

Monthly Departmental Report

Operations

March 2025

In addition to their routine maintenance work Operational Services staff worked on and will be working on:

RECREATION & HORTICULTURE

- Dickey Park washroom is open daily 8:00am to 5:00pm.
- The walking track at the stadium is generally available for use daily from 7:00am to 9:00pm.
- Outdoor skating surface is closed for the season. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate with us this year to have consistently good ice on the surface. The frame and lighting will be removed in the coming weeks.
- The Amherst Jr. Ramblers playoff run started on March 15.
- The Ramblers playoff schedule may affect other user groups, staff will notify those affected and work with them to reschedule their ice time.
- The stadium hosted the Amherst Figure Skating Club's Skatefest on March 5 as well as the Bates/Merrill Friendship Hockey Tournament on March 7-9.
- Staff are starting to transition to outdoor work and will be working on cleaning up of our parks and green spaces from the winter.

PUBLIC WORKS

- There were no major snow events in the past month, but several smaller weather events with a combination of snow, sleet, and freezing rain kept public works staff busy. Streets and sidewalks were plowed 5 times.
- Sidewalk salting took place on 12 occasions and the salt truck was dispatched 15 times due to icy conditions.
- There were 2 broken water mains and 1 plugged sewer repaired in the past month.
- Staff have been patching potholes with recycled asphalt, typically 3 days per week.
- Operations staff continue working on the Town Hall office renovations, which are nearing completion. The new wheelchair ramp will be completed by the end of March.
- Staff are working on the annual report for the Amherst water utility, the annual report for the wastewater treatment facility has been submitted for review.

SOLID WASTE

- Futureworx Presentation. Staff conducted a half-day education session on the background of solid waste in Cumberland County. Students were given information on our facilities in Cumberland County (landfill, compost facility, & recycling transfer station), proper sorting, enforcement, litter, and provincial programs. The session went well, and participants were provided with a certificate for their participation.
- Staff met with clients from the Sunset Community Center to discuss Solid Waste Management in Cumberland County. During the meeting, staff reviewed the current sort guide with participants and showed examples of how their materials are recycled into new items. Additionally, staff provided signage to be placed on the community's solid waste receptacles.



- The 2025/2026 collection schedule is currently being printed at Acadian Printing and will be mailed to residents the week of March 17th.
- Divert NS provides each region with \$30,000 to assist with the disposal of Household Hazardous Waste. The \$30,000 will then be distributed within our region based on the proportion of eligible expenses claimed for each unit (Cumberland, Colchester, East Hants). The submission for Cumberland Region Solid Waste was submitted on February 28, 2025.
- The Solid Waste Hotline (902-667-5141) which receives calls from residents all over Cumberland County received 196 phone calls during the month of February.

Town of Amherst Curbside Rejections (February 2025)

Not dual stream	32
Late	23
Recycle contains garbage	32
Buried in snow	12
Miscellaneous	12
Total	111

UPCOMING

- There will be a focus on patching potholes over the next 6 weeks.
- Quarterly reading of water meters will start on April 1.
- Cumberland County Minor Hockey Association concludes their season on March 31.
- Amherst Stadium will be closed April 18 (Good Friday) and April 20 (Easter Sunday)
- Ice coming out April 21 if the Ramblers are no longer in the playoffs.

TASK UPDATES

Task: Havelock / Victoria Street Intersection Traffic Signals

Update: An option for intersection improvements has been included in the proposed 2025/26 capital budget

Status: Complete

Task: WWTP Grey Water Energy Extraction Report

Update: Staff did not have time to prepare the memo for March COW, will be completed for April 2025 COW.

Status: In Progress

Task: Water Utility Dump Truck

Update: Delivery expected in early April.

Status: In Progress

Task: Capital Budget Amendment – New Loader

Update: The new loader was delivered on March 5, 2025

Status: Complete

Task: Anson Avenue – CN Crossing

Update: Moved By Councillor Chambers

Seconded By Councillor Wells

That staff be directed to hire a professional engineer or other qualified person familiar with railway safety to complete the required assessments on behalf of the Town; and further that staff include \$10,000 in the proposed 2025/26 operating budget to pay for the required assessments.

Against (3): Councillor Furlong, Councillor McManaman, and Councillor Ripley

MOTION DEFEATED

Status: Complete