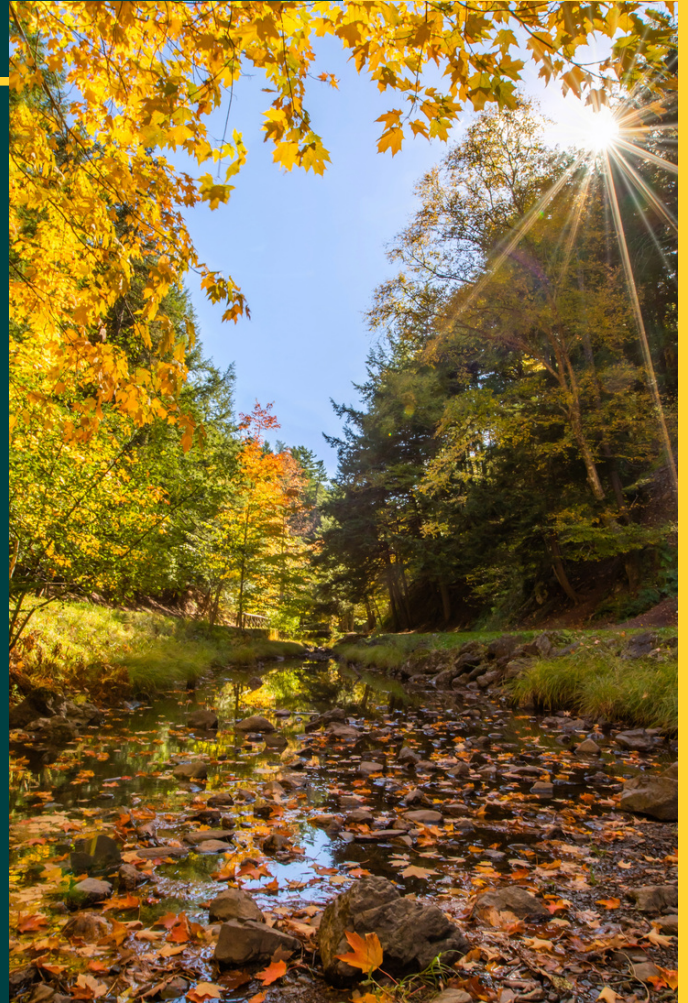


# TRURO 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW



[WWW.TRURO.CA](http://WWW.TRURO.CA)

# MAYOR'S MESSAGE

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I HOPE 2024 BRINGS YOU HEALTH AND HAPPINESS.



As I look back over the previous year, 2023 was a year of reaching goals and furthering priorities. We were able to start work on the TAAC Ground redevelopment on Golf Street and the new baseball field on Argus Drive. I am proud that we were able to get shovels in the ground in 2023.

In November, we announced funding received for the McClures Mills Road and Willow Street Roundabout. This project has been a top priority for Council over the last decade and we're excited that we'll see this start construction in 2024.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Ward 3 Councillor, Ian McGrath, to Truro Town Council. Ian was acclaimed in October 2024 after the resignation of former Ward 3 Councillor, Juliana Barnard, in August. We wish Juliana all the best in this next chapter of her life.

Town Council also worked through 2023 to build on our plans that will help guide the Town over the next number of years. This included approving the Town's new Community Plan in November. The Community Plan is an integrated plan that includes the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw. The Plan also outlines Strategic Priorities for Council and opportunities for community action.



We also approved the Town's Active Transportation Plan in March. This plan studies active approaches to moving people around Truro for any reason that citizens may need to commute in and around the community. Moving forward, we hope to include the implementation of this plan as part of our capital program.

Along with these highlights and successes, the Town and its citizens have also had many challenges. As issues and concerns surrounding the lack of housing and increase in homelessness continue to rise in Truro, this is becoming an increasing priority for Council. Council recognizes that supporting those most vulnerable and helping to create safe, secure, and affordable housing in Truro will help to reduce homelessness. We are committed to working with our federal, provincial, and local partners to seek immediate and short-term initiatives, while also working to develop long-term sustainable solutions.

Approximately 1,200 residential units are approved for development within the Town of Truro, and about 250 of those are currently under construction. While it will take time for all of these apartments to be built, it's promising to see, as it means additional housing options and much-needed supply will be developed in Truro. We will continue to encourage housing proposals that add value and make Truro a more affordable place to live.

