



Colchester Newsletter

VOL 32 | ISSUE 2

JUNE 2026



Hello Colchester!

Welcome to the Summer 2026 edition of Colchester's newsletter, where we share exciting news, helpful tips and much more with our residents!

Photo by Amy Hutt

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Hello from Mayor Blair!

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Read about what's happening in Colchester, straight from the Mayor's office!

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PHOTO CONTEST

Want your photo featured in our newsletter? Submit your photos and you will be entered to win a Colchester swag bag and could be our next lucky winner!

Visit colchester.ca/photo-contest or email photos@colchester.ca to enter!

Be centred here.

From the Mayor's Desk

Phone
902-897-3184

Email
cblair@colchester.ca

Website
colchester.ca/municipal-council

Council Approves 2026-27 Operating Budget: On April 28, 2026, Council approved its 2026-27 operating budget with no increase to residential or commercial tax rates. Our Council is proud to be able to do this despite rising costs.

In Praise of Volunteers: We celebrated National and Provincial Volunteer Week in April to recognize the generous and invaluable contributions of our volunteers. Colchester communities could not function smoothly without the much appreciated work of our many volunteers and the roles they play in our communities.

Amongst the many that we honour are our 508 volunteer firefighters and first responders. The work they do is crucial to our well-being and safety.

Wildfire Protection at Debert Airport: On May 13, I was pleased to join Premier Tim Houston and Forest Protection Limited for the announcement of Nova Scotia's wildfire protection services program, which is based out of the Debert Airport for the 2026 wildfire season. The Province has invested in fire protection services this summer and are proud to host this program at the Debert Airport.

Thank you to the provincial government and to Forest Protection Limited. Partnerships like this one are an important part of our future, well-being and safety.

Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Annual Spring Conference: On behalf of the Municipality, I attended the NSFM Annual Spring Conference in the Town of Yarmouth, April 29 – May 1. It was another well-planned and well-attended event.

We heard about municipal success stories; programs to combat drought; dark skies and astro tourism; stormwater management strategies; NS Department of Emergency Management updates; and NS Department of Justice re the policing review.

All were excellent and informative topics. But once again, one of the main topics discussed was the rising levels of hate targeting elected officials, especially female local leaders, harassment, intimidation, threats and messages delivering misinformation and disinformation.

Rath Eastlink Community Centre (RECC) Update: Based on an approval and recommendation from the RECC Board, Colchester County and Truro Town Councils are reviewing the decision to hire an engineering firm to do a complete overview of our Rath Eastlink Community Centre. The successful firm would give the Board a report on what is needed for capital improvements and to upgrade the facility for in-house maintenance to the expected standards of such an amazing facility.

Ice has now been removed from the RECC for the summer months. Removing the ice is an expected savings of \$100,000 to the expenses of the RECC. In collaboration with the Town of Truro, the Colchester Legion Stadium will maintain its ice in that rink most of this Summer.

A special thank you to the RECC Board for the actions they have taken with the best interests of the RECC facility in mind. Their expertise in private business, government and community is very much appreciated as we all move forward to make this facility the best it can be.

In closing: Please continue to exercise caution on our roads during this construction season as there are a lot of projects happening in Colchester County.

Congratulations to the Bible Hill Fire and Emergency service on its 80th Anniversary.

My best to each of you.

Christine Blair
Mayor

Recreation

PARKS AND TRAILS | PROGRAMS | EQUIPMENT LOAN | FACILITIES | GRANTS & FUNDING

Phone
902-897-3150 Option 5

Email
recreation@colchester.ca

Website
colchester.ca/recreation

Facebook
@MunColRec

Programs

COBEQUID TRAIL RUN

August 30th



Join us on August 30th for the **20th Anniversary of the Cobequid Trail Run!** Enjoy the beautiful scenery and a fast, flat, and fun run on the Cobequid Trail.



Register for the 5K, 10K, or Half Marathon at:

raceroster.com

COLCHESTER BIKE WEEK

June 5 – June 13



The **19th Annual Bike Week** takes place in June with fun, free events, and helpful tips to cycle safely!



