

TOWN OF BERWICK
Committee of the Whole Meeting
November 23, 2021 - 6:30pm
AGENDA
Via Webex Conference

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Approval of Previous Minutes**
4. **Presenter: Michael Getchell, Manager Kings Transit**
5. **Departmental Reports**
 - a. RCMP *Attached*
 - b. BDVFD *Attached*
 - c. Active Living *Attached*
 - d. Recreation *Attached*
 - e. Economic Dev. *Attached*
 - f. Finance *Handout*
 - g. Public Works *Attached*
 - h. CAO *Attached*
6. **New Business:**
 - a. Tax Bylaw Amendment (Forthcoming)
 - b. Tax Reduction Policy *Attached*
 - c. Financial Report (Forthcoming)
7. **Mayor/Councillor Reports**
 - a. Councillor Trinacty (forthcoming)
 - b. Councillor Goddard (verbal)
 - c. Mayor Clarke
8. **Adjournment**

Berwick Policing Report October 2021



***Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Kings District***

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Kings District Employees

Inspector Kurtis Kamotzki, Kings District Commander.

Forty general duty constables police Kings District as first responders. These officers are supervised by 8 corporals, 2 sergeants and 1 staff sergeant.

Kings East School Safety Resource Officer is Cst. Jennifer Britton.
Kings West School Safety Resource Officer is Cst. Jeff Wilson.

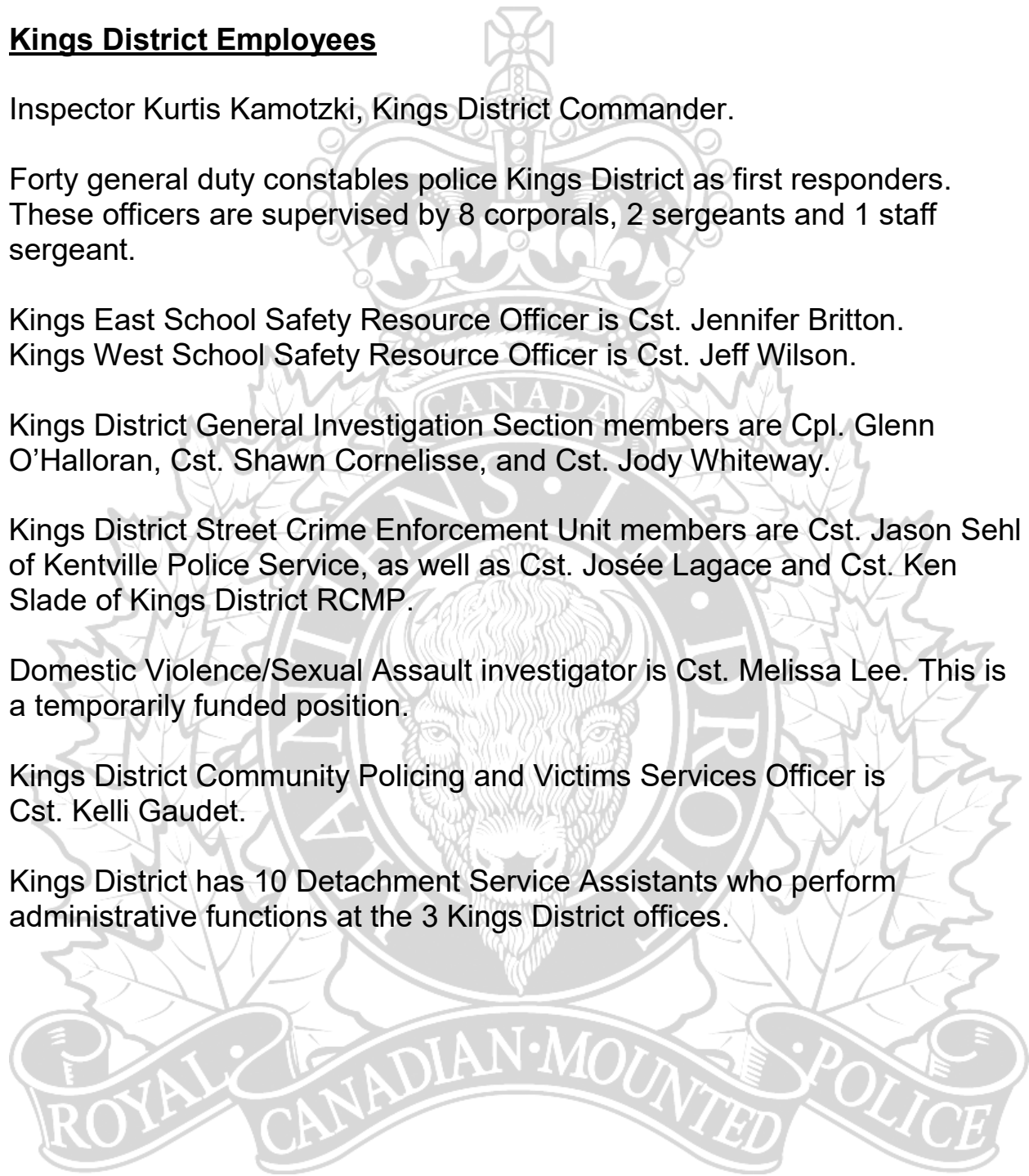
Kings District General Investigation Section members are Cpl. Glenn O'Halloran, Cst. Shawn Cornelisse, and Cst. Jody Whiteway.

Kings District Street Crime Enforcement Unit members are Cst. Jason Sehl of Kentville Police Service, as well as Cst. Josée Lagace and Cst. Ken Slade of Kings District RCMP.

Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault investigator is Cst. Melissa Lee. This is a temporarily funded position.

Kings District Community Policing and Victims Services Officer is Cst. Kelli Gaudet.

Kings District has 10 Detachment Service Assistants who perform administrative functions at the 3 Kings District offices.