We look forward to continuing work with our community partners in the Truro-Colchester region. Our partnerships with the Municipality of Colchester, Millbrook First Nation, the Village of Bible Hill, and the Town of Stewiacke are key to the success of the region. We will also continue to work with our local community organizations and stakeholders to grow and improve our region.

On behalf of Truro Town Council, I wish you all the best in 2024.

Mayor Bill Mills  
Town of Truro

FORMER WARD 3 COUNCILLOR,  
**JULIANA BARNARD,**  
RESIGNS FROM TOWN COUNCIL



In August, former Ward 3 Councillor, Juliana Barnard resigned from Town Council, as she was moving outside of Truro due to recent changes in her life that would see her unable to continue as Town Councillor.

Barnard was in her first term, elected to Council in 2020. Originally moving to Truro from Montreal in 2003, she worked with the le Conseil Scolaire Acadien Provincial (CSAP) to develop a province-wide program that promoted inclusion, diversity, and community. As a Councillor, Barnard sat on several committees, including the Active Transportation Committee, the African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee (co-chair), and the Diversity Advisory Committee (chair).

We wish Juliana the best in this new chapter of her life!



TRURO WELCOMES NEW COUNCILLOR,  
**IAN MCGRATH**

In September, Town Council announced that a Special Election would take place to fill the vacancy in Ward 3.

In October, Ian McGrath was acclaimed as the new Councillor for Ward 3 as the nomination process for the Special Election was concluded as an uncontested election.

While born and raised in St. John's, Newfoundland, Ian's lived across Canada and spent a year in Australia before settling in Nova Scotia in 2006. Ian has a strong volunteer background, having served on boards with Living Earth Council as Chair of the Active Transportation Committee and Vice Chair of Run Nova Scotia. He's also volunteered with McIntosh Run Watershed Association, the Railyard Mountain Bike Park, and spent four years as a youth track & field club assistant coach. His 25-year career in Information Technology started as a programmer and transitioned to Project Management in 2013.

Councillor McGrath was sworn in at the November 6th Public Council meeting.

# ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

## PLAN APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL

In March, Town Council approved the Town's new Active Transportation Plan. The plan explores alternative and active approaches to moving around Truro for recreation and outdoor adventure, shopping, work, social gatherings and any other reason residents commute.

It looks at expanding street or trail networks to support multi-modal and multi-generational connectivity that will have significant impacts on resident health through the creation of town-wide lifestyle infrastructure. It outlines the benefits of a network and proposes the network required to achieve these benefits.

A copy of the full Active Transportation Plan can be found on the Town's website at <https://www.truro.ca/active-transportation-plan.html>

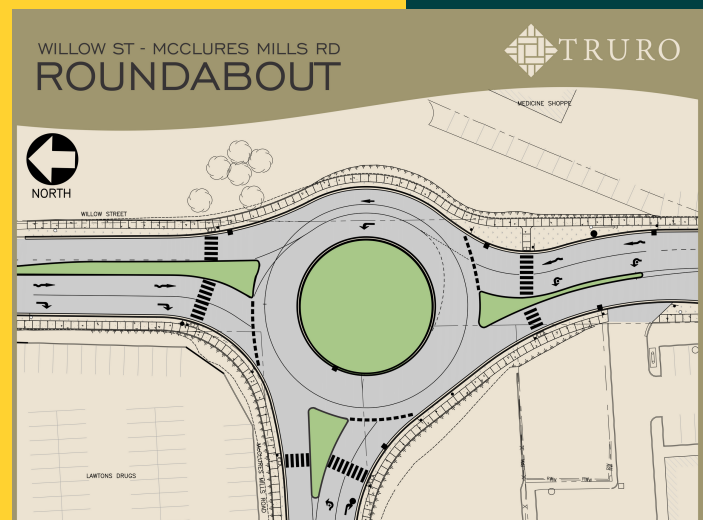


## MCCLURES MILLS ROAD AND WILLOW STREET ROUNDABOUT FUNDING ANNOUNCED

In November, the Government of Canada, along with the Province of Nova Scotia, and the Town of Truro announced a combined investment of \$2.8 million for the construction of a new roundabout at McClures Mills Road and Willow Street. The Government of Canada will be investing more than \$1.1 million in this project, while the Government of Nova Scotia is investing \$949,000, and the Town of Truro is contributing \$759,000. Funding was provided through the Rural and Northern Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

The new roundabout is expected to start construction in late Spring/early Summer 2024. When complete, it will help ease the current traffic congestion for approximately 38,000 vehicles passing through this intersection daily. The new infrastructure will also help improve the current traffic system and effectively manage the flow of traffic in this area while also reducing the number of traffic accidents and improving travel times for commuters.

