



**Village of New Minas**  
Annual Report  
Year End March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017

On behalf of the Village Commission of New Minas, I wish to present the Annual Report for the Fiscal Year April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017.

In the 2015/16 fiscal year, Maynard Stevens was elected by acclamation for a 3 year term. In 2016/17, the positions of Commissioner Mary Munroe and Commissioner James Redmond were up for election and I am happy to report that each of them was elected to another 3 year term. I accepted the nomination for Chair and Commissioner Stevens accepted the nomination for Vice-Chair.

The Operating Budget for the 2016/17 fiscal year was \$2,489,927; a 1% reduction from 2015/16. The residential tax rate remained at 43 cents/\$100 of assessment and the commercial tax rate remained at 59.2 cents/\$100 of assessment. It is also noteworthy that the water and sewer rates remained constant and were not increased for the 2016/17 fiscal year.

During 2016/17, the total value of building permits issued by Kings County for properties within the Village of New Minas was \$8,331,790 compared to \$3,477,470 in 2015/16 representing an increase of approximately 58%.

The Financial Statements that are being provided this evening were presented and approved by the Commission on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017. As anticipated, the New Minas Village Commission and The New Minas Water Commission received an opinion from the Auditors indicating we have accurately represented our financial position in the statements. The Consolidated Statement of Operations indicates an Annual Surplus of \$470,649 and provides a breakdown of Revenues and Expenditures. Tangible Capital Assets are currently valued at 13.9 million dollars.

The Village ended the year in a great position with an operating surplus account valued at \$204,940. Our staff work very hard to ensure that the Village is able to take advantage of available grants to minimize the costs of maintaining and replacing infrastructure.

The former civic center/Village office building has not sold as of yet, but we anticipate we will be able to close the deal on this property in the near future. The revenue from the sale will be added to the Capital Reserve.

Work is underway to complete the new Granite Drive interchange. The Commission have committed \$150,000 this year to fund a sidewalk to be completed to access the future growth of the area formerly known as “New Minas South”.

Jon Cumming and Marc Comeau of TMC Law provided legal services; Morse, Brewster and Lake provided audit services and Hiltz and Seamone provided engineering services to the Village during this fiscal year.

The financial status of New Minas continues to be healthy, as evidenced from the Audited Financial Statement included in your package. To begin with, New Minas does not have any long term debt; in fact, the only short-term debt is in the form of a \$450,000 line of credit at the bank, supported by a Temporary Borrowing Resolution, which is for the balance of the LMCC construction project. Once the former Civic Center sells, this line of credit will be paid.

The Recreation & Community Development Department had a very successful year offering a wide range of programs & events to members of our community. Along with traditional recreation programs, we offer a variety of unique and engaging activities such as Rad Squad – a leadership program for youth, and Kaleidoscope – a social program for young adults with special needs. The Recreation Department also partners with community members and organizations to create and bring exceptional events to the LMCC, including a partnership with Peoploworx to present the Opportunity Expo. We also established a relationship with the Nova Scotia Health Authority to look into providing health & wellness opportunities to seniors at risk of fractures and other health problems.

The summer of 2016 saw the grand opening of the splash pad, which was a popular feature throughout the summer months, adding a notable increase in visitors to Lockhart & Ryan park and ultimately bringing many visitors to New Minas. Our summer day camps continue to grow and we now offer programs for up to 120 youth each week of the summer.

Recreation and Public Works staff continue to provide and maintain superior quality parks for the public to enjoy, a Disc Golf course, soccer fields, baseball fields, washroom facilities and trail systems that continually add benefit to our community. The main entrance to Lockhart and Ryan park was re-capped this year with fresh pavement and the Parks staff added water dispensers for re-usable bottles.

This year we upgraded three of the treadmills in the fitness room at the LMCC which at present has over 250 active members.

The Louis Millett Community Complex has remained a very popular venue with membership to the Fitness room consistently growing, rentals continuing to generate significant revenue, and numerous events and activities occurring daily. The Complex has become an established feature in the community, as evidenced by the revenue received for rentals and membership fees.

In January, the installation of a generator that will provide back-up power to the entire facility was completed and staff will be moving forward with plans to become an emergency comfort station in the coming months.

The Water Operating Budget for 2017/2018 was approved in the amount of \$886,653, an increase \$40,657 over the previous year, and with an approved new Capital Budget of \$570,600. These capital projects were funded through the Water Commission's Depreciation Reserve, Operating Revenue and Federal Gas Tax funds.

This year, the Village worked on a grant from the Small Community Building Canada Fund (A component of Build Canada) for a five year capital plan for New Minas Water and Sewer Upgrades. When completed, these projects will add significant value to our

Water and Sewer assets, while providing upgrades for Floodplain and Well Head Protection.

The Village of New Minas maintains its role as a partner in the Regional Sewer Committee. The Water Commission Chair and Vice-Chair are voting members on the Committee (member and alternate). Our Manager of Municipal Operations is an active member of the Regional Sewer Committee Technical Group.

The Village Commission and Staff have continued our engagement with the ongoing development of the Kings County Municipal Planning Strategy.

Last year staff completed a project to install a pressure reducing valve station which will control pressure flows from Commercial Street going north. As a part of our well monitoring procedures we have upgraded new measuring systems to ensure that we maintain optimum water levels in our aquifer. The Water Commission is committed to investing funds to extend the water and sewer lines to the expanded development area of New Minas. Staff are continuing work on the installation of a radio-frequency water meter reading system in order to speed up the water billing process and ensure accuracy.

The New Minas 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration Committee was established, as 2018 will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the incorporation of the village. The group is committed to planning and organizing events throughout the coming year to celebrate this milestone.

In closing, on behalf of the Commission and staff for the Village of New Minas, I would like to thank you, the electors of New Minas, for your continued input and support throughout the past year. We, too, value the community in which we live and are proud to be part of the effort to keep New Minas a great place to live and work.

Respectfully Submitted by

Dave Chaulk, Chair