

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS

Port Hawkesbury, NS – September 10, 2026

Community Update – September 4–5 Severe Rainfall Event

The severe rainfall event that affected Port Hawkesbury and much of Cape Breton on September 4 and 5 resulted in significant impacts throughout the region. In Port Hawkesbury, some residents experienced basement flooding, sewer backups, surface flooding, and property damage. We recognize how difficult, costly and disruptive this has been for those affected, particularly for residents who have experienced flooding at their property during previous rainfall events. Local rainfall information reviewed by the Town indicates in excess of 160 mm of rain fell in the Port Hawkesbury area, with the most intense rainfall occurring Friday evening. Town Public Works and Operations staff were active throughout the event, to monitor conditions and infrastructure and to help ensure public safety.

The Town is Taking Action

The Town has retained STRUM as an independent engineering consultant to undertake a focused stormwater assessment, with particular attention to the Tamarac Heights subdivision area where a concentration of flooding concerns was reported. The initial review of existing engineering information, drawings, drainage infrastructure, and available information from the September 4–5 event is underway. Beginning Friday, September 11, STRUM engineers, supported by Town staff, will also conduct field investigations in affected areas.

The purpose of this work is to better understand the conditions experienced during the storm, assess the performance and capacity of the existing stormwater system, and identify practical opportunities for improvement. It is important that this review be completed before conclusions are drawn about the cause of flooding at individual properties. Water can enter a property through several different pathways, and circumstances can vary from one location to another.

Information from Residents

Residents who experienced basement flooding, sewer backups, or other significant water-related impacts during the September 4–5 event are encouraged to provide information to:

[**EMO@townofporthawkesbury.ca**](mailto:EMO@townofporthawkesbury.ca)

Please include your name, civic address, telephone number, a brief description of what occurred, how the water appeared to enter the property if known, photographs if available, and whether you would permit Town staff and the engineering consultant to access your property if a site visit would assist the review. Information provided by residents will help inform the engineering review by identifying affected areas, recurring concerns and the circumstances experienced during the storm. The focus of the review is the performance and

capacity of municipal stormwater infrastructure in the area, rather than a detailed assessment of each individual property. Where helpful to the overall review, Town staff and the engineering consultant may arrange a site visit with affected residents.

The Town is interested in hearing from residents who have experienced similar flooding previously, as that history may help identify recurring conditions requiring further investigation. The Town takes these concerns seriously. Our priority is to gather the facts, complete the engineering assessment, and identify appropriate next steps based on the findings. These may include targeted infrastructure improvements or longer-term capital upgrade needs for system resiliency due to increasing climate related events.

Further information will be provided to residents and Council as the engineering work progresses.

Terry Doyle, P.Eng.

Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Port Hawkesbury