



**Subject:** *Familiarization Tour for Council*  
**To:** Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee  
**Date Prepared:** October 17, 2024  
**Related Motions:** C23(259)  
**Prepared by:** Aurora Douthwright, Tourism & Events Supervisor  
Alana Tapper, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture  
**Approved by:** Kim Ramsay, CAO

---

### Summary

In the 2024/25 budget, there were operating funds set aside to host a familiarization tour for East Hants Council. Staff are looking to confirm two dates for these tours based on Council availability and the mode of transportation.

### Financial Impact Statement

The budget allocation for this project in the Council operating budget is \$5,000.

### Recommendation

That Council give the CAO direction to confirm two dates for the familiarization tours based on Council's availability and enlist Council's choice for transportation for those tours.

### Recommended Motion

*Move that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee recommend that Council approve booking two separate dates for Council familiarization tours on December 5, 2024 and June 27, 2025 and enlist the services of [insert transportation provider] to provide transportation for the tours.*

---

### Background

Based on a previous report to Council, motion C23(259) provided staff direction to budget for a familiarization tour as part of 2024/2025 budget that would be for the new Council following the October 2024 election. Funds were passed as part of the 2024/2025 budget.

Staff created itineraries for familiarization tours of East Hants. The purpose of the tours would be to provide Council and senior leadership with an opportunity to visit a wide variety of Municipal assets as a group, including tours and interpretation of specific sites. The intention is for these to take place at least once during each four-year Council term.

Tours would be split into two separate dates, both running approximately from 8am to 4pm each day:

1. **Corridor & Waste Management Centre:** starting and ending at the Lloyd E Matheson Centre (LEMC), this tour would visit sites from Enfield to Shubenacadie including a selection of active developments, water and wastewater sites, municipal parks and the Waste Management Centre.
2. **Tourism/Rural Sites & Mount Uniacke:** starting and ending at the LEMC, this tour would include visits to the Fundy Tidal Interpretive Centre and Burntcoat Head Park, along with other Municipal sites along Highway 215. From the shore, the tour would drive through Kennetcook and Rawdon toward Mount Uniacke, then back to Elmsdale via Highway 14.

## Discussion

Should Council wish to move forward with these tours, potential dates are as follows:

- Corridor & Waste Management Centre:
  - Thursday, December 5, 2024
- Tourism Sites & Mount Uniacke:
  - Friday, June 27, 2025

### STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

The 2021-2024 East Hants Strategic Plan speaks of informed and sustainable decision-making and providing a universal tour showing various assets throughout the municipality will assist Council in their discussions and critical thinking.

### FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Funds to rent transportation for this tour are set aside in Council's operational budget. Quotes have been obtained from both Coach Atlantic and East Hants Community Rider. From a previous conversation in 2023, Council indicated the preferred method of transportation was to use a larger coach so everyone involved can take part as of single group. Staff are seeking confirmation on the preferred method of transportation either through Coach Atlantic or the East Hants Community Rider.

Please note these rates were quoted in 2023 and may have fluctuated since that time. Staff will obtain updated quotes as the dates Council are available may impact the quoted rates.

#### OPTION 1:

56-person Coach Atlantic bus

\$2,500 per day (rates can fluctuate based on date chosen and time of year)

Approx. \$5,000 total

#### OPTION 2:

Community Rider - 3 separate vans, total capacity of 20 people

\$1200 per day (at the time of quoting, this service was only available on Fridays or Saturdays)

Approx. \$2,400 total

#### OPTION 3:

21-Person Mini Coach Atlantic bus

\$1,750 per day

Approx. \$3500.00 total

---

## Alternatives

1. That Council move not to proceed with planning a familiarization tour at this time.
  2. That Council choose alternate tour dates.
  3. That staff provide new Council members with a tour similar to 2023.
-