The Cumberland CONNECTION

ISSUE 07 | Winter 2026-27



Winter at Cape Chignecto

Photo courtesy of NS Tourism

Building on Cumberland's Strength

There's a lot to look forward to in Cumberland! The Municipality continues to explore opportunities that attract investment, encourage development and help our communities grow and thrive.

From the proposed Commercial Development Support Program to improved tourism signage and enhancing our welcome at the Nova Scotia border, to supporting the BDO Zone initiative project aimed at strengthening our forestry sector, we're working to build on Cumberland's strengths to create new possibilities for our region.

Through Explore Cumberland, we're also finding new ways to showcase the wonderful places, people and experiences that make our region special, encouraging visitors to stay a little longer and discover a little more. Find inspiration for your next local adventure at ExploreCumberland.ca

As the holiday season approaches, we encourage everyone to get out and enjoy the Christmas parades, markets and community celebrations happening across Cumberland. Shop local, explore local and celebrate the communities we call home.

Have an idea or see an opportunity for your community? We'd love to hear from you! Great things happen when we work together, and our Economic Development team is here to help connect ideas with opportunities.



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2026 Springhill Christmas PARADE

Save the date!

Dec. 3, 2026 @ 6:30 p.m.

Santa's making one last stop in Springhill!

After the parade, swing by the Dr. Carson & Marion Murray Community Centre to meet Santa before he takes off for the North Pole!



A Disney Christmas

Presented by

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SPRINGHILL FIRE RESCUE EST. 1890



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Municipal Awareness Week Open House

Nov. 18, 2026

















CUMBERLAND

CHRISTMAS PARADES 2026

Amherst
Saturday, November 21
6:00pm

River Hebert
Sunday, November 29
5:30pm

Pugwash
Friday, December 4
6:30pm

Advocate
Sunday, December 6
6:00pm

Oxford
Friday, November 27
6:30pm

Springhill
Thursday, December 3
6:30pm

Parrsboro
Saturday, December 5
6:00pm

Wallace
Saturday, December 12
7:00pm

Mayor's Message

As the holiday season draws near and we reflect on 2026, I want to offer my warmest wishes and sincere thanks to the residents, families, businesses and community groups who make the Cumberland Region such a special place to call home. Your kindness, hard work and community spirit make this a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family.

Looking Back at 2026

As a Municipality we enjoyed a very successful year. Here are some highlights of what was accomplished within the Municipality of Cumberland in 2026:

- The Pugwash Fire Department welcomed a new pumper tanker and the Parrsboro Fire Department received a new F-550 walk-around rescue truck .
- We allocated more than $900,000 in support through municipal grant programs, annual grants, district grants and more.
- Shaw Rural Housing with NS Cooperative Council began construction of a housing development off Crossan Street in Springhill .
- Christena Curry joined the Municipality as its Director of Recreation.
- We announced a new economic development model that will strengthen collaboration, improve efficiency and enhance accountability while continuing to support local businesses and entrepreneurs.

Saying Thanks

On behalf of council and staff of the Municipality of Cumberland, I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy holiday season.
This time of year reminds us to slow down, enjoy time with the people we love and appreciate the place we call home. Here in Cumberland, we have much to be thankful for—especially the neighbours, volunteers and community groups who look out for others throughout the year.



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District 7 - Carrie Lee
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District 8 - Marchel Strong
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mstrong@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca

The holidays can also be a difficult time for those missing a loved one or facing challenges. A phone call, a visit or an extra place at the table can mean more than we realize. Let's keep that caring Cumberland spirit alive by reaching out to one another.
A special thank you to our first responders and everyone working through the holidays to keep our communities safe and services running. However you celebrate, I hope you find time for rest, laughter and good company.

Mayor Rod Gilroy
Municipality of Cumberland

Learn 2 Lead Cumberland

Who are we:

A partnership committee between the Municipality of Cumberland, Town of Amherst & NS Community Health Board to support volunteers and volunteer organizations throughout Cumberland County.

