



# Municipal Matters

Spring /Summer, June 2020

## Also in this issue ...

A Note from the Mayor	2
Council meeting schedule	2
New payment method	2 & 3
Low income tax exemptions	3
Changes to billing and due dates	3
Queens Coast brand introduction	4
Municipal election dates to note	4
... And Much More!	

## 2020 - 2021 Budget: Investing in Our Community

The 2020-2021 budget is focused on continuing to make strategic investments in Queens to build sustainability into our communities while enhancing future growth, development and population throughout Queens County. Council recognizes that these are very trying times, and acknowledge that this budget may be adjusted throughout the year in response to community needs. There is no tax rate increase included within this budget for base tax rates on residential, resource, or business properties. There is a one-cent decrease included in the area rate for District 13 (Liverpool). Operating revenue for 2020/2021 is projected to be \$21,105,959,

with expenditures of \$21,101,080, leaving a projected surplus of \$4,879. Within the Capital Budget, there are infrastructure and equipment upgrade expenditures projected of \$4,944,442.

Among the investments Council is making is nearly a half million dollars for improving internet and broadband service, as part of a \$1.9 million project by Bell Canada to connect 1,251 homes. Council will also continue to fund Queens County Transit with \$26,000 this year to continue their county-wide on-demand transit model, with an addition-

al \$25,000 provided to support their application to the Province to purchase a new accessible van.

Funds in the amount of \$596,000 have been allocated to Queens Rails to Trails Association to complete the final two phases of the repairs to the Trestle Trail Bridge in Liverpool. J. W. Murphy Foundation is also a funding partner.

Full details are in the budget and Mayor Dagley's budget address is online at: <https://www.regionofqueens.com/municipal-services/finance/financial-statement/budget>

## Every Cent Counts: Community Investments

*Each dollar collected in taxes funds a wide variety of essential services. The following costs are those that make up a tax dollar.*

<b>Education</b> .....	<b>22.05%</b>
<b>Recreation</b> .....	<b>12.04%</b>
<b>Economic Development</b> .....	<b>6.04%</b>
<b>Planning</b> .....	<b>4.26%</b>
<b>Transportation</b> .....	<b>18.03%</b>
<b>Protective Services</b> .....	<b>24.21%</b>
<b>(includes RCMP 15.8% &amp; Fire Services 7.8%)</b>	
<b>General Government</b> .....	<b>7.05%</b>
<b>Investment in Reserves</b> .....	<b>6.32%</b>

## 2020 - 2021 Water and Sewer Infrastructure Upgrades

Two areas of Queens have been included in the 2020/2021 Capital Budget to have water and sewer system upgrades.

On May 4, work began on the Jubilee Street Rehabilitation Project in Liverpool, which is expected to be completed by early fall. During this construction period, sewer, water, storm, curb/gutter, sidewalks and retaining walls will be installed, utility poles relocated, and paving completed. During the construction period, Jubilee Street will remain closed to traffic, and the Royal Bank parking lot will be accessible from Gorham Street only. This \$650,000 project is funded by Federal Gas Tax funds, and has no impact on municipal sewer rates.

Once the underground servicing on the Jubilee Street Rehabilitation Project is well underway, the final stage of the Brooklyn Water and Sewer project will commence where it left off at Brooklyn Marina, and proceed to the Government Wharf Road. Expansion of sewage treatment from Liverpool into Brooklyn began in 2003, with the purpose to remove residential properties from discharging sewage to the harbour and provide clean, safe drinking water. This year's phase of the project is budgeted at \$643,000, to be paid through long term borrowing, financed through reserves, which are reserves that are funded by users of the sewer system, and has no impact on the municipal tax rates.