Follow us on Facebook or check the program webpage for details.

colchester.ca/colchester-bike-week

FUN IN THE SUN DAY CAMPS

July – August



Fun in the Sun Day Camps take place in July and August. Each week is packed with fun outdoor games, activities, sports, and theme days.



For locations and schedule check:

colchester.ca/fun-in-the-sun-day-camps

Get Out and Get Active!

You might have visited some of our Municipal Parks, including **Five Islands Lighthouse Park**, **Stewiacke River Park**, and **Nelson Memorial Park**, to name a few. These are popular places to walk and play, enjoy a picnic with a beautiful view, and sit and enjoy quiet time in nature. **Fundy Discovery Site**, a unique park beside the Salmon River where you can watch the tidal bore arrive twice daily, has a fantastic playground inspired by the Bay of Fundy.

We operate 15 km of the 19 km Cobequid Trail network which is great for bicycling, running, leisurely walks and wildlife viewing, and has numerous trailheads, scenic viewpoints and rest areas with benches and picnic tables.

For more information on Colchester County Parks and Trails, visit

colchester.ca/parks-and-trails



Fundy Discovery Site

Budget 2026/27

TAX RATE | PROGRAMS & SERVICES | SAFETY

Council Approves Operating Budget – No Increase in Tax Rates

Colchester County Council has approved its 2026/27 operating budget with no increase to residential or commercial tax rates. This marks the eighth time in nine years that the Municipality has held tax rates steady, with only a modest half-cent increase occurring in 2019.

Residential property owners will continue to pay \$0.885 and commercial property owners \$2.28 per \$100 of assessed value, as determined by Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC), the independent, not-for-profit agency responsible for all property assessments in Nova Scotia.

This year's balanced operating budget totals just over \$47 million, up from \$45 million last year. Steady growth in new construction and property values has continued to increase residential and commercial tax revenues, enabling the Municipality to expand services without raising tax rates.

The 2026/27 budget sustains core programs and services, prioritizes critical infrastructure, and promotes economic development and community well-being. It also continues funding for the County's comprehensive grant programs for local not-for-profit and volunteer organizations.

“Our dedicated community groups continue to persevere through challenging economic times,” said Mayor Christine Blair. “We value their contributions and are glad to support their work, which provides such vital services and facilities throughout the county.”

This year, 45% of the Municipality's tax revenue—\$21 million—will be transferred to the Province to support services such as education, libraries, policing, and assessment. Education costs alone increased by \$714,198 (6.8%), following last year's \$828,000 rise. Policing costs grew by 3.43%.

Given Colchester County's large geographic area and recent history, community safety remains a top priority. Accordingly, the budget provides for three additional police officers, building on the three added in 2025.

The remaining 55% of the Municipality's operating budget is used to fund essential local services such as solid waste management, recreation services, wastewater treatment, community and environmental planning, economic development, and emergency management services. With community growth and demand for services continuing to rise, an increased investment of \$500,000 in staffing and facilities was necessary to keep pace this year.

Other notable items include \$100,000 added for public transit and \$500,000 for construction of a fire protection system that will serve the Debert Business Park and support future development such as the Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre. Council also set aside \$315,500 this year to be added to the annual \$200,000 reserve fund designated for capital cost repairs at the Rath Eastlink Community Centre. This is in addition to the annual \$750,000 allocation for RECC operations.

“Despite increasing financial pressures, including continued rising mandatory contributions to the Province, we have again delivered a responsible, forward-looking budget. One that reflects thoughtful planning, accommodates growth, and demonstrates our commitment to the residents we serve. I'm proud of our Council and staff for the extensive work, rigorous review, and strong financial stewardship that shaped this budget—especially with no increase to the tax rate.”

– Mayor Christine Blair.

Community Development

PLANNING | BUILDING INSPECTION | PROPERTY INFORMATION | SUSTAINABILITY

Phone
902-897-3170

Email
comdev@colchester.ca

Website
colchester.ca/community-development

Building a More Sustainable Colchester

Colchester is taking steps toward a more energy-efficient and climate-resilient future. Two important initiatives are now underway:

- New provincial **energy efficiency building code** requirements are now in effect for new homes and small buildings in Colchester.
- The Municipality of Colchester is developing **Green Development Standards** to help guide sustainable growth and future development locally.

