

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Town of Port Hawkesbury Reflects on a Productive and Transformational 2025**

**Port Hawkesbury, NS** — The Town of Port Hawkesbury is marking the close of 2025 as a year of challenge, progress, and significant achievement across governance, infrastructure, community and economic development, and municipal services.

“While 2025 brought its share of challenges, it was also a year defined by strong collaboration, careful planning, and meaningful results,” said Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton. “We continue to be a *Town on the Move*. Council and staff remained focused on growth, which means building a stronger, more inclusive, and more resilient and prosperous Port Hawkesbury. The achievements of 2025 will pave the way for more growth in 2026, and we are excited for the year to come.”

Council completed a comprehensive strategic planning process early in its term, establishing priorities for 2024–2028 focused on community development, housing, economic development, and organizational excellence and leadership. As part of this work, the Town streamlined its advisory committee structure into two new committees—*Growing Port Hawkesbury* and *Community Development*—bringing together residents, subject matter experts, councillors, and staff to advance key initiatives.

Town officials and senior staff have also taken a proactive, hands-on approach throughout the year, quite literally “pounding the pavement” to meet directly with federal and provincial counterparts, with prospective and existing developers, with local businesses, and with residents. These in-person meetings have focused on advancing Town priorities and municipal files, housing projects, supporting business development and expansion, and responding to the specific needs of community members. This approach has strengthened relationships, accelerated decision-making, and reinforced the Town’s commitment to being accessible, responsive, and solution oriented.

Major milestones in 2025 included the opening of the new Public Works Building, completion of the Town’s Water System Upgrade and new Pitt Street water tower, significant improvements at the Dan Willie MacDonald Memorial Ball Field, and continued investment in roads, sidewalks, active transportation, and recreation facilities.

Recreation, culture, and community events continued to thrive, with the Granville Green Concert Series once again drawing large crowds and contributing to local economic activity. New and expanded programming, including Sensory Santa, First Night celebrations, and enhanced aquatics and recreation services, ensured year-round opportunities for residents of all ages.

The Town also maintained a strong financial position, receiving another clean audit and ending the year with a surplus. Significant capital investment—leveraging millions in external funding—allowed Port Hawkesbury to advance critical infrastructure projects while maintaining stable tax rates and service levels.

Other highlights included growth at the Allan J. MacEachen Airport, progress on regional water planning through the Landrie Lake Water Utility, new waterfront tenants, continued accessibility improvements guided by the IDEA Committee, and steady residential and commercial development throughout the community, including new businesses and new housing developments.

“These accomplishments reflect the dedication of our Town Council, our Town staff, the engagement of our volunteers and committee members, and the trust of our residents,” added Mayor Chisholm-Beaton. “As we move into 2026, we do so with momentum, optimism, and a clear vision for Port Hawkesbury’s future growth and progress.”

For more information, visit [www.porthawkesbury.ca](http://www.porthawkesbury.ca) or follow the Town of Port Hawkesbury on social media. Direct contact can be made to:

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