



Town of Port Hawkesbury

Mayor's Report to Council and Community March/April 2026

Presented at the joint Council and Committee of the Whole – May 5, 2026

Allan J MacEachen Regional Airport Committee

This committee meets to oversee the governance and ongoing operations and infrastructure needs of the Allan J Airport (Inverness, Port Hawkesbury, Richmond County).

- April 15th
-

Eastern District Planning Commission

These meeting provide a venue to receive updates from the Executive Director of EDPC John Bain on governance, EDPC business continuity, board issues, and planning projects and file updates.

- March 12th
 - April 23rd
-

Everwind Community Liaison Meeting

These meeting provide a venue to receive updates from Everwind staff on progress of the Green Hydrogen and Wind projects - and - all members had an opportunity to provide updates – for example I usually provide updates from the Town of Port Hawkesbury. (like the pending New Dawn/At Home housing development for 55 units and the Craig MacDonald 16-unit complex - noting that the increased availability of housing will help the Everwind project success).

- February 18th Meeting
- Next meeting is set for May 20th

Green Hydrogen/Wind Projects Strait Regional Debrief

We continue to do monthly (when possible) calls to debrief and update on the progress being made in the Strait region on these two important files. This is an important opportunity to touch base with Provincial staff on these files and offer updates regarding the participating municipalities in the Strait.

- March 5
- April 2nd
- Next Meeting is set for May 8th

Grow Port Hawkesbury Advisory Committee

Our Grow Port Hawkesbury Advisory Committee meets every month (first Wednesday of each month) and are dedicated to researching, exploring and progressing any and all revenue generating opportunities for the Town of Port Hawkesbury. Some of the critical files we discuss each meeting and that we work on between meetings are around housing, business development, the genesis of a developers event, offshore wind (we are working on progressing the Renewable Energy sub-committee this Spring/Summer), opportunities around Canada's defence build-out, economic partnerships with Indigenous communities, improving Town esthetics, marketing, port development, and more.

- March 4th (full committee)
- March 11th (joint full committee meeting with Community Development)
- April 1st (full committee)
- April 23 (site tour of new apartment complex)
- April 27th (Wind Europe Debrief with Executive members)

Grow Port Hawkesbury: Defence File

Executive members of Grow Port Hawkesbury met several times throughout the month of February/March and into April regarding the opportunities around defence. We've been collaborating with Potlotek First Nation on these discussions/research and engagement with support organizations, industry, federal staff (MP office), federal staff (Minister Fraser's office). Note: we have been meeting more frequently to prepare for participation in the upcoming CANSEC conference (Canada's leading defence, security & emerging technology event) held on MAY 27-28, 2026 at the EY Centre, in OTTAWA (attending with Potlotek

economic development officer Tahirih Paul). I will be asking Council to consider a letter of support to include in our promotional materials for the conference.

- February 18th
- February 20th
- February 26th
- March 11th
- March 12th
- March 18th
- March 20th
- March 25th
- April 9th
- May 4th

IDEA Committee (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Accessibility)

Our committee has committed to meeting more frequently due to the many storms on Mondays that pushed our meetings to be rescheduled only to be met with more storms.

Over the past three months we have been meeting a mix of weekly and bi-weekly. Some of our key focuses are on building back out social media engagement, creating a social media plan/engagement posts, and planning a community engagement event in the Fall (2026) like an open house – also looking at the potential to partner with Yreach on a welcoming event in the fall. We discussed doing some activities in June to celebrate Pride month and International Indigenous Day (more details to come).

- March 2nd
- March 16th
- April 6th
- April 13th
- May 4th
- Next meeting is set for May 11th

Strait of Canso Offshore Wind Task Force

(Co-chairs – Deputy Warden Amanda Mombourquette and Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton) Nova Scotia is pursuing offshore wind development as a renewable resource that will produce green energy at the scale required to meet market demands. The development of 5 GW of offshore wind in Nova Scotia by 2030 will increase access to clean energy for

Canadians, contribute to Canada's 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan, and create clean fuel exports to stimulate economic growth and provide Canada's international partners with reliable, secure energy. The Strait of Canso has extraordinary technical offshore wind resources, combined with proximity to international markets, an ice-free, deep-water port, and the capacity to build the workforce required for industry success. The Strait of Canso Offshore Wind Task Force was created to pursue the opportunities that these competitive advantages provide, to ready the region and its stakeholders for an emerging offshore wind industry that is developed in a responsible, sustainable, and inclusive way.

The Strait of Canso Offshore Wind Task Force is a volunteer-led initiative, comprised of a diverse membership. Since it began, the Task Force has represented the socioeconomic interests of the Strait region, by facilitating early engagement and promoting the Strait of Canso's profile and competitive advantages at a regional, national, and international level. The Task Force has advocated for, and participated in, the development of regulations for the offshore wind industry in Nova Scotia alongside the provincial and federal governments. Together, the membership continues to support responsible and inclusive development of the offshore wind industry in the Strait Area.

- **March 4 (executive meeting)**
 - **Next Meeting is May 12th**
-

Meetings and Engagement

- **MacLean Family Representative:** Met on March 3rd to review the civic and the commercial naming policy.
- **Visitor Information Centre:** On March 6th we met with former employees to discuss the impacts of the closure in Port Hastings (attended with Deputy Mayor Barrett).
- **MLA Kyle MacQuarrie:** Met with MLA on March 7th on a variety of files including VIC closures, Provincial applications, and more.
- **Supper Meeting with Sustainable Jobs Partnership Council** – hosted on March 25th in partnership with Richmond and the Town of Port Hawkesbury.
- **Preparation Call with Panel colleagues (smart energy conference)** Held online on March 30th
- **Seeking Council Radio Interview – Mainstreet** – March 30th.
- **Developer Meeting** – Held on April 1st hybrid (online and in-person).

- **Participated in the opening of the Provincial U18AA women's Hockey playoffs and did the puck drop** – Held at the Civic Centre on April 3rd.
- **Land Meeting** – Held on April 8th at the Municipal Offices.
- **Developer Meeting** – Held on April 8th at the Municipal Offices.
- **NSCC Municipal Leaders Partnership Table** – Held on April 10th at the Strait Area Nova Scotia Community College Campus led by principal Vivek Saxena. It was a great opportunity to get updates regarding the campus and have the opportunity to ask questions.
- **Techsploration Emcee** – Held on April 17th and the Nova Scotia Community College Strait Area Campus – over 100 grade 9,10 and 11 techsplorers who are learning from mentors all about math science technology and other careers that are typically dominantly occupied by men. I am always happy to participate as an Emcee each spring when it is hosted in the Strait.
- **Organizing Meeting to plan Developer visit in April** – Held April 27th (virtual).
- **Budget Meeting – Town of Port Hawkesbury** – Held April 28th (follow-up information to be circulated and follow-up meeting set for May 5th)

Pitu'paq

This is an island-wide collaborative committee that focuses on the protection of the Island of Unama'kik/Cape Breton and includes all 5 First Nation local representatives as well as all 5 Municipal representatives.

- March 30th
- April 27th

Travel – Conferences, Meetings and Engagement

- Tourism Summit for Unima'kik Tourism (Membertou) – attended on March 4th and 5th to participate in partner roundtables, expo and gala.
- Smart Energy Conference – April 13-15th - Report is submitted with the Public Meeting Package. – Note: I was a panel presenter as well as an attendee.
- NSF Spring Convention – April 29th to May 1st – Held in Yarmouth – Report is submitted with the Public Meeting Agenda.