What do we do:

The committee coordinates workshops throughout Cumberland to support individuals and organizations who provide recreation and active living opportunities. The goal is to build their skills and knowledge in order to support the communities where they live, work or play.

Types of Workshops

- Fundraising
- First Aid
- Hike Leader
- Self Defence
- Marketing
- Facilitating
- Recruitment
- Safe Talk
- Board Governance
- Food Handlers
- Babysitting/Home Alone
- Non-violent intervention

and many many more...

Trainings and workshops are available across Cumberland. Contact us to request a session.

facebook.com/L2LCumberland

cbollwerk@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca

902 664-9143

Lead 2 Learn

SAVE THE DATE
WINTER CARNIVALS
IN
MUNICIPALITY OF CUMBERLAND

Did you know that the Municipality of Cumberland, along with valued community partners, helps organize three winter carnivals in Cumberland County?

SCAN TO FIND EACH CARNIVAL ON FACEBOOK

FUNDY SHORE WINTER CARNIVAL

February 11-15, 2027



Debert - Apple River

CHILLI WILLI WINTER FESTIVAL,

February 11-14, 2027



Springhill

NORTH SHORE WINTER CARNIVAL

February 11-15, 2027



Tidnish - Tatamagouche

Mayor Rod Gilroy is joined by Concillors Carrie Lee, Angel McCormick, Kathy Redmond, Jennifer Houghtaling and Deputy Mayor Marchel Strong in signing a proclamation recognizing 16 Days of Action Against Gender-Based Violence during a recent council meeting.



Equipment Loan

Municipality of Cumberland Equipment Loan
2 week **FREE** lending program list!

Cross country ski equipment
Adult and Youth Bicycles
Giant Yard Games
Racquet Sport Supplies
Learn to Camp Supplies
Sports Equipment
Snowshoes
Crampons
Trekking poles
& much more...









RESERVE NOW!

cbollwerk@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca
902 664-9143

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Springhill and Parrsboro Winter Parking, Snow Clearing Restrictions

With winter now upon us, please remember that until May 1, 2027, parking is restricted on Municipal streets between midnight and 6 am or at any other time that could interfere with snow clearing operations by Public Works Employees.

Vehicles left unattended on Municipal streets during these times may be ticketed and/or towed at owners cost and risk.

Also, please remember that snow from private residences cannot be pushed out into a Municipal Street or across a Municipal Street for disposal, by either a resident or private contractor removing snow for a resident or business.



Follow us on social media!
www.cumberlandcounty.ns.ca

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Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw Review
What We Heard Report
Executive Summary

FBM DILLON

August 2025 - April 2026



Municipal Planning Strategy & Land Use Bylaw Review

The Municipality is in the final stages of its Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw Review. Official community engagement occurred from January to March 2026, however residents who still have questions or would like to provide comments are encouraged to contact the Planning Department at planning@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca. More information about the review is available on our website at https://www.cumberlandcounty.ns.ca/mps-and-land-use-bylaw-review.html.

NS Hike Challenge Badges in Cumberland

NEW BADGE RELEASE



NEW Municipality of Cumberland Hiker Challenge Badge was released.

The Hiker Challenge is all about inspiring, motivating and rewarding you – especially new and novice hikers – for getting out on Cumberlands beautiful trails to start hiking or to hike more.

Other badges that can be earned within the Municipality of Cumberland





More information on NS Hiker Challenge program here:

Municipality of Cumberland Hiker Challenge Badge Introduced

Hike Nova Scotia has introduced a Municipality of Cumberland Hiker Challenge Badge, encouraging residents and visitors to get outdoors, discover local trails and experience some of the spectacular scenery the region has to offer.

The challenge is part of Hike Nova Scotia's provincewide Hiker Challenge program, which encourages people of all ages and hiking abilities to explore the outdoors while earning commemorative badges for completing designated hiking activities.

The badge program offers participants an opportunity to challenge themselves, enjoy the outdoors and earn recognition for their efforts.

For more information about the Municipality of Cumberland Hiker Challenge Badge, including participation requirements and how to earn a badge, visit Hike Nova Scotia at www.hikenovascotia.ca.