Category	2020/2021 Rate District 1 – 12 (per \$100 assessment)	2020/2021 Rate District 13 (Liverpool) (per \$100 assessment)
Residential & Resource Rates	\$1.06 (\$1.03 base rate + \$0.03 area rate)	\$1.93 (\$1.03 base rate + \$0.90 area rate)
Commercial Rate	\$2.16 (\$2.13 base rate + \$0.03 area rate)	\$3.03 (\$2.13 base rate + \$0.90 area rate)
Area Rate in District 5 & 6	\$0.06 (\$0.045 Brooklyn Recreation Committee, and \$0.015 Brooklyn Cemetery Committee)	



## Message from Mayor David Dagley

Over the past several months, the world has changed in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic, and Queens County has changed along with it. The adaptability, compassion and empathy our citizens have shown in these challenging times has made me very proud. Though the public health directives have caused great changes in our routines, separation from friends and family, and in some cases, loss of income, Queens County has continued to be resilient and strong, welcoming and friendly. I am proud of how citizens have come together to support each other, while maintaining physical distancing, staying connected while staying apart, and doing their part to adapt to the changes our business community has faced and shopping locally. When faced with adversity, our citizens persevered once again.

Respectful of the impacts felt locally as a result of the pandemic, Council made adjustments to all the billing and due dates for payments. This year's tax bills will be mailed at the beginning of June, and due on July 31. We encourage those residents who are able to pay their tax bill upon receipt to do so. Many of our residents and business owners are experiencing financial pressures; if you are unable to pay your taxes by the due date, payment arrangements can be discussed with our Finance Department staff to prevent falling behind on your taxes.

As the risks decrease and the provincial public health regulations change, we will continue to keep you apprised of the changes, locally and provincially. Click on the COVID-19 button on our website for up to date details. Stay safe!

### Community Investment Fund Operating Grants Awarded

At the April 14, 2020 Council meeting, funding approval was given to 8 community organizations in the Operating Grants category of the Community Investment Fund. To date this year, 10 groups have been awarded \$50,932.61 in funding. The following organizations were provided grants:

Community Food Resource Network	\$ 5,000
Friends of Hank Snow Society	\$10,000
Mersey Band Society	\$ 5,000
Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute	\$ 2,347
Milton Heritage Society	\$ 600
North Queens Board of Trade	\$ 7,034
Privateer Farmers' Market Cooperative	\$ 950
Queens County Blades	up to \$ 5,000
Queens County Fair Association	\$10,000
Queens County Museum	\$ 5,000

At the February 25, 2020 Council meeting, CIF funding of up to \$99,750 was approved for Autism NS Queens Universally Designed Play Park project.

In providing non-profit organizations with Operating grants, the goal is to make inclusive, sustainable investments throughout all of Queens County, according to established policies and procedures, and the unique needs of each community and organization.

### Welcome to Queens ... We're Glad You're Here!

Are you a new resident of Queens County? We'd be happy to meet you, give you a warm Queens County welcome, and provide you with some useful information to help you while you acclimatize to your new community. To request a package for yourself or a newcomer, contact Heather Cook, Communications & Engagement Coordinator, phone: 902-354-5741 or email: [hcook@regionofqueens.com](mailto:hcook@regionofqueens.com).

### Councillor Contact Information

<b>Councillor Kevin Muise</b> , Dist. 1:	902-683-2207
<b>Deputy Mayor Heather Kelly</b> , Dist. 2:	902-350-3663
<b>Councillor Brian Fralic</b> , Dist. 3:	902-350-0870
<b>Councillor Susan MacLeod</b> , Dist. 4:	902-354-4280, Cell Phone: 902-350-0334
<b>Councillor Jack Fancy</b> , Dist. 5:	902-354-7216, Cell Phone: 902-350-3905
<b>Councillor Raymond Fiske</b> , Dist. 6:	902-685-2990
<b>Councillor Gil Johnson</b> , Dist. 7:	902-521-4235
<b>Mayor David Dagley</b>	902-354-3453, Home Phone: 902-354-4991

### Council Meeting Schedule

Region of Queens Municipality's Council meets monthly on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 9 a.m. While physical distancing and gathering limits are in place, Council meetings will be held virtually using the free software program Zoom. Residents wishing to watch/listen to the meetings may contact Heather Cook to receive the meeting link details - [hcook@regionofqueens.com](mailto:hcook@regionofqueens.com) phone 902-354-5741 by 4 p.m. the day prior to the Council meeting. Please check our website, Facebook or Twitter pages for updates, as the public health restrictions change regarding COVID-19. If you are unable to participate, and have a question, please reach out to your Councillor or Mayor Dagley, and they can bring your question forward. Council agendas are posted by noon Friday prior to a Council meeting <https://www.regionofqueens.com/council-governance/council-agendas-minutes-audio> along with minutes and audio recordings of previous meetings.