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School Safety Resource Officers

School Safety Resource Officers work as a resource to our local schools. Members provide presentations to every grade level from P-12 on current topics such as human trafficking, fentanyl, cybercrime, bullying, drug awareness and appropriate use of Social Media. Schools often request other presentations, which are customized to meet their needs. SSRO's update the National SafePlan every year for each Kings County School. SSRO's do the initial investigation in cases that stem from schools. SSRO's also provide support for school events that occur after traditional school hours.

Cst. Wilson's service area is from Annapolis County line to Central Kings Rural High School, which encompasses 11 schools.

Cst. Britton's service area is from Coldbrook District School to LE Shaw Elementary and encompasses 12 schools.

Distracted driving presentations, Human Trafficking presentations as well as "lock down drills" have been ongoing at several schools throughout the reporting period.

Both district SSROs worked closely with the schools within the entire district. Both Cst. Wilson and Cst. Britton remain heavily involved in the delivery of the mandated objectives while assisting other investigations that require their skills and experience with youth.

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Highlights

SSRO Cst. WILSON continues to be active in the community with traffic enforcement and assisting with calls for service.

October is Cyber Security Awareness Month

The Internet and communication technologies provide Canadians, businesses, and institutions with the essential means to access information, offer services and create opportunities. Over the years, however, the exponential growth in these technologies has also increased the potential for cyber threats. Cyber criminals are increasingly targeting and exploiting Canadian citizens, businesses, and our critical infrastructure systems.

Cyber capabilities, once rare and expensive, have now become commonplace and affordable. That, along with the borderless and anonymous nature of cybercrime, amplifies the pool of potential victims.

Cyber security has always been important, but with more and more people relying on the internet for work, day-to-day tasks, business, social connections, financial services and more, it is vital that we learn how to keep ourselves safe.

October is Cyber Security Awareness Month and the RCMP is asking Canadians to take time this month to learn about cybercrime, how to protect yourself, and what to do if you are victimized.

What can Canadians do?

- Visit the RCMP's [Cyber Safety pages](#) and social media, as well as, [Get Cyber Safe's](#) website. Follow them on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) for great cyber tips and information!
- Know how to report a cybercrime or cyber fraud. If an individual, business or organization experiences a cybercrime, they should

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contact their local police immediately. It's also important that they report the incident, whether they fell victim or not, to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre [online](#) or toll-free at 1-888-495-8501.

- Share the information you learn with those around you!

What is law enforcement doing?

The criminal exploitation of new and emerging technologies requires new policing measures to keep pace in a digital era. Cybercrime investigations are complex and technical in nature. They require strong domestic and international partnerships, specialized investigative skills, and advanced tools and technologies. The RCMP takes cybercrime seriously and has a number of programs, units and teams actively working on it, including:

- National Cybercrime Coordination Unit (NC3)
- Federal Policing Cybercrime
- Cybercrime Investigative Teams including Cyber Capability Specialists from federal, provincial, local and international police
- Cyber Capability Specialists
- Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre

The RCMP works closely with law enforcement partners and other lead security agencies, private and public sectors, including academia in Canada and abroad, to investigate and address cybercrime.

Quick facts

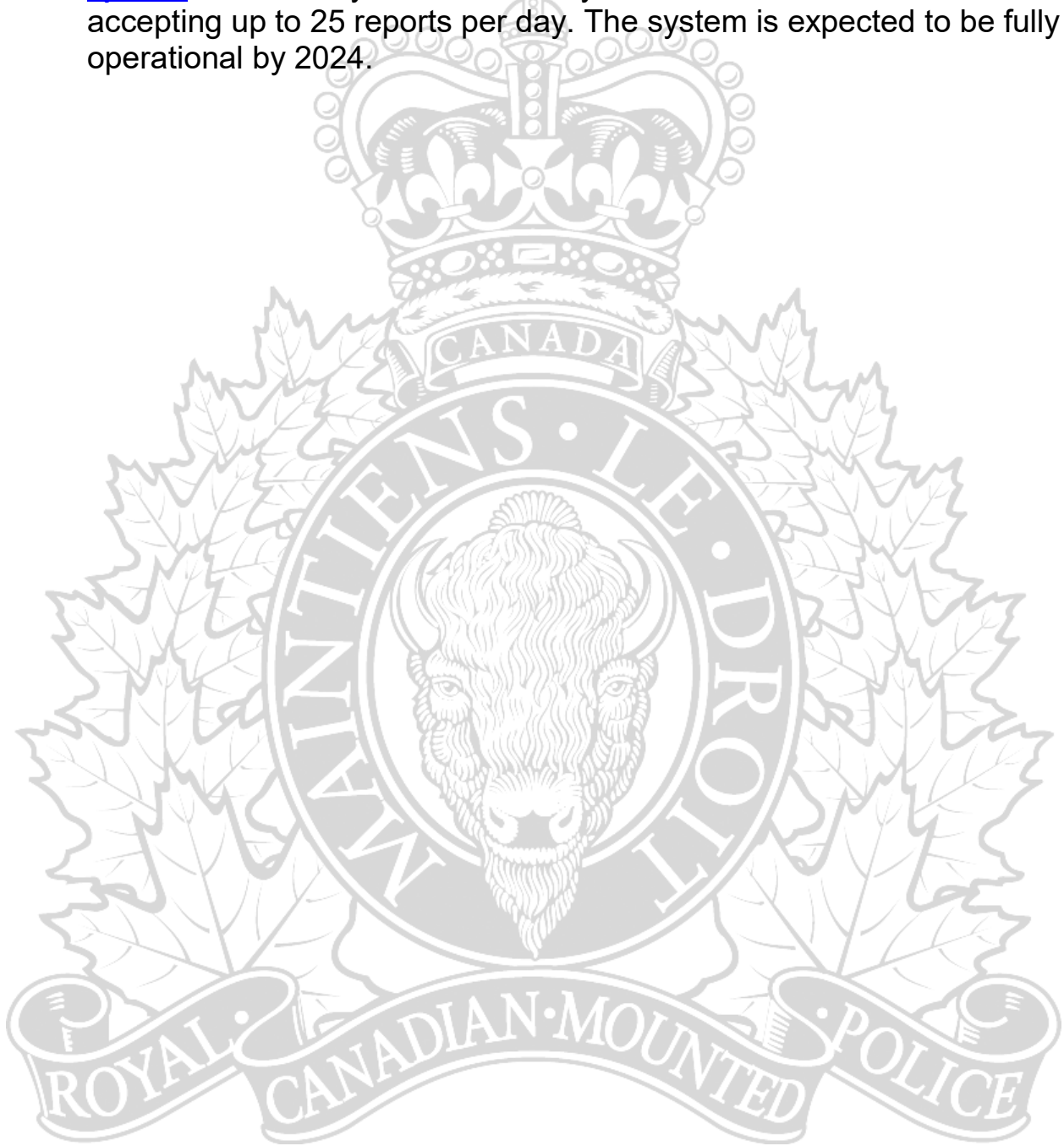
- Cybercrime continues to be the cyber threat that is most likely to affect Canadians and Canadian organizations.
- It is estimated that only 5-10% of all cybercrimes and fraud are reported to police.
- The RCMP continues to see an increase in ransomware in Canada. Since June 2020, the National Cybercrime Coordination Unit (NC3) has received over 2,200 requests for assistance from domestic and international law enforcement partners. Of these requests, over 30% related to ransomware.