Dr. Carson & Marion Murray Community Centre

PUBLIC SKATING SCHEDULE 2026/27

It is mandatory for all skaters to wear a helmet. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Skate times subject to change or to be cancelled based on rental schedule and will be posted and communicated on all social platforms.

MONDAY	After School Skate 3:00-4:00pm
TUESDAY	Adult Skate 1:00-2:00pm After School Skate 3:00-4:00pm
WEDNESDAY	Adult Skate 1:00-2:00pm After School Skate 3:00-4:00pm
THURSDAY	Adult Skate 1:00-2:00pm Sticks & Pucks 3:00-4:00pm
FRIDAY	After School Skate 3:00-4:00pm
SUNDAY	Family Skate 5:15-6:15pm





Mayor Rod Gilroy speaks during the cutting of the Christmas Tree that made its way to Boston Common during an event on Nov. 18 at the home of Henry and Pat Knol of East Amherst. The tree is a way for Nova Scotians to thank Boston for its response to the 1917 Halifax Explosion.

Hiking in Hunting Season



Hunting season lasts through Mid-December in Cumberland.
Use extra caution!



Remember...

- Protect your animals by using orange accessories
- Stay on hiking trails
- Make your presence known
- Make yourself visable
- Make yourself heard

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Springhill Wastewater Treatment Screening Equipment Upgrade

Municipality of Cumberland County Public Works staff, with the assistance of local contractors, have completed the first phase of the Springhill Wastewater Treatment Facility Screening Equipment Upgrade project.

This phase included installing 80 metres (262 feet) of 900mm (36 inch) diameter bypass pipe and a precast rock trap that will capture gravel and debris ahead of the treatment plant. Removing rocks and heavy debris from the incoming wastewater will safeguard equipment and prevent uncontrolled wastewater discharges.

Slide gates were installed in the rock trap to allow diversion of wastewater directly to the lagoons during phase two of the project, which will include re-alignment of concrete channels and installation of new screening equipment inside the facility.











Recycling Right In Cumberland County!

Did you know that although paper and containers are both recyclable, they do not belong in the same bag? To help keep materials clean and ensure they can be properly recycled, separate your recycling into two bags.

Bag #1
Recyclable Paper



- Cardboard boxes
- Cereal boxes
- Cracker boxes
- Gift bags
- Paper dog food bags
- Paper flour bags
- Paper sugar bags
- Potato bags
- Tissue paper
- Wrapping paper

Bag #2
Recyclable Containers



- Aluminum/steel cans
- Blister packs
- Coffee/nut cans
- Cold beverage cups
- Frozen juice cans
- Glass bottles & jars
- Hot beverage cups
- Milk cartons
- Plastic bags
- Plastic containers

Recycle Even More!

Some materials that cannot go in your regular recycling bags can be taken to a Drop-off Depot for recycling, including:

- Empty aerosol cans such as cooking sprays and air fresheners.
- Styrofoam packaging such as meat trays and packaging.
- Flexible plastics such as chip bags and candy bar wrappers.

In Cumberland County, you can take these materials to:

- A & J Superette - 59 Charles Street, Joggins
- Nova 4 Enviro Ltd. - 16 Acadia Street, Amherst
- Moore Nickels & Dimes for you - 7627 Birchwood Road, Oxford
- Keep Garbage Beneficial - 8868 Hwy 6, Pugwash

Can't get to a Drop-off Depot? No problem! These materials can continue to be placed in your garbage.

Not sure what goes where? Check out our Waste Wizard
https://www.cumberlandcounty.ns.ca/waste-management.html

Light It Up, Cumberland! Share Your Holiday Display on Cumberland Parade of Lights Map

The holiday season is just around the corner, and the Municipality of Cumberland is inviting residents and businesses to help light up the county!

Are you planning something special with your outdoor holiday decorations this year? Whether it's a dazzling display of lights, festive music, animated decorations, or a little holiday magic, we want to help others find it!

