

MAYOR'S MONTHLY UPDATE

MARCH 2022



Despite what the March weather might have us believe, spring is now officially here. Here at the Town, the fiscal year 2021/22 ends on March 31st and we are preparing for our new season too.

- 1 Deliberations on the **Draft 2022/23 Town Budget** have been going smoothly at Committee of the Whole meetings this month, with the Town General Capital Budget approved on March 22nd, and you'll see the Town General Operating Budget come before Council for approval in April. I feel our strategic priorities are reflected in these budgets and we are excited to share a standalone update with you when finalized.

The draft budgets are publicly available in the agenda packages for Committee of the Whole

(<https://townoflunenburg.ca/committee-of-the-whole.html>) or watch for them to come before Council.

- 2 Council approved improvements to the Town's long-standing **Low Income Property Tax Relief** program this month, to adjust income thresholds and exemption levels to better reflect current provincial averages. The changes will allow more households to participate in the program and provide more relief to those that do. To see the revised policy, visit:

<https://townoflunenburg.ca/policies.html>

- 3 We know housing is a big issue in Lunenburg and right across Nova Scotia.

Back in November, Council pre-approved funding for a study on rental rates in the Town of Lunenburg. Recently we were pleased to hear the Provincial government announce plans for a **Housing Needs Assessment** in all 49 municipalities. We've put our project on hold but kept the funding in place just in case supplemental data is needed.

- 4 Please offer your congratulations to Lunenburg's **2022 Volunteer of the Year, Crispin Cook**. He is well-known in the community for serving his neighbours where and when there is a need, by driving them to appointments, doing their shopping and running their errands, among other activities. He will be honoured at the Provincial Volunteer Awards ceremony in Halifax in September.

- 5 It's good to see requests for **special events** coming in to Council again, most recently for BURG Classic post-game musical celebrations, and for the return of the Lunenburg Heritage 5K Road Race. It's encouraging to see our community becoming active again.

The pandemic may not be over, but we have turned a corner in Nova Scotia this month and for that we have reason to be grateful. Enjoy the improving weather, everyone.

Mayor Matt Risser
Town of Lunenburg