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- The NC3 and Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC) are working together to implement a [new national cybercrime and fraud reporting system](#). The new system is currently live in a beta version and is accepting up to 25 reports per day. The system is expected to be fully operational by 2024.



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Annual Performance Plan

The Kings District Annual Performance Plan runs from April 1st, 2021 to March 31st, 2022. Objectives of Kings District Annual Performance Plan are:

- **Safe Roads and Safe Highways in Nova Scotia** - To date Kings District members have charged in excess of 53 people with impaired driving, issued TBD roadside suspensions for alcohol consumption, issued TBD traffic enforcement charges and conducted 174 check stops.
- **Reduction of Cybercrime in Nova Scotia**
Community resource officers and Senior Safety Coordinator continue to educate students and seniors on Cybercrime.

Reduce Crime Against People

Members continue to conduct physical checks on offenders/accused who are on court ordered curfews or house arrest with the goal to prevent recidivism.

Calls for Service

In the month of October, Kings District responded to 1458 service calls. There were 80 service calls in Berwick during this reporting period. See the attached chart for breakdown of the service calls.

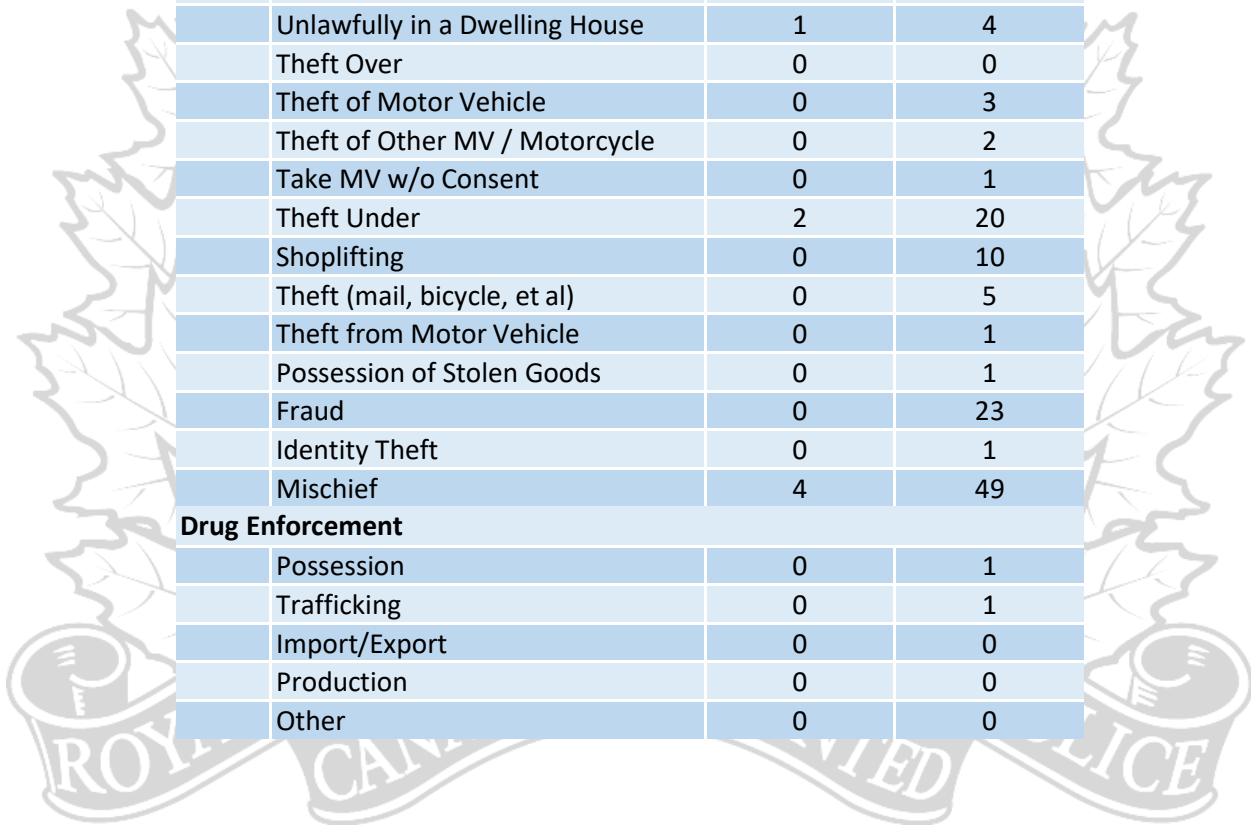


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Type of Crime & Occurrence Type	October Berwick	October Kings
	2021	2021
Crimes Against Persons		
Offences Related to Death	0	0
Sexual Offences	0	9
Assault	1	34
Kidnapping/Hostage/Abduction	0	0
Robbery	0	1
Extortion / Intimidation	0	0
Criminal Harassment	1	6
Indecent Harassing Comm.	1	3
Uttering Threats	0	14
Property Crime		
Arson	0	2
Break and Enter	0	10
Unlawfully in a Dwelling House	1	4
Theft Over	0	0
Theft of Motor Vehicle	0	3
Theft of Other MV / Motorcycle	0	2
Take MV w/o Consent	0	1
Theft Under	2	20
Shoplifting	0	10
Theft (mail, bicycle, et al)	0	5
Theft from Motor Vehicle	0	1
Possession of Stolen Goods	0	1
Fraud	0	23
Identity Theft	0	1
Mischief	4	49
Drug Enforcement		
Possession	0	1
Trafficking	0	1
Import/Export	0	0
Production	0	0
Other	0	0



Type of Crime & Occurrence Type	October Berwick	October Kings
Traffic		
Dangerous Op of MV	0	3
Impaired by Alcohol	1	23
Impaired by Drug	0	2
Failure/Refusal	0	2
Driving while Disqualified	0	4
Fail to Stop or Remain	1	12
Seatbelt Violation	1	8
Intersection Violation	1	15
Speeding Violation	9	139
Insurance Violation	0	5
Road Side Suspension (Alcohol)	0	0
Road Side Suspension (Drug)	0	1
Collision - Fatal	0	0
Collision - Non - Fatal Injury	0	14
Collision - Reportable	2	40
Collision - Non Reportable	1	21
Off-Road Vehicle Collision	0	1
Municipal By-laws	0	35
Other Traffic Offence/Violation	14	221
Other Traffic Related Duties	0	2
Checkstop	5	16
Other		
911 Call	6	32
Breach of Court Order	2	14
Liquor Act	0	45
Mental Health Act	2	49
Missing Person	1	50
Municipal Bylaw - Other	0	40
Other	13	316
Suspicious P V P	5	30
Trespass At Night	0	0
HPA (COVID-19) - Offences only	1	5
HPA (COVID-19) - Other activities	0	2
QUA (COVID-19) - Offences Only	0	0
QUA (COVID-19) - Other Activities	0	11
Total Founded & SUI Occurrences	75	1362
Total Occurrences*	80	1458



Significant Investigations

October has been a steady month district wide but in regard to Berwick there were no significant investigations to report.

Members have been very busy with responding to various types of calls yet have continued to be proactive with traffic enforcement limiting the serious incidences. An increase in calls in the district with a significant decrease in Berwick again.