Light It Up, Cumberland! is an opportunity for residents, businesses, and property owners throughout the Cumberland Region to add their holiday displays to an interactive Cumberland Parade of Lights Map.

Getting involved is easy! Simply scan the QR code in this newsletter to submit your display and add it to the map. We welcome all types of holiday displays, big or small, from homes and businesses to community spaces.

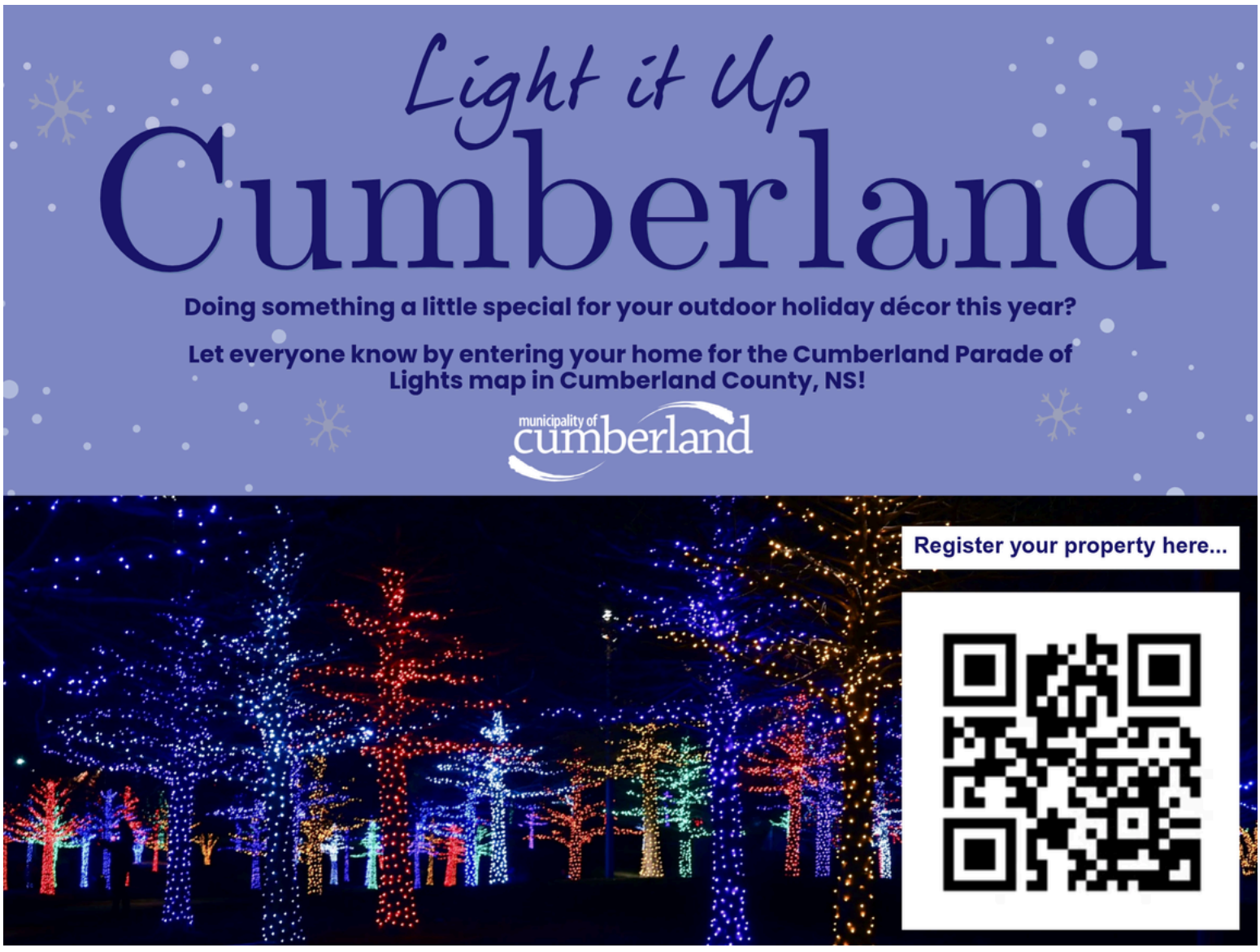
The interactive map will be available on the Municipality of Cumberland website in December. Residents and visitors will be able to explore the county, click on individual map markers, and learn more about each display, including whether it features lights, sounds, music, or motion.

