

## Environmental Health Services Report

Environmental Health Services supports the day-to-day background systems, from storm-water drainage and sanitary sewers to community beautification, flood control, and ongoing environmental monitoring.

The year's operating budget was \$389,400, and actual spending was \$444,441. The largest operating expense was sewer maintenance service fees paid to the Municipality of the County of Colchester for sanitary system maintenance. The cost was \$376,149.

Project expenditures on local flood control measures totaled \$53,279, which primarily involved clearing an area of storm damaged trees on a storm drainage lot between Retson Drive and Pictou Road, at a cost of \$50,371.

Bi-annual testing for methane gas within the washroom building at Bible Hill Recreation Park was undertaken on the former landfill site, on recommendation of the latest monitoring report by Dillon Consulting.

The Village's street banner program continued during the year, featuring talented artwork contributed by local artists, Canada Day themed banners, and Remembrance Day banners honouring veterans. The cost of the banner program during the year was \$4,576.



Commissioner Donna Van Kroonenburg  
Deputy Chair, Village Commission  
Chair, Environmental Health Services Committee



*Example of Village Sanitary Sewer Pump Station*

## Protective Services Report

The Village funds the budget of Bible Hill Fire & Emergency, an incorporated society of volunteers, to provide fire protection and prevention services to Bible Hill and, through mutual aid, to neighboring communities in Colchester and Truro. With advice of the brigade executive, the Village acquires and maintains fire apparatus, firefighting and training equipment, vehicles, and the fire station used by the brigade. This has been a long-standing relationship since incorporation of the Village.



*BHFE participating in the Canada Day Parade*

The protective services operating budget was \$413,200 and \$377,316 was spent on firefighting and fire prevention, as well as our school crossing guard program. The single largest operating expense of the year continues to be fire hydrant service, which cost \$91,752 for water supply and maintenance, along with costs for the fire station, fire vehicles, equipment repair and maintenance, honorariums, training, etc.

\$85,518 was invested in new capital equipment for brigade use. Notable purchases include new sets of Scott Air Paks and hoses with \$30,000 of funding from the Emergency Services Provider Fund, turnout gear, thermal imaging cameras, TMR radios, an AED, and equipment for suppressing automobile fires and immobilizing and monitoring electric car batteries.

The Village set aside \$101,960 into the fire apparatus reserve fund to provide partial financing of future purchases, leaving the fund with a year-end balance of \$622,053.

Village representatives, together with Regional Emergency Management Coordinator, David Westlake, met with Regional Operations Manager, Shawn Reynolds, of the new Nova Scotia Department of Emergency Management to discuss the Department's new regional presence and operations in support of emergency preparedness and response.



*Introduction to Nova Scotia Department of Emergency Management*

Our School Crossing Guard program has seven dedicated crossing guards and additional spare crossing guards that assist children at crosswalks on their way to and from school. The cost of the crossing guard program during the year was \$95,543, which includes wages, training, and supplies.



*Crossing Guards in Bible Hill (not pictured are our Spare Crossing Guards who help support them!)*

Commissioner Tim Shea  
Chair, Protective Services Committee

## Recreation and Cultural Services Report

The 2025-26 year was eventful, with a \$758,200 operating budget and a \$476,500 capital budget. Operating expenditures for the year totaled \$772,110 and capital expenditures were \$232,411.

Throughout the year, the recreation department delivered a range of successful programs and events that saw participation across all age groups. Demand for programming was strong, particularly for children and youth programs, with March break camp, summer day camps, and snow day camps all operating at or near full capacity. Summer day camps saw the largest waitlists to date, with many spaces filling within minutes of registration opening. The Before and After School Program, at Bible Hill Consolidated Elementary School, also completed a successful first full year and continued into the fall with strong enrollment.

