

NEW GLASGOW NOW

DECEMBER 2024



A Message from Mayor Nancy Dicks:

Dear New Glasgow community,

I am honoured to have been re-elected as your mayor. The trust that you, the citizens of New Glasgow have placed in me is a responsibility I take seriously. Together, we have made great strides in fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and progressive community, and I am committed to building on this momentum.

Our efforts to enhance infrastructure and advance community development are laying the foundation for a future where New Glasgow continues to thrive as the regional service centre, full of opportunities and growth. Initiatives to address climate-related occurrences remain at the forefront of our agenda, ensuring that our town evolves sustainably while preserving the natural beauty we cherish.

As we approach the holiday season, I want to extend my warmest wishes to you and your families. This is a time to reflect, connect, and celebrate the joys of community and togetherness. May your homes be filled with love, laughter, and the spirit of the season.

Your support fuels our shared vision for the Town where every individual feels valued, supported, and proud to call New Glasgow home. Let's carry this spirit of unity and progress into the New Year, as we continue building a brighter future together.

Thank you, and happy holidays!


FOLLOW US:

 @NewGlasgowNovaScotia


 @NewGlasgowNS

 @TownOfNewGlasgow

Town Hall

 902-755-7788

Public Works and
Engineering

 902-755-8351

Newly Elected Council Swears In!

On Wednesday, October 30, 2024, the Town of New Glasgow held a special council meeting to conduct the swearing-in ceremony for recently elected council members. Prior to the ceremony and the Oath of Allegiance to the Office and Code of Conduct sign-off, the council and senior staff participated in a smudging ceremony led by Jane Hennessey from Pictou Landing First Nation, who also provided a message of resilience and peace.

The Town also welcomed Nova Scotia African Drummers Muriko & Mutriko Izzard, who performed a vibrant drumming session during and upon the adjournment of the meeting.

The Town would like to thank Jane Hennessey, Muriko & Mutriko Izzard for their participation and for enriching this event with their cultural expression.

The following Council Members have committed to the Oath of Allegiance and Code of Conduct for the next four years:

Mayor Nancy Dicks
Ward One Councillor Jocelyn Dorrington
Ward One Councillor Jim McKenna
Ward Two Councillor Dawn Peters
Ward Two Councillor Clyde Fraser
Ward Three Councillor Joe MacDonald
Ward Three Councillor Jessica MacDonald



The new council includes two newly elected councillors and five incumbents including Mayor Nancy Dicks who has been re-elected to serve a third term as a Mayor.

When reflecting upon the next four years Mayor Dicks commented, "A strong and successful council is built on a team that collaborates respectfully and prioritizes the well-being of our community. With a combination of experience and fresh perspectives, alongside a senior leadership team rich in expertise, we will work together to develop a new and refreshed long-term vision for sustainability and growth in New Glasgow."

Municipal Government 101

In Canada, there are three orders of government:

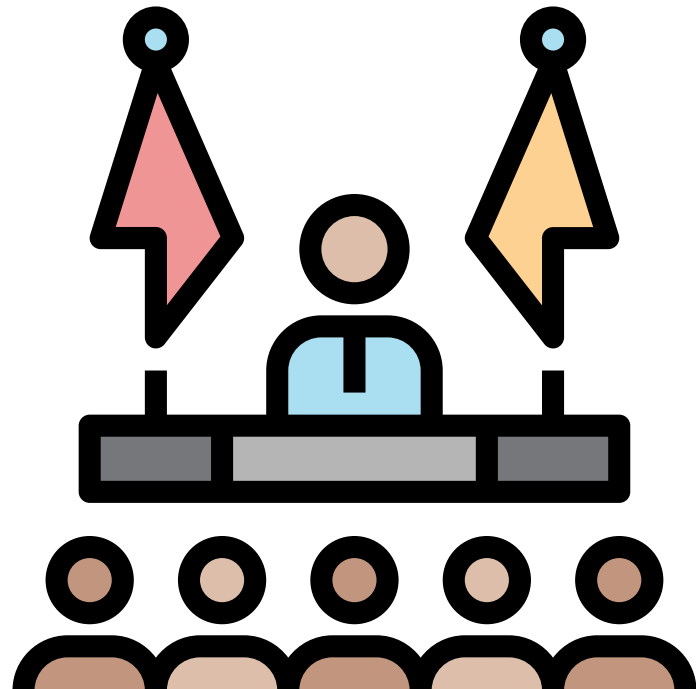
1. The Government of Canada (Federal Government)
2. The Government of Nova Scotia (Provincial Government)
3. Municipal Government (often referred to as Town Council)



Each order provides services funded by specific taxes, such as income, sales, or property tax. Additional funding may also come from grants or loans. In New Glasgow, residents elect two councillors per ward and a mayor every four years, who serve as their municipal representatives. Although a municipal government is sometimes called to as the order of government closest to the people, sometimes residents may be confused over the services provided at the municipal level as well as the responsibilities of a council.