The map is a fun way to bring our communities together, encourage families to get out and explore, and discover some of the wonderful holiday displays throughout the Cumberland Region. It may even inspire you to visit an area of the county you haven't explored before!

So, if you're planning to brighten up your property this holiday season, let us help spread the word.

Scan the QR code, or go to https://arcg.is/G59mv1 to add your display, and help us make Cumberland shine!

LIGHT IT UP, CUMBERLAND!



50+ Vendors!

2026

Christmas CRAFT FAIR

SATURDAY, NOV. 21
9 A.M. - 2 P.M.

DR. CARSON & MARION MURRAY COMMUNITY CENTRE, 6 MAIN ST. SPRINGHILL

Admission $2
includes a door prize ticket

HOMEMADE CRAFTS | CHRISTMAS GIFTS
BAKED GOODS | JEWELRY
THREE FABULOUS DOOR PRIZE DRAWS
and so much more!

902-763-3000 | WWW.CUMBERLANDCOUNTY.NS.CA

DR. CARSON & MARION MURRAY COMMUNITY CENTRE

NOON YEAR'S EVE Party

NEW YEAR'S EVE COUNTDOWN
at the #DCMMCC

Thursday, December 31
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

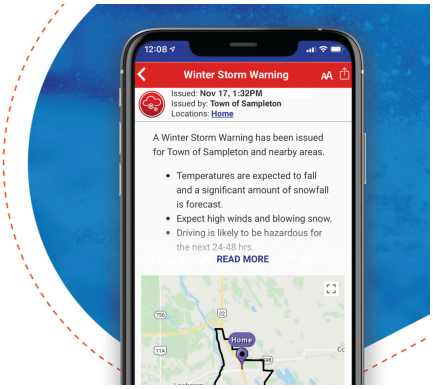
ALL AGES | FREE ADMISSION

6 Main St. Springhill NS • 902-763-3000
www.cumberlandcounty.ns.ca

DR. CARSON & MARION MURRAY COMMUNITY CENTRE

VOYENTALERT!

NOTIFICATION SERVICE FOR municipality of cumberland



To Subscribe

Cumberland Rec | Parrsboro Lions Arena

PUBLIC SKATING SCHEDULE 2026/27

THURSDAY: 5:30 - 7:00PM (all ages)
THURSDAY: 7:00 - 7:30PM (adults only, 18+)
FRIDAY: 6:00 - 8:00PM (all ages)

It is mandatory for all skaters to wear a CSA certified helmet. Skates & helmets available to borrow on a first-come, first-served basis. Children 12 & under must be accompanied by an adult.

Parrsboro Lions Club will have canteen open with french fries, drinks, chips, etc on Friday's.

WWW.CUMBERLANDCOUNTY.NS.CA

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December Council Meetings

Cumberland Municipal Council has changed its December meetings. Committee of the Whole will occur on Wednesday, Dec. 9, and the Regular meeting will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 16. Both meetings begin at 4 pm.

