



# Village of Baddeck

(902) 295-3666  
[info@baddeckvillage.ca](mailto:info@baddeckvillage.ca)

## It Takes a Village

On August 16, 2023, the newly elected village commissioners were sworn in and the first meeting post-election was held. As a commission, we are committed to being open, transparent and accountable to the residents and rate payers of the village. Thus, going forward, the village commission and staff will be providing regular updates (this is the first installment!) and we will develop and maintain [www.baddeckvillage.ca](http://www.baddeckvillage.ca) On the site, you'll soon be able to see up to date meeting agendas and minutes, reports generated for or by the village, information about bylaws, elections, etc. We also have a new Facebook page which we would encourage you to "like", if you use that form of social media. Additionally, you can visit the Village office, located at 492 Chebucto Street during office hours (Monday-Friday, 9:30am-1pm) or contact the office via phone (902-295-3666). You can also contact Village Manager, Roman Braun-Huettner via email at [Roman.braun-huettner@baddeckvillage.ca](mailto:Roman.braun-huettner@baddeckvillage.ca)



Regular meetings of the Village Commission take place on the second Wednesday of every month, at 6:30 p.m. in the Village Office (492 Chebucto Street). All are welcome! Here are the remaining dates in 2023.

**September 13, 2023**  
**October 11, 2023**  
**November 8, 2023**  
**December 13, 2023**

## The Water Utility: Efficiency, Water Rate Study & the UARB

The water utility provides a safe, efficient and sustainable water distribution system for the village of Baddeck. Through the Canada Community Building Fund, \$450,000 has designated for water meter upgrades and installation. These quick read, accurate meters will streamline meter reading and billing, and provide the means to quickly identify potential leaks and promote sustainable water usage. Water users will hear directly from the installer, Neptune Technology Group, around how and when these installations will be scheduled and we appreciate your cooperation. The completion deadline is end of October, and these new meters are mandatory.

Water rates in Baddeck have not changed since 2013. Typically, rates are reviewed every 3-5 years, a submission is made to the provincial Utility and Review Board (UARB) who then approves necessary rate changes. The water utility is a sum zero operation (thus it operates without a loss or a profit) and needs to account for water consumption and the maintenance and redevelopments of the treatment and distribution system. The rate study was done by Isenor Consulting and includes a description of the system, historical & projected financials, proposed rates & revenues and was submitted to the UARB for review. **There will be a public hearing held by the UARB on Tuesday, November 28 from 1-4pm at the Courthouse.** More information on the hearing will follow as the date approaches.

Clean drinking water is essential and we need to plan for and invest in the maintenance and upgrade of our systems. Water is one of our most valuable community assets and we remain committed to responsible, sustainable management of that utility.

### Baddeck Village Commission

**Jennifer MacDonald, Chair**  
[commissioner.macdonald@baddeckvillage.ca](mailto:commissioner.macdonald@baddeckvillage.ca)

**Gary Crowder, Vice Chair**  
[commissioner.crowder@baddeckvillage.ca](mailto:commissioner.crowder@baddeckvillage.ca)

**Laura Flaherty**  
[commissioner.flaherty@baddeckvillage.ca](mailto:commissioner.flaherty@baddeckvillage.ca)

**Ken MacKinnon**  
[commissioner.mackinnon@baddeckvillage.ca](mailto:commissioner.mackinnon@baddeckvillage.ca)

**Dan McNeil**  
[commissioner.mcneil@baddeckvillage.ca](mailto:commissioner.mcneil@baddeckvillage.ca)

We want to hear from you! Please reach out to us anytime.

## Wastewater Treatment: Our Sewer System

Our Public Works Department has noted that there has been a considerable grease build up in the lines that they have examined. The sewer bylaw requires commercial users to have grease separators, an important piece of protecting our sewer system. That requirement will be enforced by Public Works going forward. In our residences and businesses, what goes down kitchen drains and toilets could clog pipes, causing damage to your home and property and to the public sewer system. We appreciate your help in ensuring that no harmful chemicals, medications, flushable wipes, grease or other items end up in our septic system.

Another ongoing concern is inflow and infiltration of the sewer treatment plant. The groundwater that seeps into the system via issues in the system and stormwater that flows into sewers through roof downspouts, foundation drains and storm drains means that our system is handling a significant amount of additional water that is not sewage. In the plant, that water is then treated like sewage, resulting in higher energy usage and treatment costs and has our system sometimes dealing with capacity issues. An updated inflow and infiltration program that assesses and develops a plan for management is in the development stages. It's important to keep in mind that sump pumps, roof drains and gutters, foundation and perimeter drains must not be connected to the sewer, and all cleanouts need to be capped, both inside and outside.

## AREAS OF FOCUS

- **Best Practices & Collaboration:** We have scheduled training dates for the commission and village staff with the Department of Municipal Affairs. The focus will be on governance models and strategic planning and these sessions will take place in September and October. We are also planning networking meetings with St. Peter's village commission and staff (the only other village commission in Cape Breton).
- **Funding Streams:** Investments in capital infrastructure around the water and sewer treatment plants is required. We will be seeking out grants with the support of advisors at the Department of Municipal Affairs and in cooperation with the Municipality.
- There was no 2023 budget presented by the former commission at the last Annual General Meeting of the village commission (held on June 30, 2023). Village staff is preparing a budget and that will be presented at an upcoming public meeting of the commission. Water and Waste Water system reports should have been submitted to Department of Environment in April of 2023, but that deadline had to be extended to August. They've now been submitted as required and will be submitted by the deadline going forward.
- Village staff is examining our options for the procurement of an engineering firm. An assessment of our water and sewer systems is necessary to develop a meaningful capital investment program and a realistic budget.
- **Tax Bills:** Accounting firm MNP has been working with village staff to reconcile tax bills, including those dating back to 2021. The ongoing delay is related to the separation of the tax billing process and the transition of tax related data. The outstanding tax bills will be mailed out within the next two weeks, and moving forward, will be distributed in a timely manner.
- The village was mandated by the province in to develop an Accessibility Plan before April 2022, and we are without one. Our first step is to form an Accessibility Advisory Committee so we can come into compliance with that mandate. More information to come!
- **Sidewalks:** We have heard concerns from residents and businesses around sidewalks and will be seeking to collaborate with other levels of government to address the sidewalks from an accessibility and safety perspective.
- **Waterfront Baddeck** is a village commission subcommittee and continues to work diligently in management of the village waterfront property and wharf usage. Their recent "Baddeck Quest" highlighted some of the wonderful assets in our village and captured real community spirit.
- **Community Club Property:** The village acquired ownership of the "tennis courts" property last year. A sub-committee has been struck to develop sustainable plans for that property in collaboration with the Baddeck Nursery School group.