More information will be available once the project is tendered and bid submissions are received.



# ONE MILLION RECEIVED TO HELP WITH REPAIRS TO THE **COLCHESTER LEGION STADIUM**

In March, the Town of Truro announced that it was the recipient of \$1 million to help repair the Colchester Legion Stadium.

Funding was received through the Province's Rink Revitalization Fund. Through this program community rinks can receive funding for critical upgrades that will extend their lifespan and create more access to sport and recreation, especially for women and girls.

The Colchester Legion Stadium was damaged significantly during Hurricane Fiona in the Fall of 2022. This has resulted in a long-term closure of the facility. The scope of the work is extensive and delays have been magnified due to the shortage of available labour and the extent of the repairs required.

As part of this project, the Town is also investing in a new ice plant at a cost of \$3 million. The new ice plant has been added to the Town's Energy and Facility Renewal Project through Honeywell and has a 25-year energy savings guarantee.

The Town of Truro is optimistic that the facility will reopen in the Fall of 2024.



## TAAC REVITALIZATION PROJECT AND NEW BALLFIELD UNDER CONSTRUCTION



In the Fall 2023 construction of what has become known as the TAAC Revitalization Project started. This total \$8.6 million project will see the former TAAC Grounds split into two locations. The first location, at the existing TAAC Grounds on Golf Street will see the refit of the current grounds with a multi-sport, all-weather field and synthetic 8-lane track with regulation throwing areas. The second location, off Argus Drive, will see the baseball diamond relocated and upgraded to a senior-sized, championship-quality baseball field.

The Town awarded the construction contract for the TAAC Ground project on Golf Street to local company, Global Construction (Maritimes), who will collaborate with The Glenn Group, based in Fredericton, NB. The total cost of this portion of the project is \$6.8 million. The construction of the baseball field on Argus Drive was awarded to Turf Master Landscaping Ltd. at a total costs of \$ 2.4 million.

In 2022, the Town of Truro received \$5.87 million in funding for the TAAC Revitalization Project through the Investing in Infrastructure Canada Fund. The balance of funding was secured through the Town of Truro, the Municipality of the County of Colchester, and community sponsorships and donations.

Both locations are currently closed to the public but should reopen in the Fall 2024.

## TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES NEW COMMUNITY PLAN

In November, Town Council approved Truro's new Community Plan. The Community Plan is an integrated plan which includes the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw. The Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw have specific content, primarily relating to property development and governed in scope by the Nova Scotia Municipal Government Act. However, the Community Plan also deals with community values and priorities. It presents action opportunities on issues informed by the Truro, Let's Connect findings.

The Community Plan received approval from the Province of Nova Scotia in December 2023 and became effective on January 11, 2024.

During the Public Council Meeting in November, Mayor Bill Mills thanked all citizens for their participation throughout the engagement process and stated, "The process (of the Land Use Bylaw and MPS) has resulted in the most studied document in the history of the Town of Truro, without a doubt."

Again, we wish to thank all citizens for their input, feedback and participation throughout the past two years.

For more information on the Town's new Community Plan, please visit <https://www.truro.ca/truro-lets-connect-community-plan.html>



# GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

During the year, the Town's Planning & Development Department issued 141 building permits for a total construction value of \$40,277,065.

PERMIT TYPE	VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION
Residential	\$24,949,705
Commercial	\$8,983,554
Industrial	\$4,078,801
Institutional & Government	\$2,265,004
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$40,277,065</b>

## DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS APPROVED IN 2023

The Town of Truro approved the following new Development Agreements in 2023. The Town of Truro currently has approximately 1,200 approved multi-unit residential units, and about 250 of those are currently under construction.

- 5-7 Charles Street – 27 units
- 1084 Prince Street – added 2 units
- 623 – 927 Young Street – 12 units
- 74 Lorne Street – 78 units
- 125-135 Willow Street – 20 units
- 60 Edgewood Drive – 5 units
- 55 Queen Street – added 1 unit
- 80 Brunswick Street – added 1 unit



# URBAN DEER MANAGEMENT

## IN 2023

As part of the Town of Truro's Deer Management Strategy, the Town completed the third Controlled Managed Hunt in late November. The hunt ran for just over six weeks and in total 58 deer were harvested.