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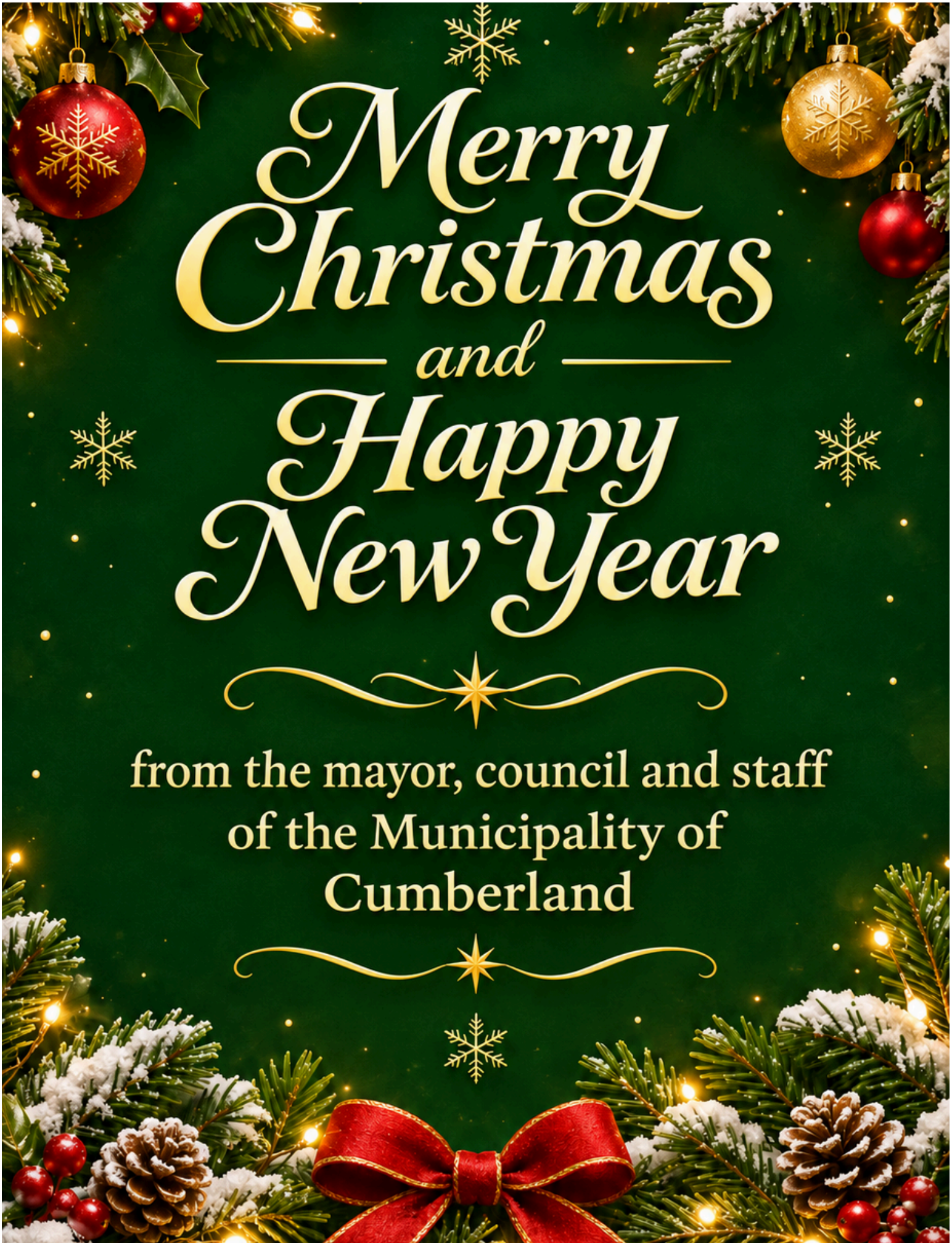
Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year
from the mayor, council and staff
of the Municipality of
Cumberland

Building Stronger Communities: Cumberland Reflects on Progress in 2026

Investments in fire protection, progress on housing, support for community organizations and planning for future growth helped shape a busy 2026 in the Municipality of Cumberland.

Across the municipality, the year brought examples of what can happen when municipal government, volunteers, community organizations and funding partners work together.

“When you look around the Municipality, there’s a lot to be proud of,” said Mayor Rod Gilroy. “Whether it’s better equipment for our firefighters, support for a community hall or progress on housing, these investments all come back to helping people and making our communities stronger.”



Council approved a $43.2-million operating budget and a $13.3-million capital budget for 2026–27 while keeping municipal tax rates unchanged. For the second consecutive year, both budgets were approved before the start of the fiscal year, helping establish spending priorities early. The capital plan included substantial commitments to fire protection, municipal buildings, equipment and essential infrastructure.



