREE** Alertable service, you can receive emergency alerts and day-to-day community notices for street closures & detours, transit, water disruptions, waste collection changes, council meetings, programs, severe weather and emergency planning, and more. Download the **FREE** App for Android or iOS, or choose to receive notifications by email, text, or even by phone call!

SIGN UP NOW: www.townofyarmouth.ca/alertable



Scan the code below to Sign up:



STAY CONNECTED

YARMOUTH TOWN HALL is located at 400 Main Street, with regular office hours from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday. You can visit the Town Hall Reception on the first floor of Town Hall or call (902) 742-2521.

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Receive Community Notifications in real-time using "Alertable". Sign up at: townofyarmouth.ca/Alertable

