



Welcome to 2026!

As we welcome the New Year, it was great catching up with friends and neighbours at this year's New Year's Day Levees. Thank you to everyone who came out, and a special thanks to the Legion and the Lunenburg & District Fire Department, Districts 1 & 2 Fire Commission for hosting. I always enjoy attending the Levee—it's a wonderful way to start the year by reconnecting as a community.

Looking ahead, 2026 is shaping up to be an exciting year for Lunenburg, with many projects underway and new opportunities on the horizon. I look forward to working together as we continue to build a vibrant, welcoming, and resilient town for residents and visitors alike.

Electrical Utility Update - Last month, Council approved two key motions confirming the Town's continued ownership of the Lunenburg Electrical Utility (LEU) and endorsing a five-year Capital Plan to guide investment and modernization.

The Utility is a huge asset for the community and the future of the LEU has been under review since 2022, with Council assessing options ahead of the 2026 expiry of the current service agreement with Nova Scotia Power. By retaining ownership, Council maintains local oversight of the utility and the flexibility to review future service agreements, to ensure continued, reliable operations.

The approved Capital Plan outlines major projects over the next five years to improve grid performance, upgrade substations and feeders, and support community growth. These investments align with Council's priorities for sustainable infrastructure and long-term service reliability.

The upgrades will double the town's current grid capacity, which is now at its limit, and handle renewable energy like wind and solar.

It was great to see such a strong turnout at the [UNESCO 30th anniversary event](#) at LAMP on December 4. Happy we could recognize some of the people that helped secure the designation back in 1995 and hopefully we all learned a little more about the process and what it means to live in a UNESCO World Heritage Site. That's not the end of the celebrations though – keep an eye open for more UNESCO 30 celebrations later this year.



With more frequent dry and drought-like conditions across Nova Scotia, the Town of Lunenburg is moving ahead with residential water meters. Water metering is a proven way to help reduce overall water use. The data collected from these meters will help identify leaks and track water consumption, supporting more efficient use of our water supply.



Last month, Town of Lunenburg Water Utility customers were notified that they would be receiving a letter from Neptune Technology Group, the company hired to install the new meters. This letter introduces Neptune and includes contact information to book an installation appointment.

Neptune is reaching out to residents in stages to help manage scheduling, so not everyone has received their letter yet. The process began on December 29 and is ongoing. Please be assured that all Town of Lunenburg Water Utility customers will receive a letter in the coming weeks.

If you have any questions about the process, please email them to waterutility@townoflunenburg.ca

I'm excited to report that we filled some important roles at Town Hall in 2025 – including our [new CAO, Paul Nopper](#) and key positions in Recreation, Planning, Public Works and Communications.



Looking forward to what we will be able to accomplish together.

It was fantastic to see so many of you at the [Christmas Parade](#), [Light Up Lunenburg](#) and the Bandstand last month - for the first time in over a year - at the annual Lighting of the Trees.

Thank you to everyone who put the time in to make sure our iconic space was ready for one of our town's favourite events of the season.

One of the highlights of the Town's annual holiday party is the presentation of our Long Service Awards. This year it was my pleasure to recognize Wendy Mills for her 30 years of service with the Town of Lunenburg. Thanks and congratulations Wendy!



Work has begun on the new Harbour View Haven at the Hall Street site. A lot of dirt has to be moved before construction begins, so that area (especially at Victoria Street) will see a lot of construction traffic over the coming months – so please exercise extra caution if you are traveling through the area. You can [learn more about the project here](#).



MAYOR'S MONTHLY UPDATE



An important reminder that we need cars off the streets in order to properly clear them after a snowfall. Our Public Works Department works hard to keep the streets safe and drivable during the winter, so let's do our part by moving cars ahead of a storm. The Town has provided a number of lots where residents who use street parking can move them free of charge.

For more about the Town's Storm/Snow Clearing Parking process, [click here](#).



Capital and Operational Budget Meetings - January marks the start of a new budget planning cycle for the Town, and, recognizing the scope and level of public interest in the budgeting process, it has been decided to move the Budget Meetings (which normally occur during regularly scheduled Council Meetings) to Special Council Meetings, rather than incorporating them into the Regular Council Meetings.

Please note that four new dates have been added to the meeting calendar as follows:

2026/27 Capital Budget

- Mon. Jan.12/26 Special Budget Council Meeting with Capital Presentation & full review
- Mon. Jan.26/26 Special Budget Council Meeting for proposed approval of Capital Budget

2026-27 Operating Budget Schedule Targets

- Mon. Mar.9/26 Special Budget Council Meeting with 26-27 Operating Presentation & full review
- Mon. Mar.23/26 Special Budget Council Meeting for proposed approval 26-27 Operating Budget

All meetings will be open to the public and will take place in the Council Chambers starting at 6pm. The meetings will also be broadcast via Zoom.

In August we saw [the official opening of the first phase of the housing for healthcare workers project](#) at the former Wheelhouse Motel. The project - a collaboration between the Province of Nova Scotia and the Housing Trust of Nova Scotia – provides healthcare workers in Lunenburg more places to call home.

We are thrilled to have this investment in the community. The Wheelhouse project goes a long way to help ensure critical healthcare positions can be filled and to assist in recruiting new health professionals, who otherwise might not have been able to come here.



Affordable Housing Tax Relief Policy - Council approved the Affordable Housing Tax Relief Policy, a new initiative designed to encourage the creation of affordable housing units by private developers. The policy fulfills one of the Town's commitments under its federal Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) agreement.

The policy provides a 10-year, step-down municipal tax credit on the portion of new property taxes tied to affordable units within qualifying developments. This credit begins at 90% in the first two years and decreases gradually until the full tax rate applies after 10 years.

To qualify, projects must include at least three affordable units or 20% of total units, whichever is greater, and those units must remain affordable for the full 10-year period.

Some additional highlights since our last Mayor's Monthly include...

- We celebrated 40 amazing years of the both the Lunenburg Folk Harbour Festival and our incredible Lunenburg Famers' Market (best one on the South Shore) as well as the 10th anniversary of the Lunenburg Literary Festival.



- We had a great showing, [lots of coverage](#) and an even better time hosting this year's Dory Races – we even had a [special guest appearance by Jimmy Tarantino from Survivor](#). Congratulations to all of our amazing participants!



- The Town and the Lunenburg Board of Trade (LBOT) finalized a 10-year lease agreement, which will allow LBOT to move forward with plans for some upgrades to the campsite.

- The new Veterans' Memorial Crosswalk located in front of the Legion was unveiled just in time for Remembrance Day.



- Congratulations to We Feed Lunenburg on the upcoming grand opening of the Lunenburg Community Food Hub!



- A few of our residents opted for retirement over the past few months, including [Cindy & Robert from Mosaic](#) and [Deanna from Sea Side Florist](#), while [Sharon and Guy from the Cranston Gallery](#) have closed their physical location, but don't worry, you'll still be able to find their art online and maybe even in some of the galleries in town. The good news is Kelly will be taking over at Mosaic and exciting new businesses will be going into the Sea Side Florist and Cranston Gallery locations – more on that soon.