While these initiatives both support climate and energy goals, they serve different roles. The provincial building code sets the minimum energy standards for new construction, while Colchester's Green Development Standards are being developed as a local framework to encourage further sustainable development practices.

Nova Scotia's New Energy Building Codes

Nova Scotia has adopted updated energy efficiency codes designed to reduce energy use in housing and small buildings. The new energy efficiency codes came into effect on **April 1, 2026**.

WHAT DO THE NEW CODES INCLUDE?

Nova Scotia will adopt Tier 2 of Section 9.36 of the 2020 National Building Code of Canada (NBC). Key improvements include:

- Better insulated walls
- More energy-efficient windows and doors
- Efficient hot water tanks and mechanical ventilation (HRV) units
- Tighter building envelopes
- Smaller heated or cooled buildings to reduce energy consumption

Green Development Standards

The Municipality of Colchester is developing Green Development Standards to support the goals of its Carbon-Free Colchester Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) and the Province of Nova Scotia's broader climate and sustainability objectives. The Green Development Standards will provide a clear, practical framework to encourage new development toward improved energy performance, lower emissions, and greater climate resilience, while reflecting Colchester's diverse urban, rural contexts.

As part of this work, the Municipality will also explore incentive and value-added options to encourage voluntary uptake, while ensuring the framework remains feasible, administrable, and aligned with existing municipal and provincial processes.

The Colchester Green Development Standards will be developed over the next several months with oversight from a core municipal staff team and representatives from Clean Foundation. Stay tuned for a link to our engagement page with opportunities to learn more and participate in the process visit www.colchester.ca.





Colchester

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Municipal Dates & Meetings

JUNE 2026

02

TUES

Council Committee Meeting

6 PM

Presentation Meeting, on as needed basis

06

SAT

Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off

Clean Harbors, 640 MacElmon Road, Debert
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

09

TUES

Municipal Tax Sale

10:00 am, Truro Legion (42 Brunswick Street)

11

THURS

Council Committee Meeting

6 PM

See the upcoming agenda @
colchester.ca/meeting-agenda

13

SAT

Mobile Household Hazardous Waste Event

North Shore Recreation Centre, Tatamagouche
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

20

SAT

Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off and Community Paper Shredding Event

Stewiacke Fire Hall, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

25

THURS

Council Meeting

6 PM

See the upcoming agenda @
colchester.ca/meeting-agenda

JULY 2026

01

WED

Municipal Office Closure

Canada Day

04

SAT

Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off

Clean Harbors, 640 MacElmon Road, Debert
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

03

MON

Municipal Office Closure

Natal Day

04

TUES

Council Committee Meeting

6 PM

Presentation Meeting, on as needed basis

08

SAT

Household Hazardous Waste Drop OffClean Harbors, 640 MacElmon Road, Debert
9:00 am – 1:00 pm**13**

THURS

Council Committee Meeting

6 PM

See the upcoming agenda @
colchester.ca/meeting-agenda**27**

THURS

Council Meeting

6 PM

See the upcoming agenda @
colchester.ca/meeting-agenda**30**

SUN

Cobequid Trail RunRegister at raceroster.com

SEPTEMBER 2026

01

TUES

Council Committee Meeting

6 PM

Presentation Meeting, on as needed basis

07

MON

Municipal Office Closure

Labour Day

6 PM

10

THURS

Council Committee MeetingSee the upcoming agenda @
colchester.ca/meeting-agenda**12**

SAT

Household Hazardous Waste Drop OffClean Harbors, 640 MacElmom Road, Debert
9:00 am – 1:00 pm**24**

THURS

Council Meeting

6 PM

See the upcoming agenda @
colchester.ca/meeting-agenda

Awards

COLCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY HERITAGE AWARDS | VOLUNTEER AWARDS

2026 Colchester Historical Society Heritage Awards

The Municipality was pleased to nominate the Debert and Area Community Association (DACA) for a Colchester Historical Society 2026 Heritage Award! Congratulations to the Association for receiving this award in recognition of the continued operation of the Debert Lodge, a landmark former Masonic Hall, as a community venue.

