

MAYOR'S MONTHLY UPDATE

APRIL 2022



The 2022/23 fiscal year has begun as of April 1st, and with it a new budget. A 2022/23 Annual Work Plan will follow to track this year's milestones for the Comprehensive Community Plan as well as other Town services.

1 The **2022/23 Town Budget**, including operations and capital budgets for the Town, Electric and Water Utilities, have now all been passed. The process was very smooth this year, and I'd like to thank staff for their hard work in helping Council deliver a balanced and responsive budget. The highlights are available here:

<https://townoflunenburg.ca/town-of-lunenburg-approves-2022-23-town-budget.html>

2 The **Lunenburg Water Utility** has submitted an application for changes in its Water Rates and Regulations to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (UARB). The sustainability of our fresh water source and of our Water Utility are driving a number of studies in this area. The UARB manages the public consultation process, and has scheduled a Public Hearing on August 10, 2022. For more information, visit:

<https://townoflunenburg.ca/public-notice-water-utility.html>

Council also approved the launch of a Universal Water Metering program that will install water meters on residences, enabling the Town to track use vs. production for a water loss control program, encourage water conservation, and ensure all customers are paying fairly for what they use. The program will begin rolling out in 2023/24 and the new billing structure will take effect in 2025/26.

3 An application to build a **new King's Hotel** on the site of the original one at the corner of Pelham and Duke Streets has been received

by the Town. The proposed new build from the Homburg Group, owners of the Lunenburg Arms, and designed by MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple, would have 40 guest rooms. A Public Hearing for a Heritage Certificate of Appropriateness for the design will take place on June 14, 2022. For more on this exciting potential project, visit here:

<https://townoflunenburg.ca/fact-sheet-heritage-application-king-s-hotel.html>

4 I'd like to give a special thank you to the **Fire Districts 1 & 2 Commission** for their partnership in the Lunenburg & District Fire Department. Their 50% financial contribution to the purchase of a replacement rescue truck and an exhaust ventilation system for the station was a great help to the Town. Our agreement is being reviewed and we look forward to a positive outcome extending our collaboration for many years to come.

5 Council approved the rescheduling of a **Bicycle Nova Scotia Pilot Project** from June to October 2022. The project is to install a pop-up bi-directional bike lane and a pedestrian mall on Montague Street. The bike lane will run along the north side of the street from Bluenose Drive to Duke Street, and the open street mall will be in the block between Duke and King. We look forward to seeing the results from this one-month pilot. For more on the project, see the Agenda package from the April 26th Council Meeting:

<https://townoflunenburg.ca/council-meetings-2022.html>

As the weather improves, we will also start to see film and television productions pop up around Town. Keep an eye out for notices on when and where productions will be working to share our beautiful town with the world.

Mayor Matt Risser
Town of Lunenburg