What are municipal responsibilities?

Municipal powers are defined by the provincial government, and many everyday amenities are provided by these local services. This includes police, fire services, solid waste management, street and sidewalk maintenance, parks and recreation, public transportation, drinking water, wastewater services, issuing building permits, bylaw enforcement, and more. In New Glasgow, we take pride in setting high standards when it comes to the delivery of these services and the stewardship of taxpayer dollars. Many of our employees have contributed to expert panels and trained other municipalities on emerging issues.



Municipal Government 101

What does council do?

Once elected, council has several responsibilities, including:

- Responding to community and individual concerns.
- Identifying and addressing important community issues.
- Keeping residents informed and seeking their feedback, for example, holding public hearings for new developments.
- Attending regular council and committee meetings and addressing the concerns raised by their community.
- Establishing a long-term vision for the municipality.
- Approving annual operating and capital budgets.
- Setting property and area tax rates.
- Approving bylaws and policies.

What can council NOT do?

While elected officials can achieve significant progress for the Town, but there are important limitations to their authority:

- Council cannot change provincial or federal laws.
- They cannot conduct or request work that hasn't been approved by the entire council, such as constructing temporary fencing for events.
- Council cannot reduce, waive, or amend outstanding taxpayer bills without proper procedure.
- They cannot prioritize street and sidewalk plowing requests outside of their scheduled order (unless it's an emergency).
- Council members cannot speak on behalf of the town or promise goods or services to organizations without proper approval.
- They must not use their position to benefit themselves, friends, family, or affiliated organizations.
- Council members must refrain from injecting personal biases into their decision-making processes.

Municipal Government 101

How can I ensure my voice is heard?



Residents can call, email, or speak directly to their councillor about concerns, questions, or information. To be heard, attend council meetings, participate in municipal committees, and engage respectfully during public discussions

I'm not old enough to vote, but I have ideas!

All New Glasgow residents, regardless of age, are encouraged to attend monthly council meetings and share their ideas with council or Town Hall. It is also important to discuss your thoughts with your parents during election season to help select candidates who align with your family's values for a stronger community.

Do you have questions or concerns regarding the duties of council, or the services provided by the Town?

Below is a list of helpful contact information, remember to also check out social media pages for daily updates!

Name	Contact
Mayor Nancy Dicks	nancy.dicks@newglasgow.ca
Deputy Mayor Jocelyn Dorrington, Ward One	jocelyn.dorrington@newglasgow.ca
Councillor Jim McKenna, Ward One	jim.mckenna@newglasgow.ca
Councillor Clyde Fraser, Ward Two	clyde.fraser@newglasgow.ca
Councillor Dawn Peters, Ward Two	dawn.peters@newglasgow.ca
Councillor Joe MacDonald, Ward Three	joe.macdonald@newglasgow.ca
Councillor Jessica MacDonald, Ward Three	jessica.macdonald@newglasgow.ca
Town Hall	inquiries@newglasgow.ca

Town of New Glasgow Introduces New Property Minimum Standards Bylaw

The Property Minimum Standards Bylaw in the Town of New Glasgow outlines the requirements for the maintenance, upkeep, and safety of properties within the Town. The primary goal of the bylaw is to ensure that properties within New Glasgow are maintained in a way that promotes community well-being, safety, and visual appeal. It provides clear standards for property owners and a mechanism for the Town to enforce these standards.

The new bylaw also outlines penalties. Property owners and residents need to be aware that each standard they fail to meet is considered a separate offense. Property owners are penalized in categories of first, second, and third offenses. For example, a building owner who fails to keep their building's fire escape in good condition and free from obstruction will face a fine of \$352.50 for a first offense, \$582.50 for a second offense, and a significant increase to \$1,157.50 for a third offense.

Property owners are responsible for maintaining the structure of a building as well as the grounds to prevent unsightly conditions by meeting the general maintenance standards, this includes fire prevention, structural soundness, drainage and prevention of dampness, maintaining foundation and exterior walls, keeping walk and driveways safe under normal weather conditions, ensuring roofs and areas around a roof are weather tight and free from leaks, properly storing waste, recycling and mitigating pest issues.

This bylaw even ensures that windows and doors are in safe and working conditions, that buildings and dwelling units have proper egress measures in place and ensuring that buildings are capable of heating during winter months.