Fire protection remained a major priority for a municipality supporting 15 volunteer fire departments.

In July, the Pugwash Fire Department welcomed a new Freightliner/Fort Garry pumper tanker, replacing a 26-year-old vehicle. The purchase, approved in 2025 at just over $788,000, became a tangible improvement to the department’s response capabilities in 2026.



Earlier in the year, the Parrsboro Fire Department received a new F-550 walk-around rescue truck to replace its 1994 rescue vehicle. Its slide-out equipment trays provide easier access to tools during emergencies. Planning and purchasing decisions also continued for future apparatus replacements elsewhere in the municipality.

Housing was another important area of progress.









Construction advanced at Sunrise Landing in Pugwash, a 40-unit development designed to offer accessible, affordable and market-rate homes. Supported by a previously committed $300,000 municipal contribution, the project brings together government and community partners to address housing needs and support independent living. The development includes one, two and three-bedroom units, providing options for people with different needs and circumstances.

In Springhill, council approved arrangements in October to receive and disburse an $800,000 River Philip Foundation contribution to the Nova Scotia Cooperative Council for a 21-unit affordable housing development on Crossan Street. The decision provided another example of the municipality helping partners advance housing projects. Community organizations continued to receive significant municipal support.

The published 2026–27 grants schedule listed nearly $900,000 in allocations across municipal grant programs, annual grants, district grants and student bursaries. Recipients included community halls, museums, recreation organizations, cultural groups and organizations providing valuable community services. Support ranged from capital funding for the Wentworth Learning Centre and Southampton Community Centre to operational assistance for the Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark, Ship's Company Theatre and the River Hebert/Joggins and Area community organization. Together, these investments help sustain the facilities, programs and gathering places that contribute to life throughout Cumberland.

Community determination was also on display in Advocate Harbour, where the Advocate District Development Association unveiled plans for a new community centre and launched a $3.4-million capital campaign in October.

The project remains a community fundraising effort, with the municipality providing a way for supporters to make donations and receive tax receipts. Its launch marked an important step toward creating a new gathering place for Advocate and surrounding communities.

Recreation and outdoor exploration provided more reasons to celebrate.

Hike Nova Scotia introduced the Municipality of Cumberland Hiker Challenge Badge, encouraging residents and visitors to discover local trails. A guided hike at Partridge Island in October, organized with the Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark, helped celebrate the initiative.

The challenge connects active living with opportunities to explore Cumberland's scenery and communities.

The municipality also worked on how it will support future business development. In June, Cumberland and the Town of Amherst announced a new economic development model, bringing services directly into municipal operations. The approach is intended to improve accountability and responsiveness while maintaining regional cooperation on tourism, youth entrepreneurship and business education.

Residents helped shape longer-term decisions through the ongoing review of the Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law. Public engagement explored housing and infrastructure, coastal protection, agricultural lands and renewable energy. The review gives residents an opportunity to help guide how Cumberland grows while protecting the features and resources that matter to its communities.

For Mayor Gilroy, the people behind these initiatives are central to the year's story.

"Our volunteers, municipal staff, local businesses and community partners put a tremendous amount of heart into Cumberland," he said. "There's always more work ahead, but the progress we've made gives us plenty of reasons to feel good about our future. On behalf of council, I thank everyone who helped move our communities forward in 2026."







Contact **US**

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Phone: 902-667-2313

Springhill Service Centre
6 Main St. PO Box 1000
Springhill, N.S., B0M 1X0
Phone: 902-597-3751

Parrsboro Service Centre
209 Main St. PO Box 400
Parrsboro, N.S., B0M 1S0
Phone: 902-254-2036

Pugwash Service Centre
10182 Durham St.
Pugwash, N.S., B0K 0B2
Phone: 902-297-8022

Engineering & Operations 24-Hour Emergency Phone Number: 1-833-834-0020; Toll-free: 1-888-756-6262
Email: customerservice@cumberlandcounty.ns.ca