Programs focused on active living, inclusion, and social connection continued to thrive throughout the year. The Home School Physical Activity Hour, Toddler Time, sensory gym programming, senior craft sessions, and senior badminton had positive feedback from participants. Recreation staff also partnered with Autism Nova Scotia to support inclusive summer camp opportunities, creating meaningful experiences for participants and families. The Girls at Bat program was offered again during the year, with multiple sessions operating at capacity, helping young participants build confidence and skills through sport. Adult recreation also continued to grow, with strong uptake in the Adult Summer Soccer League.

Community events remained a main focus, highlighted by another popular Canada Day celebration featuring a parade with 40+ entries, local vendors, and a variety of free activities including large inflatables, pony rides, a foam party, a magic show, music by STONEHOUSE, and other fun family entertainment. The streets and Bible Hill Recreation Park were full of people enjoying the day – notably one of the strongest turnouts for Canada Day seen at the park.

Recreation staff also supported school and community events, including field days, fun runs, bike rodeos, and a graduation celebration. During the winter season, the department participated as a partner in the Truro Long John Festival by hosting a series of outdoor recreation events in Bible Hill, including sledding, snowshoeing, and a large-scale pond hockey tournament that attracted 160+ players from across the region, generating significant community interest.

Village recreation facilities continued to experience regular use throughout the year. Sports fields remained consistently booked, the sledding hill saw winter use, and recreation spaces supported a wide variety of organized and drop-in programming. These strong participation levels continue to demonstrate the growing demand for affordable, accessible, and quality recreation experiences within the community.

The success of the department's programming and events was made possible through the dedication of staff. Their efforts helped foster active living, social connection, inclusion, and community pride throughout the Village, while continuing to strengthen recreation opportunities for residents of all ages.

In the fall, the Village completed new 3-metre-wide paved pathways around the playground and through the heart of Bible Hill Recreation Park, creating better connections and a more accessible experience for everyone. The Loop, at the upper end of the park, is approximately 295 metres long, includes six new cedar benches, and links the parking lot, ball fields area, washrooms, picnic shelter, playground, and the



*Canada Day parade participants  
Photo credit: Linda Chisholm*

Cobequid Trail. This project was a planned phase of work from the Park Master Plan and reflects our ongoing commitment to improving this well-loved community space.

Offsetting the cost of the project, the Village applied approximately \$76,000 in donations and received \$50,000 from the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage through the Community ACCESS-ability grant program.



*The Loop at Bible Hill Recreation Park*

The Village received other recreation related grants in the following amounts (non-exhaustive list):

- \$5,000 from Canadian Heritage for Canada Day celebrations;
- \$5,000 from Chignecto Central Regional Centre for Education for a storage building for Bible Hill Consolidated Elementary School; and
- \$2,500 from Chignecto Central Regional Centre for Education via the Municipality of the County of Colchester for student programming.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dwight Giddens'.

Commissioner Dwight Giddens  
Chair, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee

## Transportation Services Report

In the year's budget, \$308,700 was allocated to transportation services operating expenses and \$382,295 was spent during the year including crosswalk lighting repairs, sidewalk repairs, streetlighting charges, and ice control and snow removal on sidewalks.

Consistent winter weather events throughout the season required attention, resulting in costs of \$51,265 above budget expectations for ice control and snow removal.

\$398,000 was budgeted for the year's capital projects and \$754,207 was spent.

During the year, 2.7 kilometers of sidewalk was renewed on Vimy Road, Brookside Road and its intersecting side streets, College Road, and others, at a cost of \$353,042.

Following long-awaited approval from the Nova Scotia Department of Public Works', a new crosswalk was installed on College Road at Covington Place, with new pedestrian ramps and solar flashing crosswalk lighting, providing safer crossings for residents. The work cost \$121,934.

Commissioners took the opportunity, while installing solar flashing crosswalk lighting at Covington Place, to install the same at Bible Hill Recreation Park, Osprey Court, and Saywood Drive, for consistency along College Road, at a cost of \$60,484.

The Village requested and received \$160,585 through Municipality of Colchester as an annual allocation of the Federal 'Canada Community Building Fund', now known as the 'Build Communities Strong Fund (BCSF) Communities Stream', which was used towards funding sidewalk renewals.