RCMP Charge woman in two armed robberies

Police file 2021-1533836

Kings District and West Hants District RCMP have charged a woman after armed robberies in Greenwich and in Windsor.

On September 25 at approximately 3:40 a.m., police responded to a report of an armed robbery at a gas station on Wentworth Rd. in Windsor. Police learned that a woman had entered the gas station, threatened an employee with a weapon and demanded that they lay on the floor. The woman then stole money from the cash register and fled the area.

On October 12 at approximately 5:55 a.m., police responded to a report of an armed robbery at a gas station on Hwy. 1 in Greenwich. Police learned that a woman had entered the gas station, threatened an employee with a weapon and demanded that they give her money from the cash register. The woman was given cash and she then fled the area.

On October 14, the Valley Integrated Street Crime Enforcement Unit located the woman in Hantsport and arrested her without incident. Jessica Tonia Lea Davidson, 32, of Wolfville, has been charged with two counts of

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Robbery and was held in custody overnight. Davidson appeared in Kentville Provincial Court on October 15 where she was released on conditions by the Court. She will return to Kentville Provincial Court on December 7, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. for the incident in Greenwich and Windsor Provincial Court on December 14, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. for the incident in Windsor. The investigation is ongoing.

Kings District RCMP Respond to Valley High School

Police File: 2021- 1603355

October 25th, 2021, Kings District RCMP responded to a complaint that indicated there was planned school violence at a local high school in Cambridge, NS. At approximately 7:45 am Kings District RCMP responded immediately, with appropriate resources, to Central Kings Rural High School. Kings District RCMP investigated the situation and believe there is no threat of violence to this school. Furthermore, it is believed there is a link to this situation from a post circulating in the United States regarding planned school violence toward a school with a similar name, Central High. It is believed that a local youth observed this post and wanting to warn the community spread this post but in doing so eluded to the school being Central Kings High School.

Kings District RCMP want to assure Kings County residents that police take all treats of school violence seriously and have conducted a thorough and complete investigation. Police feel that the school is safe and would like to thank those who called or messaged with concerns.

Kings District RCMP is dedicated to safe communities. If you have a safety concern please contact your nearest RCMP office, if the concern is an emergency please call 911.



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RCMP to continue strong presence in Wolfville over Homecoming Weekend

With Acadia's homecoming weekend approaching, Kings District RCMP will be increasing its presence in Wolfville with a focus on attending to and investigating concerns about noise, liquor, cannabis and Covid-19 among regular calls for service. Kings District RCMP will be enforcing Town of Wolfville bylaws, including those for excessive noise and nuisance party, Nova Scotia provincial statutes and the Criminal Code while on patrol and responding to calls for service. Notably, the Town of Wolfville's nuisance party bylaw carries a fine of \$582.50, and summary offence tickets for open alcohol, underage drinking and public intoxication under Nova Scotia's Liquor Control Act carry a fine of \$467.50 each.