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Payments for the following can now be made with a credit card

Water/Sewer	Dog Registration
Taxes	Parking Tickets
Hillsview Acres	Permits
Solid Waste	Tax Certificates



Region of Queens Municipality  
2020-2021 BILLING AND DUE DATE CHANGES



Due to recent local impacts resulting from COVID-19, Council has authorized the following billing schedule for the next five months from April to August 2020.

Service	Current Billing	New Billing
Dog Tags	Dog registration letters are sent on April 1st with payment due upon receipt.	Dog registration letters will be sent on June 1st with a due date of June 30th. Current tags will be valid until June 30th.
Vending Permits	Issued throughout the year.	Vending permit applications will be available June 1st. Applicants must show proof of knowledge of and adherence to provincial directives and rules.
Taxi's	Issued throughout the year.	Taxi licenses previously issued in 2019/2020 will be valid until July 31st.
Property Taxes	Bills are issued at the end of May and are due upon receipt, with no interest charged if paid by June 30th.	Bills will be mailed in early June with due date of July 31, 2020.
Parking Meters	Parking meters at 25 cents per 15 minutes and timed parking for cars over designated time is fined at \$10.	Parking at meters is now being enforced, effective June 1st.
Water / Sewer	Next billing period for mid-November to mid-February is scheduled to be issued on March 30th with a due date of April 30th.	Billing of water and sewer for mid-November to mid-February will be issued on April 30th with a due date of May 31st. Next bill normally mailed on July 1st will not have interest applied until August 31st.
Queens Place Emera Centre Memberships	PAD payments are charged on each person's billing date each month. Some facility users have cards that have no expiry and can be used when facility opens.	All memberships will all be extended by two weeks resulting from mid-March closure. No PAD payments were withdrawn from membership accounts during April, May or June. Those that have prepaid annual memberships will have membership benefits extended by 14 weeks.
Solid Waste	Commercial users of Queens Solid Waste Management Facility are billed on or before the 10th of each month for use during the previous month.	Commercial users will continue to be billed as usual on or before the 10th of each month for the previous month.
Septage	Commercial users of Queens Septage Disposal Facility are billed at the beginning of each month for use during the previous month.	Commercial users will continue to be billed as usual on or before the 10th of each month for the previous month.
Queens Place Emera Centre Advertising	Businesses are billed on April 1st for signage advertising within the facility for 2020-2021 fiscal year.	Businesses will be billed on June 1st with a due date of June 30, 2020.

\* Subject to change, or extension

### LOW INCOME TAX EXEMPTIONS

Tax exemptions of \$250 for 2020-2021 property taxes are available for households with combined incomes less than \$24,576, subject to the application guidelines. If you think you may qualify this year, please contact the Finance Department at 902-354-3453 to obtain an application or download the pdf by visiting: <https://www.regionofqueens.com/municipal-services/finance/property-taxes/tax-exemptions> **Application Deadline: February 28, 2021**

is a convenient way to receive your bills on the internet! Sign up at [epost.ca](http://epost.ca)

When you receive your bill, you can pay by mail (Cheque), at Canadian banks, in-person or online. For online banking, use your 6 digit "customer number" starting with a 6 and add four zeros. (ie. 00006). Following are the banks RQM is registered with, and how we are listed :

- \* BMO: Region of Queens Municipality –Tax
- \* CIBC: Region of Queens Mun. Tax
- \* RBC: Queens (Municipality)(Taxes) (NS)
- \* SCOTIA BANK: Queens (Region) Taxes
- \* TD Canada Trust: Queens (Municipality) of Taxes

**We are pleased to provide a number of easy to use payment options: mail by cheque, in-person, (NEW) credit card via Paymentus (service fee applicable) or online banking. Contact 902-354-3453 for details.**

# 2020 MUNICIPAL ELECTION



Region of Queens Municipality

## OCTOBER 17, 2020

Across Nova Scotia on October 17, 2020, municipal elections will be held, and residents will vote to determine their local representatives on Municipal Councils. Voters in Region of Queens Municipality will elect a Mayor and also one Councillor for each of our seven electoral districts.