The Controlled Managed Hunt is carried out annually with the guidance, oversight and permitting from the NS Dept of Natural Resources and Renewables (DNRR). Hunting is completed on approved sites by proficient hunters who are granted special permits from DNRR. As outlined in the Town's Deer Management Strategy, a Controlled Managed Hunt is considered the most favourable population reduction method, in terms of effectiveness, feasibility, public cost, capacity and time to implement.

The Town's Controlled Managed Hunt includes a partnership program with Millbrook First Nation. The partnership continues to expand each year. This year 34 deer from the program were harvested through the Town and were donated to Feed Nova Scotia to be distributed to food banks throughout Nova Scotia. This represents 478.5 kgs of meat and nearly 4,800 servings of protein to families in need throughout Nova Scotia. The Town donates meat through Feed Nova Scotia's Hunters Helping the Hungry program.

Millbrook harvested an additional 24 deer, with that meat being donated to Millbrook's community members through their Kwe Fresh program. The Kwe Fresh program produces meal kits with recipes produced by Chef Ray Bear that have venison as the protein source.

The program operates on as little waste as possible. As part of the program, all hides are donated to Millbrook First Nation and Sipekne'katik First Nation. Other parts of the animal are used for provincial and national research purposes, both through DNRR and Dalhousie University.

The Town of Truro wishes to thank all partners involved in this year's program.



## TOWN RESIDENT, LYNN JONES HONOURED BY TOWN COUNCIL



At the July Public Council meeting, Truro Town Council honoured and recognized Dr. G. Lynn Jones for receiving the Order of Canada.

This award was presented on June 30, 2023 by Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada, to honour Dr. Jones' leadership in the Canadian labour movement, and in advancing equity, justice and human rights in Nova Scotia and abroad.

Dr. Jones was born and raised in Truro and has been a lifelong civil and human rights activist, an educator, a community archivist, a community and labour organizer, and an inspiring speaker.

Dr. Jones was one of 60 members appointed, along with 3 companions and 22 officers.

The Order of Canada is one of our country's highest honours and recognizes people across all sectors of society who have made extraordinary and sustained contributions to Canada.

Numerous people attended the Council meeting to see Dr. Lynn Jones acknowledged, including poet, journalist, professor, and activist, El Jones, who delivered her poem, "Lynn Jones".

## TOWN OF TRURO AND REGIONAL PARTNERS WELCOME THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS GAMES



In July, the Town of Truro, along with partners from Millbrook First Nation, the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG), the Municipality of Colchester, and many other local partners, hosted a regional welcome for NAIG athletes, coaches, team staff, and their families as they spent time in the Truro-Colchester region. This welcoming included raising the Millbrook First Nation flag, hosting a welcoming tent onsite during the competition in Millbrook, distributing local collector pins and stickers, displaying signage and window decals throughout our communities, an athlete shuttle to area attractions, and providing visitor information.

The 10th North American Indigenous Games was hosted in the Halifax region and Millbrook from July 15 -23, 2023. The Games brought together 756 Indigenous Nations, consisting of more than 5,000 athletes, coaches, and staff, to celebrate, share, and reconnect through sport and culture!

Millbrook hosted the 3D archery competitions at the Pow Wow Grounds.

# ROBIE STREET

## BRANDED AS UPTOWN TRURO

In 2021, the Town of Truro installed new water lines along Robie Street, while also improving streetscape and sidewalk connections. This helped to create a more walkable and pedestrian-friendly area.

Robie Street is one of the main entrances into Truro from Highway 102. As such, it naturally lends itself to highway retail, business in the area wanted to create an inviting and inspiring district capable of drawing foot traffic and showcasing the area as an entryway into other parts of Truro. In recent years, numerous new business openings have created a shift that supports this area as a hub of activity and draws local interest.

With this input, the Town applied for funding to complete a branding project on Robie Street. Funding was received through the Nova Scotia Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Beautification and Streetscaping Program and was used to install new signage, street banners, garbage cans, bike racks, and create promotional materials.

The brand, Uptown Truro, seeks to unite and beautify this area of the Town of Truro. This brand was supported by businesses in the area due to its complementary nature to the unique destination of Downtown Truro. Both Downtown and Uptown are unique and different, but together can draw more visitors to Truro by showcasing all that Truro has to offer.



# AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH

## IN TRURO

At the Public Council Meeting on February 6, 2023, Mayor Bill Mills and Deputy Mayor Wayne Talbot signed a proclamation declaring the month of February as African Heritage Month in the Town of Truro.