With regard to Nova Scotia Health response to Covid 19, informal social gatherings not hosted by a business or organization are restricted up to 25 people indoors and up to 50 people outdoors without social distancing and masks. Police can enforce the Province of Nova Scotia's Health Protection Act in these situations.

Kings District RCMP charge impaired driver after two vehicle collision

Police file: 20211526977

Kings District RCMP have arrested an impaired driver after a two vehicle collision on Alders Avenue in New Minas.

At 4:40 pm. on October 10th, Kings District RCMP attended a two vehicle collision on Alders Avenue in New Minas. There were no injuries to the occupants of the vehicles.

A driver of a vehicle involved displayed signs of impairment. The driver provided a breath sample into an ASD (Approved Screening Device) which they failed. The driver was transported by police to the New Minas RCMP office for further investigation. While at the RCMP office the driver provided two samples of breath. The sample readings were over legal limit in Nova Scotia.

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A 52-year-old New Minas man will face charges of Impaired Operation of a Conveyance and Operating a Conveyance with a Blood Alcohol Concentration equal to or exceeding 80 mg%.

The 52-year-old man has been released from police custody and will appear in Kentville Provincial Court on a later date.

If you believe someone is driving in a way that is an immediate threat to public safety, please call 911 when it is safe to do so. Include as much detail as possible, such as the location, direction of travel, vehicle and driver description and license plate number.

Kings District RCMP Arrest Impaired Driver near New Minas

Police File 2021-1478860

Kings District RCMP have arrested an impaired driver after a traffic stop on Belcher St. near New Minas.

On October 2nd, at approximately midnight, Kings District RCMP observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed on Belcher St. near New Minas. New Minas RCMP conducted a traffic stop with the vehicle where the driver displayed signs of impairment. The driver was arrested and transported to the New Minas RCMP office. The driver provided two samples of breath which were 120 mg% and 110 mg%. The samples were over the legal limit in the Province of Nova Scotia.

A 22-year-old Kentville man will be facing charges of Impaired Operation of a Conveyance and Operating a Conveyance with a Blood Alcohol Concentration Over 80 mg%. The man has been released from police custody and will appear in Kentville Provincial Court November 23rd, 2021.

If you believe someone is driving in a way that is an immediate threat to public safety, please call 911 when it is safe to do so. Include as much detail as possible, such as the location, direction of travel, vehicle and driver description and license plate number.

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Kings District RCMP locate Prohibited and Impaired Driver in Greenwood

Police File 2021-1635487

Kings District RCMP located an impaired driver after locating the driver in a parking lot of a Greenwood business.

On October 30th at approximately 9:45 PM a Kingston RCMP officer was on patrol in Greenwood when they noticed a suspicious vehicle parked in a non-traditional manner in a business on Central Ave. that was closed.

The RCMP member approached the vehicle and after contact was made with the driver it was determined that the driver was showing signs of impairment. Kingston RCMP arrested the driver for Impaired Driving and transported the driver to the Military Police office on 14 Wing Greenwood for further testing. While at the Military Police office the driver refused to provide samples of breath.

Trevor Kalkman, 21 years old from Port Williams has been charged with Impaired Operation, Refuse Breath Demand and Driving While Prohibited.

Several Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act charges were also issued.

Kalkman as been released from police custody and will appear in Kentville Provincial Court on a later date.

Failure or refusal to comply with a peace officer's demand for a sample to test sobriety can result in criminal charges that have the same penalties as impaired driving. There are range of fines and driving prohibition periods for those convicted of driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs, with increased measures if there is a child under 16 in the vehicle.

If you believe someone is driving in a way that is an immediate threat to public safety, please call 911 when it is safe to do so. Include as much detail as possible, such as the location, direction of travel, vehicle and driver description and license plate number.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this report or any other community matters, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Cpl. Tim Doyle
Kingston Detachment
Telephone: 902-765-3317
email: tim.doyle@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

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Berwick & District Vol. Fire Department Monthly Report for November 2021

Seven alarms to report as of November 17, 2021.

Emergency Responders Grant: We have just received our six-breathing apparatus from Cummins Fire Supply this week. These will be put into service by the end of the weekend.

Covid 19 Update: Waiting on the rapid testing kits. Vaccine report of our members has been conducted.

Fire Hall: Our water treatment equipment is being serviced this month and the air handling units are scheduled for service later this month.