DACA is ensuring that the Lodge stays as an important part of the day-to-day life of the Debert community, just like the former Masonic group started doing 80 years ago for their own community members. This commitment mirrors the historical importance of how the Lodge has been used as it continues to provide a place for camaraderie and service. Find DACA and the Debert Lodge on Facebook

Congratulations to all the award winners!



Laureen Rushton, representing the Debert & Area Community Association accepted the award from Mayor Christine Blair



Volunteer Awards

Volunteers are the heart of our communities. The Municipality of Colchester recognizes the hard work and dedication of the many volunteers that help make our communities thrive.

This years winners are:

Individual Volunteers:

Mary Main, Jeanine Clague, Linda Finnie, Greg Currie, Brian Yorke, Lisa Armsworthy, Jessica Hinton, Ted Ash, Brenda Mentis, Daniel Quinn, Wendy Gould, Brooklyn Hipson, Patrick Jayasinghe, Kathy Barnhill, Marion Shearer, Alfreda Malone, Reham Khaled Al Radi

Royal Pettigrew Award

Carolyn Benvie

Provincial Volunteer Representative (Colchester County)

Nancy Crosby

Provincial Volunteer Representative (Town of Truro)

Dwayne Vidito

Youth Volunteers:

Allie Helfrich, Linden Helfrich

Group Volunteers:

Cliffs of Fundy Global Geopark, Maggie's Place-A Resource Centre for Families Association

Public Works

ROADS & DRIVEWAYS | SIDEWALKS | SEWER | WATER | STREETLIGHTS | FLOODING

Phone
902-897-3150 Option 2

Email
engineer@colchester.ca

Website
colchester.ca/public-works

Understanding Your Private Sewer

There are multiple factors that can cause sewage to backup into your home, including fat and grease buildup, root intrusions from trees, cracks in your pipes, and depositing non-flushable wipes down your drains.

FUN FACT:

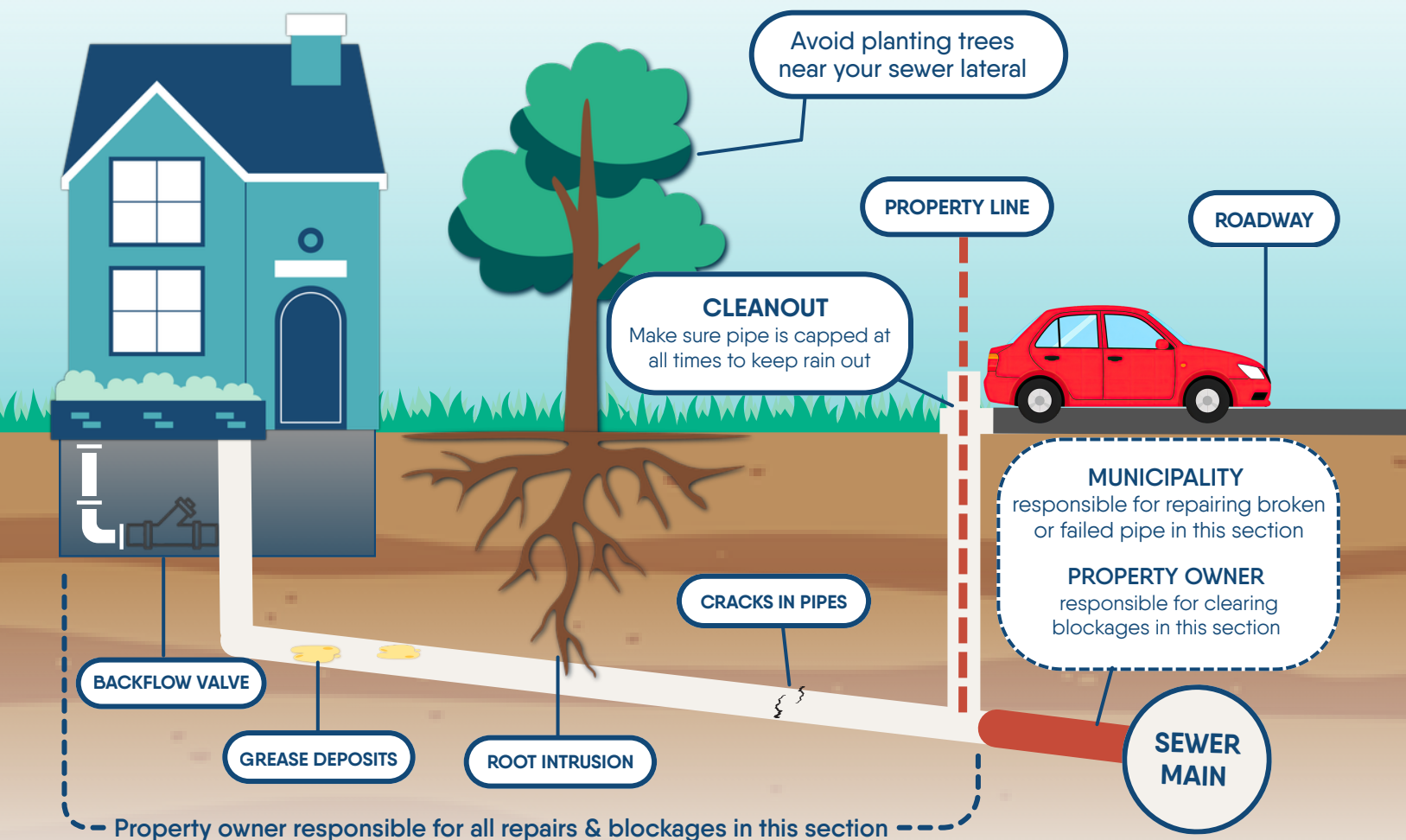
A lot of products indicate they are flushable; however, this is not the case.