Residents are reminded that this is a complaint-driven process. If you observe or suspect a valid concern or violation, you are encouraged to contact Alison Tait, Deputy Clerk of the Town of New Glasgow, to register your complaint at (902) 755-7788.

New Glasgow Regional Police Long Service Awards

Town of New Glasgow was proud to recognize six of their New Glasgow Regional Police Department officers as the recipients of the Federal Police Exemplary Service Medals. This esteemed award goes beyond recognizing the years of service; it is an acknowledgement to those who have committed themselves to the safety, security and well-being our community through their dedication and efforts to protect others.

At the October 15 council meeting, Mayor Dicks and council expressed their gratitude to the following members of New Glasgow Regional Police for their dedicated years of service:

Sgt. Kelly Moore-Reid – 30 years total,
15 years with New Glasgow Regional
Police

Cst. David Fulton – 30 years, 16 years
with New Glasgow Regional Police

Sgt. Jason MacKinnon – 20 years with
New Glasgow Regional Police

Sgt. Darryl Paris – 30 years with New
Glasgow Regional Police

Sgt. Claire Corkum-Timmons – 20 years
total, 13 years with New Glasgow
Regional Police

Chief Ryan Leil – 20 years with New
Glasgow Regional Police



Congratulations to all these brave officers and many thanks for keeping our communities safe! Your work has strengthened not only our community but also our collective trust and safety. We are deeply grateful and proud to have you protecting the Town New Glasgow and the people of Canada!

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Program in New Glasgow

The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program, also known as the "Memphis Model," was introduced in 1988 to address gaps in how law enforcement responded to mental health crises. Today, the CIT program has been adopted worldwide, including in New Glasgow, where the Regional Police have embraced its principles to improve crisis response in the community.

Program Overview:

The CIT program provides law enforcement with the tools and training necessary to respond effectively and compassionately to individuals experiencing mental health or addiction crises. In partnership with the Mental Health and Addictions Program, the New Glasgow Regional Police aim to divert individuals from the criminal justice system to appropriate medical and mental health care.

CIT in Action in New Glasgow:

Since the New Glasgow Regional Police began formally tracking CIT-related activities in December 2022, the program has shown remarkable results:

- **Mental Health Calls:** The department handled 1,164 mental health-related calls between December 2022 and September 2024.
- **Crisis Team Integration:** CIT-trained officers accessed the Crisis Response Team for assistance in 76 instances.
- **Outcome:** Of those 76 cases, only four required emergency department support, underscoring the program's success in resolving crises without overburdening medical resources.

Training and Collaboration:

CIT is more than training; it is a model of response that emphasizes partnership and community engagement. NGRP now has x14 CIT-trained officers and x3 provincial trainers. Officers undergo a rigorous 40-hour training program that includes:

- Education on mental illnesses and addiction.
- Scenario-based role-playing to simulate real-life crises.
- Presentations from experts on diverse topics such as addiction medicine, child mental health, and trauma.

CIT Complex Case Committee:

Regular monthly meetings with CIT-trained officers, Mental Health/Addictions Crisis Response Team, and Aberdeen Regional Hospital Emergency Department staff. Intended to pull together key stakeholders that regularly interface with persons deemed at risk living with mental illness and substance use disorders and who are increasingly becoming difficult to manage in the community or persons who have demonstrated over-reliance on emergency services and such services have been ineffective to support their needs. The committee has the capacity to arrange emergency meetings if/when necessary. The committee also strengthens relationships between the partners and works on collaborative processes and procedures.

A Policing Perspective:

For New Glasgow Regional Police, CIT represents a shift toward proactive, compassionate policing. Officers report greater confidence and success in de-escalating crises, while emergency department staff acknowledge reduced strain on their resources. This collaboration fosters trust within the community and strengthens the overall response to mental health and addiction crises.

By adopting CIT, the New Glasgow Regional Police exemplify the power of partnerships in creating safer, more supportive communities for all.

Meet Your Town Council

With each edition of the Town newsletter, we are pleased to present readers with a bio featuring your local elected representatives.

Mayor Nancy Dicks

Elected as Mayor in 2016, Mayor Dicks envisions New Glasgow as a community we can all be proud to call home - a place where everyone feels safe, valued, and welcomed. She is committed to fostering a community that cares for one another, provides services that support all residents, and offers opportunities for everyone to thrive and experience a sense of well-being. At the same time, she believes in respecting our rich history while ensuring that New Glasgow is positioned for a sustainable future.