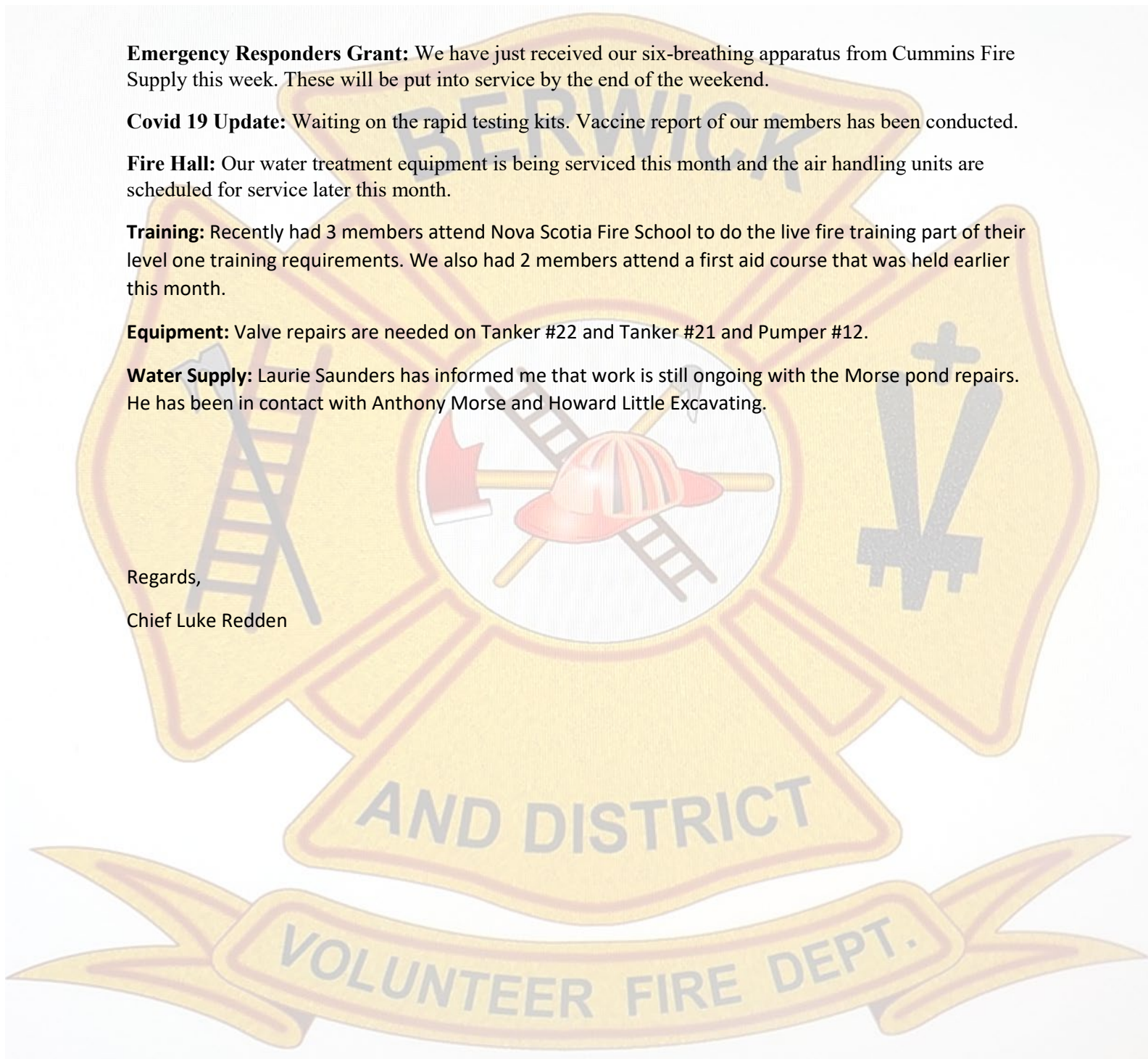
Training: Recently had 3 members attend Nova Scotia Fire School to do the live fire training part of their level one training requirements. We also had 2 members attend a first aid course that was held earlier this month.

Equipment: Valve repairs are needed on Tanker #22 and Tanker #21 and Pumper #12.

Water Supply: Laurie Saunders has informed me that work is still ongoing with the Morse pond repairs. He has been in contact with Anthony Morse and Howard Little Excavating.

Regards,

Chief Luke Redden



**TOWN OF BERWICK
REPORT TO COUNCIL**

From: Kimberly Halliday, Active Living Coordinator

Date: November 12, 2021

Subject: Monthly Active Living Coordinator Report

1) Meetings & Webinars

- Weekly meetings with Community Development Department and CAO
- Valley Recreation Inclusion and Access Committee meeting
- Accessibility Advisory Committee
 - Meetings changed to monthly to get Accessibility Plan underway
 - Meeting with Wolfville Councillor to discuss Accessibility Plan
- Sport Hub discussion with Valley region
- Adaptive Equipment Meeting
 - Launch date **tentatively** set for hippocampes press release at Berwick's Town Hall Gym/Outdoor, January 21st at 11am until 12pm
- Active Kids Healthy Kids Grant Selection Meeting
- Community Engagement Consultations for Spicer Park (Nov. 2nd, 2pm and 6pm)
- American Trails Presents: Advancing Trails Webinar
- Annapolis Valley Trails Coalition Board Meeting
- Community Alcohol Partnership monthly meeting

2) Programming

- Multisport planning ongoing
- Smoke-Free NS signs and poles ordered – some are put up already, some will be put in storage as replacements, some need to go on the trails
- NS Walks – Weekly walk series ongoing (Tuesday and Friday)
- Survey for Accessibility Plan engagement to go out soon
-

3) Communications

- Continue to update Facebook for the Town of Berwick
 - i. Weekly Walk posters
 - ii. Community engagement sessions

4) Miscellaneous

- Hubs in Berwick – finding funding for Bike NS/Blue Route project to come to Berwick
- Spicer Park RFP
- Centennial Park Drainage project should be getting underway soon

Priorities for November 2021

- Accessibility Advisory Committee Survey
 - and Open House Planning
- Spicer Park Playground RFP
- Trail head planning
 - Trail head grant applications – talking to Anna Sherwood
 - Finding an estimate of consultation fees

**TOWN OF BERWICK
REPORT TO COUNCIL**

From: Taylor Boylan, Recreation Coordinator
Date: November 15, 2021
Subject: Monthly Recreation Coordinator Report

1) Meetings & Webinars

- Weekly meetings with Community Development Department
- Valley Recreation Committees: Professional Development, Social Committee, Executive, Access and Inclusion
- Sports Hall of Fame Meetings – x 3
- “Recreation for All” discussion with regional partners
- Parade meeting with involved partners
- Budget discussions
- Gala Days fund distribution meeting
- K-Rock presentation with K. Verrette
- Valley Wildcats meetings: A. Brooker and L. Swinamer from LCLC, B. Benedict
- Webinar: Unstructured Play, Lets Get Ready for Winter