The 2023 African Heritage Month theme was Seas of Struggle – African Peoples from Shore to Shore, which recognized the resiliency, strength, and determination of people of African descent from the shores of Africa to the shores of Nova Scotia -- with the Atlantic Ocean being the everlasting connection.

Nova Scotia has more than 50 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a long, deep and complex history dating back more than 400 years. African Heritage Month provides another opportunity to celebrate and promote the culture, legacy, achievements and contributions of people of African descent in Nova Scotia – past and present.

The Town's African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee created a calendar of community events during the month. They also supported numerous events which took place throughout February, including a presentation by Nevin Jackson at the Marigold Cultural Centre entitled Connecting Our Present to Our Past, Highlighting Our Early Black Settlers & Local Black Communities and an Elders Luncheon at the Truro Fire Hall, which recognized elders in the community and gave them an opportunity to share their family history and stories.





# ARBOUR DAY

In May, the Town's Urban Forest Committee hosted an Arbour Day tree-planting ceremony in the Civic Square in front of the Truro Police Station. Committee members attended this ceremony, and a red oak tree was planted.

The Town's Urban Forest Committee works to guide the Town's management of the urban forest in Truro, ensuring the health, safety and sustainability of the urban forest and the ecological services it provides the community and its residents.

# VICTORIA PARK POOL

## HOSTS GRAND REOPENING

In late June, the Town of Truro hosted the grand reopening of the Victoria Park Pool. While the pool officially reopened to the public in August 2022, this event allowed for informal tours of the new pool house and a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Victoria Park Pool closed in 2020 due to COVID, however it remained closed through 2021 as Victoria Park Pool required repairs and updating. Once complete, the renovation included a completely refurbished and accessible pool house.

Major donors attended and included the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), Rotary Club of Truro, CN Rail, Kedway Properties and Willkare Paving.



## TOWN OF TRURO PARTICIPATES IN THE PARTNERSHIP FOR MUNICIPAL INNOVATION – WOMEN IN LOCAL LEADERSHIP (PMI-WILL) PROGRAM

This year the Town of Truro participated in the Partnership for Municipal Innovation – Women in Local Leadership (PMI-WILL) program through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). PMI-WILL is a six-year project that is part of FCM’s portfolio of gender equality and women in local government initiatives. It is implemented in five countries: Benin, Cambodia, Ghana, Sri Lanka and Zambia.

The Town of Truro, along with thirteen other Canadian municipalities, are taking part in the program. Truro is partnered with the County of Middlesex in Ontario and five municipalities in Cambodia to build a program focused on peer-to-peer training and knowledge sharing. The project is funded by Global Affairs Canada.

Three staff members and one elected official from Truro participated in training sessions in Cambodia in 2023. The sessions focused on supporting five municipalities in Cambodia to develop a community engagement process to determine services needed and improve access to existing and new services, grant proposal writing, and gender-based budgeting as part of developing effective service delivery.

This program recognizes that local governments are responsible for a wide range of services that are essential to people’s daily lives. Many locally provided services, such as sanitation, clean water, primary education, community health services, and local transportation, impact women and girls the most. Local governments play a key role in ensuring equitable access to those services.

The programs aims to achieve two core objectives:

- Increase women’s capacity to get involved and lead in local governance, and
- Increase local governments’ capacity to deliver inclusive, gender-responsive services.



# STAFF RETIREMENTS

The Town of Truro wishes to recognize the following employees who retired in 2023 and thank them for their years of service with the Town:

- Rob Hearn (26 years) | Truro Police Service
- Cordell Paris (34 years) | Engineering & Public Works

We wish you the best of luck in your retirement!

## TRURO POLICE MEMBERS RECEIVE PROVINCIAL LONG SERVICE AWARDS

Two Truro police officers, Sgt Hickox and Det/Cst DeGroot, received 25-year Provincial Long Service Awards at a ceremony in Halifax in December.

Provincial Police Long Service Awards are given to police officers in Nova Scotia who have served for a minimum of 15 or 25 consecutive years. The medal recognizes their hard work and dedication to the justice system.

Congratulations to them both!



# STREETS AND SIDEWALKS

## 2023 CAPITAL SUMMARY

The Town of Truro Capital Program addresses 3 main categories:

- Street Revitalization
- Street Preservation
- Water and Sewer Upgrades

The Street Revitalization Program addresses roadways that have deteriorated over the years and are due to be upgraded. The 2023 program budget was approximately \$1,796,000.