The only thing going down your drain should be the 3 P's – Poop, Pee and Toilet Paper.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Blockages in a lateral, whether under the road or on private property side, are the **responsibility of the property owner**.

Where the section of the lateral under the road is broken, the **Municipality is responsible** for the repair. Where a property owner is requiring a repair to this section of a lateral, they must provide sewer video evidence from a plumber showing evidence of the break. The Municipality will review the sewer video and decide if a repair is warranted. If yes, the property owner can request reimbursement for associated plumber fees.



Solid Waste

GARBAGE & RECYCLING | COLLECTION SCHEDULE | EDUCATION | SORTING GUIDES | GREEN CARTS

Phone
902-897-3150 Option 1

Email
helpline@colchester.ca

Website
colchester.ca/garbage-and-recycling

Instagram
@colchesterwrn

Solid Waste Closures and Curbside Collection Updates

The Solid Waste Facilities in Kemptown will be closed on the following dates:

Wed, July 1st	Canada Day
Mon, August 3rd	Natal Day
Mon, September 7th	Labour Day
Wed, September 30th	National Truth and Reconciliation Day

COLLECTION RESCHEDULE DATES

If your collection is scheduled for Wednesday, July 1st, this collection will take place on Monday, July 6th.

If your collection is scheduled for Wednesday, September 30th, this collection will take place on Monday, October 5th.

SCHEDULED DATE	NEW DATE
Wed, July 1	Mon, July 6
Wed, Sept 30	Mon, Oct 5

REMINDERS

All materials should be curbside before 7:00 am on your collection day, to ensure it is collected.

All garbage taken to the Balefill Facility, whether residential or business, **MUST BE in clear bags** or you will be asked to re-bag into clear bags.

Cash, personal cheques or INTERAC are accepted as payment. **Credit cards are NOT accepted.**

Oil and Electronic Recycling Programs

The Colchester Solid Waste Facility in Kemptown has a New and Improved Oil and Electronic Recycling Drop-Off Area.