2) Programming

- After School Program is currently running with 25 registered participants and 6 junior staff members. We have struggled a bit with staff illness over the past month; the Community Development team has been assisting on a regular basis to ensure needs of the program are being met.
- Along with K.Verrette and K.Peckford, interviewed five potential staff for the Recreation Programmer role. A letter of offer has been extended, and accepted, and our new staff person will begin full-time November 29.
- K. Halliday taking the lead on Multisport planning
- CORAH satellite site at Carol’s Place (project started by B. Brydon) will begin soon, actively recruiting volunteers to assist with this project – livestream of events from the Center of Rural Aging and Health (CORAH) in Middleton for seniors in the Berwick and District area

3) Communications

- Continue to update social media for the Town of Berwick (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) as well as the electronic sign, and other miscellaneous communications
- Assisting Public Health with promotion of ongoing vaccine clinic taking place at Carol’s Place through the month of November

4) Events

- Halloween event took place October 30, after rescheduling due to forecast poor weather. Two members of the Valley Wildcats assisted with the event and approximately 50 people were in attendance. The movie night organized by the Berwick and Area Business Community had less attendees but was well received by those in attendance.
- Berwick Gala Days held their Bounce Castle event October 23, well received by the community with large numbers of children and families throughout the afternoon. I assisted with set-up.
- Sports Hall of Fame was held November 13. This is a major undertaking for our Department, and the vast majority of work on our end was done by myself. Given the pandemic and restrictions in place, a large number of people were in attendance and we were able to successfully stream the event to Facebook.
- Christmas takes place November 26 and 27, with the tree lighting and parade. Both events begin at 6 PM and any and all volunteer assistance, and attendance will be appreciated!

Priorities for December 2021

- Budget planning for F2023

**TOWN OF BERWICK
REPORT TO COUNCIL**

From: Katie Verrette, Economic Development Officer

Date: November 15, 2021

Subject: Economic Development Officer Report

1) Meetings & Webinars

- Weekly meetings with M.Payne, T.Boylan, K.Halliday
- Fitness Centre staff meetings (monthly)
- Monthly REN Business Supports Response Team Meeting (monthly)
- Meeting with Donna Conrad (and local business owners) regarding Christmas promotions (biweekly)
- Town of Berwick Safety Meetings (Co-Chair, monthly)
- Meeting with Rewind 89.3 regarding Christmas Promotions
- Kings County Emergency Housing Meetings (monthly)
- Annapolis Valley Economic Development Group (monthly meetings)

2) Communications

- After meeting again with Rewind 89.3 and working together with Recreation Coordinator T.Boylan we have decided to move forward with them for Holiday advertising. The promotions will begin ASAP and cover not only radio but also online marketing.
- Continue to connect with the Business Community via the email distribution list to promote local events/opportunities/promotions.

3) Projects

- Box Cars have been pressure washed. We are still moving forward with an EOI and anticipate having them in a state of operation for next spring.
- Ideas for the Business Forum continue to circulate. The event will happen late January/early February. Current discussions of the event focus on offering a weekday breakfast, followed by announcements and networking opportunities.
- Working in partnership with Executive Assistant (C. Pineo) to plan the Annual Town Christmas Event at the Lions Club. Invitations have been printed and will go out this week. The event will run from 4:30-6:30pm on December 2nd. We continue to meet to plan this event, ensuring all Covid protocols are followed. As numbers are limited (250), it has been decided that invitations will only go out to businesses, organizations, volunteer groups, and committees but will not be posted as a “public event” on social media. Public holiday events hosted by the Town will include the Tree Lighting as well as the Holiday Parade.
- Continue to meet with Donna Conrad to support local businesses with Holiday events/promotions.

4) Fitness Centre

- The Fitness Centre is currently advertising to hire for a full-time Fitness Centre Attendant. The application deadline is this Friday, November 19th. We hope to interview and have someone start as quickly as possible.
From A. Ross, Fitness Centre Supervisor:
- The month is November is off to a strong start! 6 yearly memberships have been purchased with three of those members taking advantage of the monthly withdraw option. We continue to see new memberships and renewals continue to be strong with the monthly option always proving popular
- November 1 saw the return of group fitness classes with Spin with Cheryl Huett twice per week and a lunch hour HIIT class with Alison Ross. They seem to be going quite well so far and we hope to continue the momentum!
- Daily visits also continue to be on the rise, with most days averaging between 60-70 visits!

5) Other

- Budget Planning continues for the upcoming year. The Community Development team continues to meet to prioritize projects and plan for grant applications.
- With the support of Michelin, and Public Works, four new 12ft maple trees have been planted in Town to commemorate Michelin's 50th year in NS. Two trees went to Spicer Park and the other two to Chute Bike Park.
- Assisted with the hiring of the Recreation Programmer position by reviewing applicants and taking part in the interview process.

Priorities for December 2021

- Fitness Centre Operations
- Christmas Event Lions Club
- Christmas Promotions & the Business Community

Committee of the Whole Report for November 2021.

- Public Works will be picking up leaves a little later because of them coming off the trees later in November, the bin will stay for another week because of the late start date from the bin company.
- The team is working on the sidewalk at the end of the new school sidewalk on the west end, we are adding a plate in the cement for the visually impaired and reducing the ramp height. This is our first one for accessibility standards coming down the road.
- We are still waiting for parts for the sewer pump station, our main pumping station for the Town. I have received the first set of parts and waiting for the second set to come in from the USA. I will have the old sets of parts rebuilt and, on the shelf, going forward. This is our first rebuild on the two pumps since new, life span of about ten years, info on life span from the County of Kings.
- We are also waiting for an update on the condition of a sewer air blower that has been sent back to the company; we may have to replace with a new one.
- I have started to order parts for the new air system that is going into pond two and three, this work has been budgeted over three years, we did not get started last year because of the time frame and Covid slow down. We will push to get phase one done, but may have to finish up in the spring.
- Centennial Park drainage: I have been talking with Howard Little and have walked the park with him, they may have to come into the park after freeze up in order to get the pipe in the ground, it is very wet this time of year. The finished product would be in the spring of 2022.
- We have been working on the trails, the existing gates have been reset to the AVTS trail standards. We have cut some brush and will be doing more on the side trails.
- Keith has been working on getting machinery ready for winter as the parts come from the manufacturer to the shop.
- Christmas lights and trees are going up all over town this week and next; the parade float will be put into the shop to get ready.
- We have a few paving jobs to do, in the next few weeks: sewer cuts, sidewalk cuts, and other fixes before the snow falls.