### What are the Qualifications to Run for Council?

In order to run for Council (Mayor or Councillor) you must:

- Be 18 years of age at the time of nomination
- Be a Canadian citizen
- Be ordinarily resident in the Municipality for 6 months preceding nomination day (by March 17, 2020), and continue to so reside
- Ensure that all municipal charges that are taxes and liens that are due have been fully paid as of nomination day. A certificate to this effect must be signed by a municipal official who is qualified to do so
- A nomination deposit of \$200 is required
- You do not need to reside in the polling district of the municipality in which you wish to seek election, as long as you meet the residency requirement of six months in Queens County

### Key Dates for Quick Reference

- **March 17, 2020:** Residency required to qualify as candidate in Queens County
- **September 8, 2020:** Nomination Day  
(Aug. 27 - Sept. 8, 2020 -nomination can be filed by appointment with the Returning Officer in the seven business days prior to Nomination Day)
- **October 8, 2020:** First Advance Poll
- **October 13, 2020:** Second Advance Poll
- **October 17, 2020:** Election Day

In the months leading up to the election, we will be posting information about the election, to inform residents considering becoming a candidate for Mayor or Councillor, and also to advise voters of candidates, where and when they can vote, and other pertinent information. Information will be posted on our website, Facebook and Twitter pages.

To receive an information package, please contact Shelley Connolly, Assistant Returning Officer: [sconnolly@regionofqueens.com](mailto:sconnolly@regionofqueens.com)  
phone: 902-354-3453

## RECYCLING— WHERE DOES IT GO? THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

Take the guesswork out of recycling. Never miss a collection day. Get notifications about your next collection day and special collection days. R6RECYCLES app is available on Region of Queens' website, and for download for Android and Apple devices. Search "R6RECYCLES" to download and install this app to your smart phone or tablet. Receive reminders even if you don't have a smartphone or computer! Ask us how at 902-354-3455.



Region of Queens Municipality

249 White Point Road, P. O. Box 1264, Liverpool, NS B0T 1K0

Phone: 902-354-3453 Fax: 902-354-7473 E-mail: [info@regionofqueens.com](mailto:info@regionofqueens.com)

We're happy to present Queens Coast as the new brand for Region of Queens Municipality. In developing it, we reached out to

our community for their insight and unique perceptions. In those public engagement sessions and in our online survey, we asked everyone: *what's the **one** thing Queens County has, or does better than anywhere else in Nova Scotia?*

Overwhelmingly, our natural environment was the dominant theme, with the most common specific reference being our beaches. Aligning the brand with something that we're proud of, something we feel we do better than anywhere else, made sense and gives our brand authenticity.

In a province full of natural beauty, we think Queens Coast stands out as the pinnacle. From our richly diverse Acadian forests surrounding a myriad of glimmering lakes, the waters flow down powerful rivers to exquisite coastline. Since time immemorial, travelers have journeyed these waterways. Then, as now, our tagline, "seek nature's rewards", invites people to explore, and venture just a little further to discover the unrivalled natural beauty of Queens Coast.

Over the coming months, as the brand is implemented, there will be changes being rolled out, as we switch over to the new logo and tagline.

Have you considered a Queens Coast staycation? Explore all corners of the Region, supporting local businesses, and see Queens Coast as visitors do!

## COVID-19 INFORMATION & UPDATES

During the COVID-19 global pandemic, access to reliable, factual information is important. A page on our website features up-to-date, fact based information about the situation locally here in Queens County, as well as information from Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness, support programs for individuals and businesses from Municipal, Provincial and Federal sources and more.

If you know of residents without internet, you can request that they receive information by calling Heather Cook, Communications and Engagement Coordinator, at 902-354-5741. When you see the graphic above on our website, [www.regionofqueens.com](http://www.regionofqueens.com), click it for current information.



Queens Coast