The Street Preservation Program focuses on less intensive street preservation projects rather than more extensive full street reconstruction. This work typically involves pavement overlays, milling, and repaving. The 2023 program budget was approximately \$575,000.

Sewer upgrades include the capital replacement of a sanitary sewer main on Glenwood Dr. This work is done in coordination with the street asphalt programs, as repaving is required as part of this work. For 2023, \$45,000 was spent on new main installation.

### STREET REVITALIZATION

·Bayview Street, a local street, required a complete rebuild, including the removal and build-up of the subgrade gravels. New curb was installed on both sides of the street and a new sidewalk was installed on one side of the street. The total project cost was \$235,000.

·East Prince Street (from Aberdeen Street to the Overhead Bridge Crosswalk), a collector street, required a curb replacement on the south side of the street. The street and curb were corrected to allow for proper water drainage. The total project cost was \$85,000.

·Schirra Close, a local street, required a complete rebuild requiring the removal of the asphalt, gravel, contour, and paving. New curbs were installed on both sides of the street. The total project cost was \$160,000.

·Young Street, a collector street, required a new sidewalk, curb, and gutter in front of the Truro Farmers' Market, in conjunction with the paving overlay that was conducted under the Street Preservation Program. The total project cost of the sidewalk, curb, and gutter was \$79,000.

·Willow Street, an arterial street (from William Barnhill Drive to Blakeney Avenue), had a new low-profile curb installed on both sides of the street. Sidewalk was also installed on the west side of the street. The pavement was renewed on part of the street. The total project cost was \$768,000.

·Glenwood Drive, a collector street, required rebuilding. At the same time, the sanitary sewer main was replaced at the east end. Sections of curb and sidewalk were also replaced. The total project cost was \$308,000.

# STREETS AND SIDEWALKS

## 2023 CAPITAL SUMMARY

### STREET PRESERVATION

The following streets were milled and paved as part of the preservation program.

·Prince Street (Arlington Place to Walker Street)	\$275,000
·East Prince Street (Aberdeen Street to Crosswalk)	\$98,000
·William Barnhill Drive (Willow Street to Crossley Avenue)	\$275,000
·Young Street (Prince Street to Victoria Street)	\$83,000

Additionally, \$23,000 was spent on crack sealing and select paving.

### WATER AND SEWER

There were no other water and sewer main upgrades in this year's capital program, other than the sewer replacement on Glenwood Drive.



## JACOBS LADDER

### REOPENS AFTER EXTENSIVE HURRICANE FIONA DAMAGE

In May, the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department announced the reopening of Jacobs Ladder. Jacobs Ladder is a premiere feature in Victoria Park, and its location was one of the areas heavily damaged during Hurricane Fiona in September 2022.

# 2023/24

## TRURO'S ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Residential Tax Rate  
**\$1.85/\$100**  
Assessment

Commercial Tax Rate  
**\$4.50/\$100**  
Assessment

Road Preservation Tax Rate  
**\$0.0525/\$100**  
Assessment

### Operating Budget \$34.05 Million

Wage Increase  
Non-union staff  
& CUPE  
(per contract agreement)



**\$1,170,605**  
Capital Reserve Funding

Wage Increase  
for POLICE & FIRE  
(per contract agreement)



**\$3,150,000**  
Transfer Payments to Province  
Education - \$2,750,000  
Corrections - \$175,000  
Housing - \$225,000

**\$65,450**  
TCPEP  
Contribution



**\$657,500**  
RECC  
Contribution



### Capital \$5.5 Million



Buildings, Vehicles  
& Equipment  
**\$2.5 Million**



Streets, Sidewalks  
& Traffic Lights  
**\$2.3 Million**

TAAC Revitalization  
Project  
**\$700,000**



# CONTACT US

**695 PRINCE STREET  
TRURO, NS B2N 1G5  
902.895.4484**

Mayor Bill Mills (902) 956-1401  
Wayne Talbot, Ward 1 (902) 956-1407  
Alison Graham, Ward 1 (902) 324-8924  
Jim Flemming, Ward 2 (902) 324-8921  
Bill Thomas, Ward 2 (902) 324-8926  
Cathy Hinton, Ward 3 (902) 956-1406  
Ian McGrath, Ward 3 (902) 324-8927

CAO Office (902) 893-6076  
Planning & Development (902) 895-1148  
Engineering & Public Works (902) 895-4243  
Finance (902) 895-8011  
Parks, Recreation & Culture (902) 893-6078  
Fire Service (902) 895-4437  
Police Service (902) 895-5351