Thank You;
Tim Harding,
Director of Public Works

Monthly Report to Committee of the Whole

Michael Payne, Chief Administrative Officer

2021 Nov 23

Attended the following meetings / events:

AREA management team weekly telecons
Planning Advisory meeting
Police Services Advisory Committee meeting
Community Development Committee meeting
Housing Committee meeting

- Participated in a joint working group session of Mayors/Warden and CAO's re a pilot Inter-municipal Service Agreement (IMSA) for Valley Waste and Kings Transit and a draft Valley REN IMSA.
- Met with Chrystal Remme, Valley REN communications around enhancing the REN's profile with Councillors, local business and the community at large
- Met virtually with the Chair of MIT REAP – Valley Region to discuss how the Town can get involved in an exciting technology/agricultural producers economic development opportunity
- Discussed local emergency/long term housing concerns with NGO's.
- Participated in the Town's Caucus session of the virtual Fall NSFPM conference.
- Weekly meetings and ongoing liaison with staff in support of Community Development and Recreation activities, plans and projects.
- BEC Management team meeting and collaboration around impacts of the UARB decision re NSPI's BUTU application
- Out of the office on leave from November 10 through 16.

Priorities for the next month

- Continue to work closely with the Community Development Team and Finance to ensure that the core mandates of Community Development continue to be advanced.
- Formalize a contractual arrangement with partners around fire services.
- Work with Don Regan and Sean Fleming to firm up contractual and legal matters re the Community Solar Garden project.
- Work with Finance re capital and human resource planning for the draft F2023 budget

REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

From: Karen Peckford, Director of Finance

Date: November 17, 2021

Subject: Tax Reduction Policy

Background

On July 2, 2021, the owners of the property at 157 Maple Avenue sustained significant property damage due to a fire. The property owners requested a revised property valuation from PVSC, which the Town received on September 23, 2021 (copy of letter is attached). As per the MGA, Section 69A, the Council has the power to authorize a policy to provide for reduction or reimbursement of taxes payable in cases of property destroyed or damaged by fire, storm or flood. The property owners have requested a reduction in taxes.

Policy

A policy has been drafted based on Section 69A of the MGA and is attached for Council review. This policy outlines the Council's authority to provide a reduction or reimbursement of property tax in such instances, as well as the procedure for approving a reduction or reimbursement of property tax.

Recommendation

Staff recommend that Council approve the Tax Reduction Policy.

September 23, 2021

Town of Berwick
236 Commercial St
PO Box 130
Berwick, Ns BOP 1E0

Re: Fire Damaged Property: 03024725, 157 Maple Ave, Berwick

Dear Janet,

Our records indicate the above referenced property sustained significant fire damage on July 2, 2021.

The *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) 1998, c. 18, s.1 provides at s. 69A that a municipal council may, by policy, provide for reduction or re-imbusement of taxes payable in cases of property destroyed or damaged by fire. This section of the MGA sets out that Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) provide a new opinion of value reflecting the damage or destruction upon request of the Clerk, to support such a policy.

Further to your request respecting the above referenced property, please find below a revised opinion of value reflecting damage or destruction for taxation purposes pursuant to the municipality's policy in this regard. Pursuant to the legislation, the revised value below will not be reflected on the current year assessment roll.

[Current Year] Assessed Value	Class	Revised opinion of Value Reflecting Damage or Destruction (use for tax purposes)	Class
\$201,600	01	\$52,300	01

If you have any questions or require anything further, please contact me at 1-800-380-7775.

Sincerely,



Paul Beazley, Regional Manager
Property Valuation Services Corporation

Tax Reduction Policy

1. Purpose

To establish a policy to enable Council to provide property tax reduction or relief, for, such period of time as Council shall determine in its discretion, for those taxpayers who have had one or more structures on the taxpayer's land become unusable due to fire, storm or flood.

2. Policy

Upon that authority established in Section 69A of the Municipal Government Act ("MGA"), the Town of Berwick may, upon resolution, reduce or rebate property taxes in such amount and for such period of time as Council shall determine in its discretion, for those taxpayers who have had one or more structures on the taxpayers' land become unusable due to fire, storm or flood.

3. Procedure

- 3.1 The taxpayer shall apply in writing to Council, no later than two years after the date of destruction, requesting a reduction or rebate of property taxes. The date of destruction should be indicated in the letter.
- 3.2 The Town of Berwick shall ask the Building Inspector to confirm that the building(s) has become unusable due to fire, storm, or flood.
- 3.3 The Town of Berwick shall request the Assessment Services to provide a new valuation for the purposes of this policy.
- 3.4 Upon receipt of the Building Inspector's report and the Provincial Assessment report, the Town may reduce the amount of taxes in proportion to the apparent reduction in value, and for such period Council may by resolution, determine.

4. Eligibility

This policy shall be applicable to taxpayers incurring losses after April 1, 2021 and interest shall not be paid on any rebated amount.

5. Default

Notwithstanding anything herein contained to the contrary, it is the intent of the Town that no person shall benefit from his or her own wrongdoing. If such person is found guilty of arson, either civilly or criminally, the Town shall not rebate any taxes; and in the event that taxes have already been rebated and the person is subsequently found responsible for the loss, the rebate shall be deemed to be void ab initio and the rebated sum shall be forthwith recoverable by the Town, with interest.

6. Administration

The Director of Finance shall be responsible for administering this policy.