

Committee of Whole Report: November 18, 2025 (Brenda Chisholm-Beaton)

October 23rd – Investors Summit (Baddeck at the Inverary Inn) hosted by the Cape Breton Partnership.

I had the opportunity to attend the Cape Breton Partnership’s Investor Summit—an annual gathering that brings together business leaders, municipal representatives, industry partners, and community stakeholders from across Cape Breton–Unama’ki. The event served as a valuable forum for discussing the region’s economic priorities, strengthening partnerships, and exploring new opportunities for collaborative growth.

Throughout the day, attendees received updates on ongoing economic development initiatives across the Island, including work in emerging sectors such as clean energy, workforce development, tourism, digital innovation, and infrastructure investment. Presentations highlighted success stories from local businesses and organizations, emphasizing the momentum being built through shared vision and coordinated regional efforts.

Networking sessions allowed municipal partners—including the Town of Port Hawkesbury—to connect directly with investors, industry experts, and provincial and federal representatives. These conversations were especially beneficial in identifying opportunities that align with Port Hawkesbury’s strategic priorities, from supporting business expansion to advancing regional transportation, energy projects, and workforce retention.

The Summit reinforced the importance of collaboration across communities. The message was clear: Cape Breton–Unama’ki is strongest when we work together. The ideas exchanged and relationships renewed during the Summit will help guide continued economic growth, strengthen our regional voice, and ensure that communities like Port Hawkesbury remain active partners in shaping the Island’s future.

October 27th – Strait Area Chiefs Mayors and Wardens Memorandum of Understanding Sub-committee (Port of Antwerp-Brouge). Sub-committee members from Paqtneke, Richmond and Port Hawkesbury attended along with Energy Manager Martin Tompson. We finalized recommendations to move forward to the next meeting of the Strait Area Chiefs Mayors and Wardens for November.

October 30th – Met with Warden Lois Landry of Richmond County (Vice-Chair) to create an agenda for the upcoming meeting of the Strait Area Chiefs Mayors and Wardens. I serve the group as the Chair.

October 31st – I met with Legion President, Warren Willis, who presented the First Poppy to the office of the Mayor of the Town of Port Hawkesbury. We also coordinated on social media posts.

November 4th – NSFM Board Meeting (held in Halifax). Note: this is my last NSFM meeting as my current role as past-President is completed by the time that the NSFM Fall Convention is completed.

November 4th to 7th - NSFM Fall Convention (Halifax). I attended the Conference with Councillor Todd Barrett.

The Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) 2025 Fall Conference brought together municipal leaders, provincial partners, and sector experts from across the province to discuss the most pressing issues facing municipalities today. The conference provided an important platform for collaboration, learning, and collective advocacy on matters that directly impact communities large and small.

This year's program featured sessions on housing and infrastructure challenges, emergency management, climate adaptation, municipal finance, and the evolving legislative landscape for local governments. Delegates had the opportunity to hear from provincial ministers, policy specialists, and municipal colleagues, ensuring that municipalities remain informed and well-positioned to navigate emerging responsibilities and opportunities.

Having representatives from the **Town of Port Hawkesbury** in attendance was especially valuable. Participation ensured that our community's voice was included in province-wide discussions, allowing us to both learn from others and share our own local experiences. It also strengthened our ability to advocate for Port Hawkesbury's priorities—whether in areas such as sustainable infrastructure, roads imbalance as a town, economic development, housing supply, and responsible municipal governance.

Equally important were the networking and relationship-building opportunities. Engaging directly with provincial officials, NSFM leadership, and municipal counterparts helped reinforce partnerships that support long-term planning and collaborative problem-solving. The insights gained and connections made at the conference will assist Port Hawkesbury in advancing its strategic goals and remaining an active leader within Nova Scotia's municipal landscape.

Overall, the NSFM Fall Conference underscored the importance of continued municipal engagement, and the Town's participation ensures that Port Hawkesbury stays informed, connected, and well-represented on issues that shape our community's future. It was a

pleasure to participate with Councillor Barrett, and I look forward to future opportunities to engage with NSFM.

Note: As outgoing Past-President of NSFM I also preformed some NSFM Conference responsibilities like delivering reports at the AGM, chairing a portion of the AGM and attending our annual Fall Board meeting.

November 7th – Legion Remembrance Day Dinner – I had the honour of attending the Remembrance Day Dinner at the head table to represent the Town of Port Hawkesbury. It was a wonderful meal which was prepared and served by the Girl Guides who did a fantastic job.

November 11th – Remembrance Day Service – I had the honour of delivering remarks at the Remembrance Day Ceremony held (due to weather) at the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre. It was well attended and very well done considering the change in venue.

November 12th – Strait Area Chiefs Mayors and Wardens Meeting. I chaired this meeting with the assistance of the Vice-Chair Warden Lois Landry of Richmond County. We began with a round-table update of each of the participating communities. We also spoke on the following topics: (a) Terms of Reference for the group (which was adopted) and a new vice-chair was elected for the next meeting (Warden James Fuller – District of St Mary’s) and Warden Landry will chair the next meeting. Port Hawkesbury also noted that we’d be happy to continue to serve as a central venue for all participants. (b) MOU subcommittee recommendation which was to continue with interested First Nation Communities and Municipalities and when possible – update progress to the Strait Area Chiefs Mayors and Wardens (but no longer as a sub-committee). (c) Strait Area Advocacy Day (date tbd – likely in late Spring) – the idea is to bring together federal and provincial colleagues who serve the strait together to discuss Strait regional interests. (d) Zoning challenges were discussed and some municipalities shared their direct challenges. (e) Emergency management – some discussion around the risk of having an aging transportation corridor – the Canso Causeway – garnered some conversation about coordinating as a region through incremental weather and/or disruptions for repairs.

November 12th-14th – Marine Renewables Canada 2025 Conference (Halifax). A report was submitted to Council that details our participation in this Conference. **ABSTRACT:** This conference is the largest national gathering focused on marine renewable energy — including offshore wind, tidal, wave, and river current energy. It attracted approximately 800 Delegates both nationally and internationally. Port Hawkesbury has a clear and compelling opportunity to engage meaningfully in the Marine Renewables sector — not just as a bystander but as a participant. With thoughtful planning, engagement, and strategic

investment, we can position ourselves to benefit from the growing marine energy economy and contribute to Canada's clean energy future. (for more details see: Report).

November 17th – Restorative Justice Flag Raising – held at noontime with members/staff of the Restorative justice Team. I was honoured to also read the proclamation prior to the flag raising.

November 17th – IDEA Committee Meeting – we discussed the plan and community engagement for the new year as well as welcoming events and Truth and reconciliation events/actions. We also discussed plans for social media and other engagement.