

# ANNUAL REPORT

2024



**NASHWAAK**

Prepared By:  
Nashwaak Rural Community  
Council & Administration

# Nashwaak Rural Community

## Annual Report

For the Year Ending December 31, 2024

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## Message from the Mayor

*Dear Residents of Nashwaak Rural Community,*

*It is my great pleasure to present our Annual Report for the year ending 31 December 2024. This past year has been one of growth and positive change for our community. Together, we have faced challenges with resilience and embraced new opportunities to improve our shared home. Our achievements in infrastructure, public safety, and transparent governance are a testament to the dedication of our Council, staff, and all community members.*

*As we look ahead, I am confident that our continued collaboration will keep Nashwaak thriving and ensure a bright future for all. Thank you for your support, engagement, and commitment to making Nashwaak a wonderful place to live.*

*Sincerely,*

**David Sweeney**

*Mayor, Nashwaak Rural Community*

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# **Message from the Chief Administrative Officer**

*As we close our second year as the Nashwaak Rural Community, I am pleased to reflect on the progress made in 2024. This year brought tangible improvements to our infrastructure, important investments in public safety, and continued growth in our governance capacity.*

*Among the most visible accomplishments was the resurfacing of the municipal portion of Giants Glen Road, a project that has been delayed for many years. We also completed paving upgrades on Main Street, resurfaced Water Street, and carried out sidewalk improvements that enhanced accessibility and safety in the core area of Stanley.*

*Our fire services saw critical infrastructure upgrades as well, with a new roof installed on the Stanley Fire Hall and the purchase of new “jaws of life” equipment to enhance emergency response capacity.*

*From a governance standpoint, Council held 15 public meetings, enacted 9 new by-laws, and approved 4 new municipal policies - demonstrating a strong commitment to formalizing governance structures and serving the community transparently.*

*A key addition to our administrative team this year was the hiring of a new full-time staff member who has taken on multiple critical roles: Clerk, EMO Coordinator, Communications Officer, and Assistant to the CAO. This integrated position has significantly strengthened our internal operations, legislative compliance, emergency preparedness, and communication with residents. Their contributions have already made a notable impact on service delivery and coordination.*

*One of the important learnings this year was that the current orientation and training available to municipal Councillors is insufficient to fully prepare elected officials for the scope and complexity of their roles. This has led to some understandable confusion around role clarity and decision-making boundaries - particularly between Council and staff. While this is not uncommon for new municipalities, it underscores the need for clearer onboarding processes, ongoing training, and respectful collaboration to build a well-functioning local government.*

*I would like to thank our staff, Council, and residents for their continued dedication to the growth and success of the Nashwaak Rural Community. Together, we are building a strong, resilient, and forward-looking municipality.*

*Sincerely,*  
**Bethany Ryan**  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Nashwaak Rural Community

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# Governance Overview

## Council Members (2024)

- Mayor: David Sweeney
- Councillors:
  - Ward 1: Heather Holt-Logan (Deputy Mayor)
  - Ward 2: Victoria Green
  - Ward 3: Doug Koch
  - Ward 4: Vacant as of January 2024
  - Ward 5: Jeff Foster
  - Ward 6: Mike Mulherin
  - Ward 7: Andrew Ferris

## Council Meetings

- Total number of Council meetings held: 15

The following By-Laws were enacted:

- 24-01 Fire Service By-law
- 24-02 ATV By-law
- 24-03 Dangerous/unsightly premises By-law
- 24-04 Garbage By-law
- 24-05 Snowmobile By-law
- 24-06 Parking By-law
- 24-07 A By-law to Amend the Nashwaak Valley Planning Area Rural Plan
- 24-08 Emergency Planning By-law
- 24-09 CAO By-law

The following Policies were approved:

- Council Contact with CAO policy
- Disposal of Municipal Assets
- Nashwaak Public Hearings Policy
- Policy on Departmental Purchases for the Nashwaak Fire Department

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# Administration & Municipal Services

## Staff Structure and Key Responsibilities

In 2024, the administrative structure of the Nashwaak Rural Community was further strengthened to meet the growing needs of the municipality. The team continued to operate under the leadership of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), with an expanded capacity thanks to the addition of a second full-time staff member.

## **Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)**

Leads all municipal operations, policy development, human resources, and strategic initiatives. Acts as the key liaison between Council and staff.

## **Treasurer**

Responsible for managing the municipality's finances, including operating and capital budgets, reporting, payroll, taxation, financial policy, and grant administration.

## **Clerk / EMO Coordinator / Communications Officer / Assistant to the CAO**

A multi-functional full-time position created in 2024 to streamline municipal operations. This staff member provides legislative support to Council, leads emergency preparedness efforts, manages external communications, and supports administrative tasks.

## **Administrative Assistant**

Provides customer service, processes payments, manages accounts payable and receivable, and assists with day-to-day municipal operations and communications.

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## **Public Works**

In 2024, Public Works continued to focus on maintaining and upgrading essential infrastructure within the former Village of Stanley—the only area with municipally owned roads and utility assets.

Major accomplishments included:

- **Resurfacing of Giants Glen Road** (municipally owned section)
- **Paving upgrades on Main Street**
- **Sidewalk improvements** for pedestrian safety and accessibility
- **Resurfacing of Water Street**

Ongoing duties included seasonal maintenance, lagoon monitoring, and support for snow clearing coordination. The full-time Public Works employee played a vital role in delivering these services.