The Commission also engaged WSP for detailed engineering design of new accessible curb ramps, following the new requirements set out in the Nova Scotia Built Environment Accessibility Standard, and we were very pleased to receive \$486,136 towards construction from the Province of Nova Scotia's GRID program.

During the year, the Village partnered with Municipality of Colchester on development of an Active Transportation Strategy to help guide development of AT infrastructure in the region.

The Commission welcomes suggestions related to services and infrastructure within its areas of responsibility and opportunities to work together with other levels of governments to advance active transportation.



*Sidewalk renewal on Brookside Road and Vimy Road*



*New crosswalk on College Road at Covington Place*

Commissioner Knickolle Pitcher  
Chair, Transportation Services Committee

# Chair's Report

Over the past year, the Village continued delivering essential local services to residents while making important investments in infrastructure and community facilities. Combined operating and capital expenditures totaled approximately \$4 million. In addition, \$192,000 was contributed to reserve funds to help address future needs, including fire apparatus replacement, maintenance equipment, and other operational pressures.

Overall taxable assessment growth across residential and commercial properties increased by approximately 6.9% year over year, resulting in an additional \$183,000 in property tax revenue.

Throughout the year, several capital improvements and equipment upgrades were completed. Administrative office computers were renewed, and the HVAC system at the Village Office was replaced with an electric heat pump system at a cost of \$130,448, helping reduce reliance on fossil fuels. Maintenance staff also received a second baseball infield groomer and a new mower to support operations.

At H. Douglas Boyce Village Hall, a portion of the roof was replaced at a cost of \$259,524. Additional accessibility and safety improvements included the installation of a new AED, replacement of fire bells with more accessible horn and strobe light units, replacement of doorknobs with lever handles, and the addition of a powered height-adjustable lectern.

During last June's nomination period, Commissioner Van Kroonenburg and Commissioner Pitcher were both re-elected by acclamation.

At the September AGM of Association of Nova Scotia Villages in the Village of Port Williams, I was honoured to be re-elected Vice President, Commissioner Shea, be re-elected as Director at Large, and Commissioner Van Kroonenburg be re-elected as Secretary. We are also excited to co-support bolstering the administrative capacity of the ANSV, with the Board welcoming Doug Boudreau as Coordinator to support its work.

Commissioners celebrated two outstanding community volunteers last April. Dwight Giddens was presented a Volunteer of the Year Award for his leadership and persistence in support of Scotia Pool, and Landen Ralph presented a Youth Volunteer of the Year Award for his impressive contributions as a Junior Leader in our summer day camp program.

The Village and the Town of Truro's shared EDIA Coordinator, Niki Gillis, worked in a variety of ways, internally and externally, to advance our regional goals under both the Regional Accessibility Plan and the Regional Equity and Anti-Racism Strategy. A highlight was the "Come Sit With Us" event in recognition of African Heritage Month, featuring speakers who came forward to share their lived experiences and perspectives, aiming to foster belonging and community dialogue.



Partial roof replacement – 69 Pictou Road



Volunteer of the Year Recipient –  
Dwight Giddens



Youth Volunteer of the Year Recipient –  
Landen Ralph

The Commission was pleased to nominate Dwight Giddens as the Village's recipient for the 2025 Provincial Volunteer Award. The Honourable Mike Savage, ONS, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, presented Dwight with the provincial recognition in honour of his outstanding community contributions.

Commissioners once again hosted the annual New Year's Levee on January 1, welcoming residents to gather, socialize, and celebrate the beginning of the new year.

The Village was honoured to receive a very generous \$50,000 donation during the year, in support of capital improvements at Bible Hill Recreation Park. We are so pleased to see such support of our community.

The Village also received financial relief through the recovery of \$81,715 from the Department of Emergency Management related to expenditures incurred during post-storm Fiona cleanup efforts in 2022–2023.

Village Commissioners meet regularly on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at 67 Pictou Road. Committee meetings are typically held on the second Tuesday of each month at the same time and location. Residents are always welcome to attend these public meetings. If you have a community question or concern, please contact us, your Village Commissioners.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin".

