

WARDEN'S REPORT

FOR THE MONTH OF:

MAY/JUNE 2025

May 14, 2025 – NSFM Zoom meeting with Mayors and Wardens to discuss the Provincial Action Plan. Gordon Smith explained that this plan offers funding for consultant services for municipalities to support the development of guidelines for our by-laws related to coastal protection. All municipalities/towns are different in terms of planning for coastal protection; for some it's coastal erosion, others flooding. Regional planning may be beneficial to obtain more support. Gordon Smith can come to our municipalities to explain this Plan.

May 15, 2025 - Presentation at Plymouth School grades 3-5 “What does a Municipal Councillor do?” Presented to 3 separate groups of students about Municipal Government and what Councillors do. Students had great questions and were very excited to know that we support recreation and sports in their communities.

Regular Council meeting – focus was on passing the Operating Budget. Due to increased costs, specifically in policing and solid waste collection, we had a shortfall of around \$450, 000 and in order to fund this shortfall, council decided to transfer \$330, 000 from reserves as well as increase the tax rate by 2 cents for residential properties.

May 16, 2025 - Gave opening remarks from our municipality at the Mariners Centre for the Opening of 40e Jeux Régionaux de l'Acadie.

May 20, 2025 - Meeting with Minister Smith and Bruce Hancock from the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture: Discussed upcoming next steps for ADA approvals. The first site should be announced in July and thereafter, residents will have 30 days to submit comments. We do not have a concrete date yet, nor do we not know which site will be announced first. The Province was very clear that the ADA is regulated by the Province. They have directed us to forward all questions/concerns to the Province. They have committed to coming to our area to have a question and answer session with residents regarding ADA. Location and time to be determined.

May 22, 2025 - *Special Council meeting*: The purpose was to pass our capital reserve budget and grants to organizations budget.

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May 26, 2025 – *Yarmouth Area Industrial Commission*: Quick meeting to review the budget and financial request from YASTA for cruise ships coming this summer. MODA needs another member for YAIC.

May 28-June 2, 2025 - *FCM in Ottawa* – This was my first FCM and it did not disappoint. The networking was such a valuable part of the conference and it makes us realize that throughout the country, we are facing similar issues; housing, climate change, cost of living increases. I attended several sessions but the highlight was on how to handle misinformation and disinformation. Many municipalities are going through this as well. But the message was clear that because we are public servants, it does not give the public the right to treat us with disrespect and spread disinformation about the council. There was also much conversation about the importance of self-reliance as a country, province and municipalities. I was able to have a conversation with councillors in a municipality in New Brunswick who have oyster farming as an industry. They could not rave enough about the growth it has brought to their community and how it provides jobs and stability for their residents. It reconfirmed for me the importance of the ADA in our municipality and that we made the right decision. The tradeshow was excellent as well.

June 4, 2025 - *Barb's Bench*: I spoke on behalf of the Municipality about the importance of raising awareness for domestic and gender-based violence and our participation in the Barb's Bench project.