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## **Protective Services**

The Nashwaak Rural Community continues to be protected by two dedicated volunteer fire departments: the Stanley Fire Department, led by Fire Chief Trevor Tomilson, and the Nashwaak Valley Fire Department, led by Fire Chief Steven Bliss.

In 2024, both departments remained highly active and operationally strong, responding to a combined total of 170 emergency incidents across the community. Calls for service included:

- 57 motor vehicle collisions
- 22 false alarms
- 17 medical assistance calls
- 14 mutual aid responses
- 14 rubbish fires
- 11 vehicle fires
- 10 grass and brush fires
- 9 structure fires
- Additional responses for chimney fires, off-road rescues, NB Power assists, and other emergencies

These figures reflect the wide range of emergency services provided and the increasing demand placed on volunteer responders throughout the year.

In terms of infrastructure and equipment, 2024 also saw important investments in emergency readiness. The Stanley Fire Hall received a new roof, and new hydraulic rescue (“Jaws of Life”) equipment was purchased to enhance rescue capabilities at serious motor vehicle collisions.

Both the Stanley Fire Department and the Nashwaak Valley Fire Department remain well-trained, well-equipped, and committed to providing 24/7 emergency response, ensuring the continued safety and resilience of residents across the Nashwaak Rural Community.

Policing services are provided through the RCMP under a provincial agreement.

The municipality also continued to strengthen emergency planning capacity through its appointed EMO Coordinator, who worked on preparedness initiatives and interagency coordination.

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## **Community Services**

The municipality continues to invest in community wellness and accessibility through strategic partnerships, financial support, and community-driven planning.

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## **Recreation Planning and Engagement**

In 2024, the Recreation Committee began analyzing the 102 responses from the 2023 Recreation Needs Survey and started developing a comprehensive Recreation Plan for the entire municipality. The feedback collected will guide future programming and infrastructure decisions to better meet resident needs across all wards.

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## **School Partnerships**

The municipality maintained strong working relationships with the Anglophone West School District, ensuring continued community use of:

- Stanley Consolidated School
- Nashwaak Valley School

These facilities provide valuable indoor recreation space for youth programs, fitness classes, and public events.

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## **Recreation Services Agreement**

Residents of the former St. Mary's Local Service District continued to access City of Fredericton recreation programs at a reduced rate, thanks to the standing Recreation Services Agreement. This partnership expands access to facilities and programming not currently offered within the Nashwaak boundaries.

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## **Support for Local Organizations**

The 2024 operating budget provided continued support to essential community organizations and facilities, including:

- Community Centres
- Upper Nashwaak Agrena
- Stanley Public Library
- Just Friends Food Bank and Community Resource Centre
- Nashwaak Curling Club
- Upper Nashwaak Agricultural Society

These partnerships support a strong social fabric, local food security, educational access, and recreational participation for residents of all ages.

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## Strategic Priorities & Projects

Council continues to use its **Strategic Plan** as a guiding document for decision-making and long-term planning. The plan outlines key priorities and areas of focus for the Nashwaak Rural Community and is reviewed and updated on a regular basis to ensure it remains relevant and responsive to the needs of residents.

Residents are encouraged to view the full Strategic Plan, which is available on our website at: [www.nashwaak.ca](http://www.nashwaak.ca)

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## Financial Summary 2024

### Revenues

Source	Amount
Property Taxes	\$1,968,572
Grants	\$22,596
Other Revenue	\$292,005

### Expenses

Department/Service	Amount
Administration	\$551,120
Public Works/Transportation	\$834,294
Protective Services	\$420,199
Recreation	\$251,865
Public Health/Fiscal	\$194,642

### Net Position

- Surplus: \$31,053
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# Public Access to the Report

This report is available for public review:

- At the Nashwaak Rural Community Office during regular business hours
  - On our website: [www.nashwaak.ca](http://www.nashwaak.ca)
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## Looking Ahead: Priorities for 2025

As we build on the progress of our first two years as a community, 2025 will focus on projects that strengthen infrastructure, expand access to recreation, and enhance communication with residents.

### Infrastructure and Asset Planning

We will continue efforts to secure a new pumper truck for the Nashwaak Valley Fire Department to ensure reliable emergency response across the region. Design work will also begin on a rehabilitation or replacement plan for the Stanley lagoon and wastewater system, including the engagement of engineering professionals.

Additionally, Centennial Street and Pleasant Avenue in Stanley will be surveyed and evaluated for upgrades to support better connectivity and improve safety.

### Recreation Investments

A major priority is continued investment in multi-use outdoor recreation facilities. Phase two of the Stanley Consolidated School outdoor courts project will include the construction of new basketball, pickleball, and beach volleyball courts, enhancing year-round recreation for all ages.

We also plan to design a new trail system through Stanley Park, providing improved year-round access for walking, snowshoeing, off-road vehicles and community events.

### Communications and Engagement

We will launch a monthly e-newsletter to improve transparency and keep residents informed about municipal projects, programs, and opportunities for public input.

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## Conclusion

2024 was a year of visible progress and strengthened foundations for the Nashwaak Rural Community. From significant infrastructure improvements to the continued development of strong administrative processes and expanded public engagement, we are proud of the collaborative work that continues to shape our growing community.

As we look to 2025, our focus remains on delivering responsive services, building resilient infrastructure, and fostering meaningful connections across all parts of the community. We thank our residents for their ongoing support, participation, and trust, and we look forward to another year of working together toward a stronger future for all.

*Prepared by the Chief Administrative Officer  
Nashwaak Rural Community*