Currently serving her third term as a Mayor, Mayor Dicks was first elected to council in 2012, representing Ward Three. Before her career in local government, she was a teacher for 35 years. Mayor Dicks holds an undergraduate degree from Dalhousie University, as well as a Bachelor of Education from Acadia University. She is a proud mother of three and a grandmother to six.

Advisory Board and Committee

Appointments

- CHAD Transit Board
- VON Provincial Board
- Roots for Youth Board
- Nova Scotia Community Transportation Board
- Mental Wellness Working Group
- PCWCI
- Shared Services
- Mayors and Warden
- Pictou County Partnership
- Pictou County Transit
- Planning and Advisory Committee
- Business Advisory Committee



Town Crier

Jim Stewart



Jim Stewart holds a list of accolades that span over 30 years. Since 1992 he has represented the Town of New Glasgow at many Town Crier events and competitions in Nova Scotia, Ontario, British Columbia, the United States, England and Bermuda. We sat down with Jim to learn more about his tenured and award-winning career as a Town Crier.

Town Crier

Jim Stewart

What is a crier and how did Jim get into the role?

The criers were the original public broadcasters; when a message had to be given to people by the king, queen or elected officials, the town crier would give the message. When people didn't like the message, Town Criers would get killed (hence the expression).

In 1992, while working for local theatre companies with his wife Emma, Jim was encouraged to apply for a town crier position as a replacement for a retiring town crier named Ian Cameron. After writing and presenting a cry about Canada 125 to 3-4 people, the impressed group of people asked to open a ceremony for Canada Day. When asked why, "Well, you're the new town crier," said the group to Jim!

Where did Jim's uniform come from?

The cape was made by Wanda McKenna for the town crier before Jim. He estimates it to be over 40 years old. The kilt is City of Glasgow, and the cape is trimmed with the same tartan. Jim used to wear his Royal Stewart kilt with his uniform, and it worked, but the Town upgraded his uniform a few years ago and that is how he ended up with the current kilt. Most pieces were made in the mid-90s and are custom. The bell Jim carries was made in 1995 at the Lunenburg Foundry. It's a ship's bell and weighs just under 5 pounds. The handle is actually from a ship's wheel.

What are the town crier competitions like? What makes a good crier?

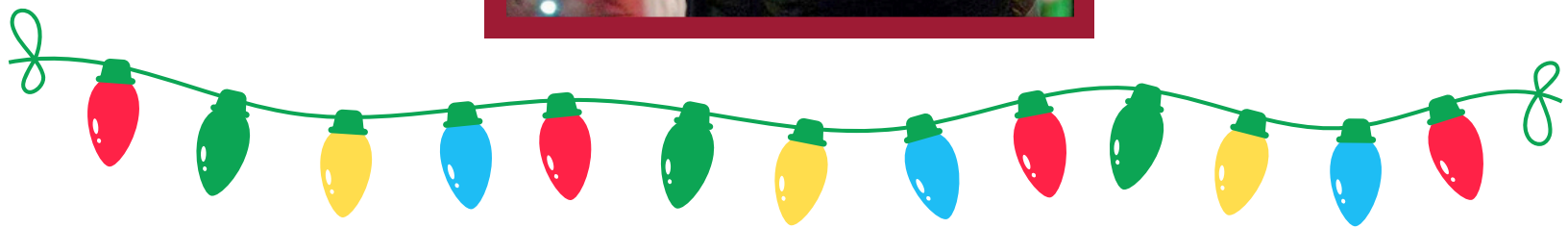
To compete, a crier must be a recognized member of a guild. Jim is a member of the Nova Scotia Guild and an honorary member of The Ancient & Honourable Guild and the Loyal Company of Town Criers.

At most competitions, the criers perform two cries – one about the towns they represent; the Town of New Glasgow for Jim, and the other cry is to be developed on any given topic. The criers are mainly judged in two parts at competitions. The first part is the crier's volume, clarity, projection, and clarity of the cry content. The second part is where the storytelling skills are judged. The criers are also judged on their dress and overall appearance.

Jim has participated in many competitions across the world, and he has won the Nova Scotia Town Crier Championship twice, been the First Runner Up at the 2018 Helmsley International Town Crier Competition, First Runner Up at the 2015 Bermuda International Town Crier Competition, won Best Dressed 2019 Armada Cup, 2019 Best Ambassador – Bob Kerswell Memorial and 15th in the world!

Jim has also won the British Championship for his uniform, where the dress is judged by historical societies or theatrical societies. The criteria are specific. Judges have to be briefed and instructed.

Christmas Tree Lighting



Christmas Parade Highlights



Christmas Parade Highlights