Oil Recycling Program Accepted Products:

- Oils
- Filters
- Plastic Containers
- Antifreeze (Glycols)
- Aerosol Containers



Electronics Recycling Program Accepted Products:

- Display Devices
- Desktop and Portable Computers
- Phones
- Scales
- Floor or Carpet Care Appliances
- Personal Care Appliances
- Computer Accessories
- Air Treatment Appliances (excluding air conditioners)
- Video Gaming System
- Small Household Appliances
- Vehicle Audio and Home Audio Systems

DROP OFF TIPS

- Items need to be dropped off loose
- Items must NOT be mixed in garbage bags.

Hours of Operation:

Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Saturdays 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Odds & Ends

COMPOST | SEWER PERMITS

Compost for Sale

Available Year-Round

Give your garden the boost it deserves with high-quality, nutrient-rich compost! Our compost is perfect for gardens, lawns, flower beds, and landscaping projects—helping improve soil health, retain moisture, and support strong plant growth.

Pricing

- \$3.00 per bag
- \$35.00 per metric tonne (bulk)

Compost Pick-Up Times:

- Monday to Friday: 8:00 am – 3:30 pm
- Saturday: 8:00 am – 11:30 am

Location

188 Mingo Rd, Kemptown

Backyard Composting

Have you ever thought about composting at home? Backyard composters do not have to be complicated. You may decide to compost using an open pile, to construct a basic wooden bin yourself or you may prefer to purchase a backyard composter.

DID YOU KNOW?

Organic materials have been banned from landfill since 1997

For more detailed information on how to set up your own backyard composting system, **call the Colchester Solid Waste Helpline at**

902-895-4777



Sewer Permits

When are they Required?

Sewer permits are required for all new connections, repairs or replacements to existing connections, and disconnections.

The only time the \$150 sewer permit fee applies is for a new connection to our main sewer line.

Where a new sewer lateral to the main line requires installation by the County, a fee of \$8,000 will apply.



APPLYING FOR A PERMIT

Applications for sewer permits can be done on our online portal by visiting **colchester.ca/permits**. Applications should be submitted at least **TWO** weeks in advance of scheduling the work to ensure you receive your permit in time.

Inspections are required for all types of connections or repairs, and we require 24 hours notice for scheduling purposes. Sewer inspections can be booked Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 2:30 pm by calling the Public Works office at 902-897-3175, Option 2.

colchester.ca/permits

Tax Office

PROPERTY TAXATION | WATER UTILITY BILLING | BUDGET | FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Phone

902-897-3150 Option 3

Email

taxoffice@colchester.ca

Website

colchester.ca/finance

Property Tax Bills

Due: August 31, 2026

Your 2026/27 Property Tax Bill(s) will be **mailed out in mid-June** and are due by August 31, 2026.



If you do not receive your bill(s) by the end of June, please contact the Tax Office at 902-897-3150 Option 3. It is your responsibility to ensure that we have your up-to-date mailing address.

Property Tax Sale

Next Sale: June 9, 2026

The next Tax Sale is scheduled for June 9, 2026. The sale will take place at 10:00 am at the Brunswick Street Legion (42 Brunswick Street, Truro).

The Tax Sale was advertised in the local newspapers on Thursday, May 7, 2026 and will be advertised again on Thursday, June 4, 2026.

For more information about the Tax Sale, please visit our website at colchester.ca/tax-sales or call the Tax Office at **902-897-3162**.



Connect With Us Online



Website

www.colchester.ca



Facebook

[@ColchesterNS](https://www.facebook.com/ColchesterNS)



Instagram

[@ColchesterCounty](https://www.instagram.com/ColchesterCounty)



Linkedin

[@Municipality-of-Colchester](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Municipality-of-Colchester)

Work With Us

colchester.applytojobs.ca

The Municipality of Colchester is committed to treating people fairly, with respect and dignity. We encourage all qualified applicants who identify as Indigenous, Black/African Nova Scotian, Persons of Colour, Newcomers, Persons with Disabilities, 2SLGBTQIA+ to apply and self-identify on their applications.

Contact

Phone: 902-897-3150

Hours of Operation: Monday to Friday
8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
For evening and/ or weekend emergencies, call 902-897-3175

COUNCIL

Looking to contact your councillor? Stay up to date on meetings?

Visit the webpage below or scan the QR code!



www.colchester.ca/municipal-council