Commissioner Kevin Kennedy  
Chair, Bible Hill Village Commission

# Bible Hill Fire and Emergency Report

Bible Hill Fire & Emergency (BHFE) remains committed to providing high-quality fire protection, emergency response, and community service to the residents of Bible Hill and our mutual aid partners throughout Truro and Colchester County. Our department is comprised of 30 dedicated volunteer firefighters, six fireground officers, and three administrative personnel who continue to demonstrate professionalism, teamwork, and a strong commitment to public safety.



As we reflect on 2025, we are proud of the accomplishments achieved by our members and grateful for the continued support of our community partners. Through training, operational readiness and community engagement, BHFE has continued to strengthen its ability to serve those who depend on us.

During the year, our members responded to 183 emergency incidents, dedicating countless hours to protecting lives and property. Whether responding to fires, medical emergencies, motor vehicle collisions, hazardous conditions, or public assistance calls, our personnel consistently demonstrated skill and dedication.

Our department continues to benefit from strong relationships with neighboring fire departments and emergency service agencies across Colchester County. Mutual aid remains a critical component of emergency response in our region, and we are thankful for the ongoing cooperation and support provided by our Colchester County partners. These relationships ensure that resources and expertise are available whenever and wherever they are needed.

Training continues to be one of the cornerstones of our organization. Throughout 2025, members participated in over 600 hours in-house training, external courses, certifications, and mutual aid exercises. These opportunities allowed members to maintain and enhance their skills in areas such as fire suppression, vehicle extrication, rapid intervention, pump operations, medical first response, incident command, and emergency scene management. The dedication shown by our members in pursuing professional development directly contributes to the effectiveness and safety of our operations.

BHFE remains committed to maintaining a modern and reliable fleet capable of meeting the demands of our response area. Throughout the year, we continued to focus on apparatus maintenance, equipment upgrades, and long-term planning to ensure our members have the tools necessary to operate safely and effectively.

Our members also continued to distinguish themselves through leadership and participation beyond our department. Several members attended conferences, workshops, and regional training events, bringing valuable knowledge and experience back to our organization. Their commitment to continuous improvement helps strengthen both our department and the fire service as a whole.

One of the greatest strengths of BHFE is its people. Throughout the year, we welcomed new members, celebrated milestones, recognized achievements, and supported one another through challenges. The dedication, experience, and mentorship demonstrated by our members continue to build a strong foundation for the future of our department.

Community engagement remains an important part of our mission. In 2025, BHFE participated in numerous public education initiatives, with school visits and our open house for fire prevention week. Community events including the annual Canada day parade traffic and barbeque at the park. Charitable activities with our involvement in Holiday heroes and many other fundraising opportunities for multiple community charities. These efforts provide valuable opportunities to connect with

residents, promote fire prevention and safety awareness, and reinforce the strong relationship between the department and the community we proudly serve.

Our Giving Back to the Community program continued to reflect the generosity and community spirit of our members. Through donations, volunteer efforts, and support of local initiatives, we remained committed to helping improve the quality of life within our community beyond emergency response.

The department also took time throughout the year to recognize individuals whose contributions have helped shape BHFE. At our annual awards banquet for 2025 we honored the following members: Firefighter of the year and Training award winner, Todd Morrison. Honorary member of the year, Dave Haner. Finally, Officer of the year, Michael Snyder. We remain grateful for the service and dedication of our current members, retired members, honorary members, and community supporters whose efforts have contributed significantly to the success and growth of our organization.

We also appreciate the support of the Village of Bible Hill Commission, our mutual aid partners, community organizations, and residents for their continued confidence and support. Working together, we continue to build a safer and stronger community.

As we look ahead to 2026, BHFE remains focused on operational excellence, member development, community service, and organizational sustainability. We are proud of what has been accomplished and remain committed to serving our community with professionalism, integrity, and dedication.

Justine Kelly  
Fire Chief, Bible Hill Fire & Emergency