



# Colchester Newsletter

## Hello Colchester!

Welcome to the Fall 2024 edition of Colchester's newsletter, where we share exciting news, helpful tips and much more with our residents!

Photo by Robyn MacCallum

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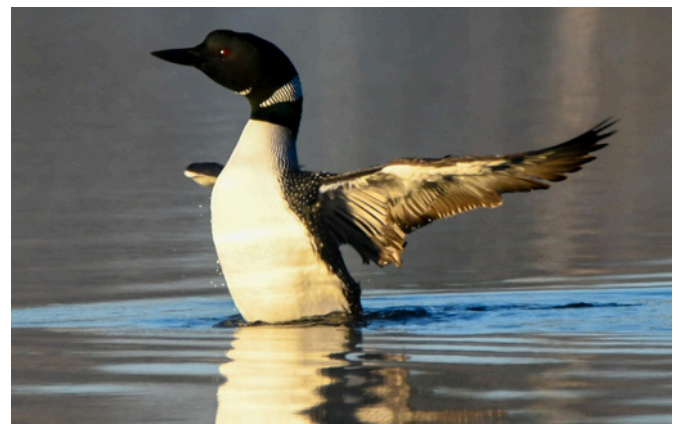
Mark your calendars - here's a list of all the things happening in Colchester this Fall

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Find out where and when you can cast your vote this October

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*Be centred here.*



## CHECK THIS OUT!

Thanks to Amy Hutt for submitting this photo from Little Dyke Lake! She was one of the winners from our most recent photo contest.

Want to be a winner? Submit your photos to [photos@colchester.ca](mailto:photos@colchester.ca) and you will be entered to win a Colchester swag bag and could be featured in our next newsletter edition.

# From the Mayor's Desk

Thank you: The Municipality of Colchester is concluding its 2020–2024 term of Council this fall, a new Council will be elected to office on October 19, 2024.

Those leaving office are Councillor Karen MacKenzie, District 6, who has served for 16 years; Councillor Michael Gregory, District 7, who has served for 12 years; and Councillor Wade Parker, District 11, who has served for 12 years. Our Municipality owes them a debt of gratitude for their dedication, hard work and perseverance. These last four years have been especially challenging for everyone, as together we faced unprecedented times and the darkest of days in the history of our County. Thank you to each of you.

I also want to thank those Councillors who have served Colchester these last four years. 2020 elections were in the midst of COVID and Council met virtually for almost two years. We have worked hard and achieved many goals, set the stage for many more achievements and exercised wise use of taxpayer dollars in the process. Thank you, Council.

To our staff, our Patterson Law solicitor, Dennis James, past CAO Rob Simonds, current CAO Dan Troke, and especially to our Deputy Clerk Tracey Venno, I want you to know how much I have appreciated your dedication and high level of professionalism in both trying times, and on a day-to-day basis. Thank you. We are all looking forward to Colchester's achievements in the next four years.

Colchester County Capital Budget: During August, we worked on our Capital budget. We discussed projects that are a work in progress, what we planned to do and what we must add to the budget this year. These are large expenses for our municipality. We have also completed a capacity review of infrastructure which will assist us to determine what we currently have to accommodate increased use (for example, with new housing), and what we must do to build new infrastructure for our continuing growth. New infrastructure will be one of our biggest challenges for the next five years.

To pay for many of these projects, Colchester County has reserves we build over time. That is part of our five-year planning process with the capital budget. Added to this, staff looks at every opportunity for funding and grants through other orders of government to stretch our tax dollars to get this work done.

Canadian Association Chiefs of Police: As your Mayor, I was invited to address the National Working Group Supporting Victims of Terrorism, Mass Violence and Mass Casualty, at the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police conference held this past August in Halifax. I spoke on the aftermath of the April 18 and 19, 2020, Mass Casualty, stressing the need for an operational in-community trauma team. It was an honour to be presented with a specially designed medallion by Toronto Police Service Deputy Chief, Rob Johnson, who is Co-Chair of the CACP's Counter-Terrorism National Security Committee.

Congratulations Dr. Karen Ewing: Dr. Karen Ewing, MD, was presented with the King Charles III Coronation Medal by Senator Iris Petten at the Veterans Memorial Park in Bass River for her vision and dedication for the Park. It was my pleasure to congratulate Dr. Ewing on behalf of our Municipality (see header photo).

In closing: It was my pleasure to meet Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Nova Scotia Co-Operative Council in Truro, where she was the keynote speaker.



The “Not Since Moses Run” was a tremendous success this year. There were over 800 participants from around the globe, some as far away as Japan. Special thanks to the many volunteers, Colchester staff, and to the Bluenose Marathon for making this such a unique experience and special event.

I want to acknowledge that Mayor Bill Mills, Town of Truro, and Mayor George Lloy, Town of Stewiacke, have both decided to retire from their positions as mayor for their respective towns. On behalf of the Municipality of Colchester, I want to thank each of them for working with our municipality with cooperation, and in a collaborative manner. Their contributions to their communities have been stellar and much appreciated. I wish both good health and many years ahead.

My kindest regards to all.  
Christine Blair, Mayor

# Recreation



## Art Acquisition Program

Local artists are invited to participate this Fall and submit up to three pieces of work. The art will be featured in an art show in November at McCarthy Hall at NSCC Truro, with one piece chosen for Colchester's art collection.

Visit [colchester.ca/art-acquisition](https://colchester.ca/art-acquisition) or call Colchester Recreation at 902-897-3185 for more information.

## Cobequid Trail Run

The 19th Annual Cobequid Trail Run on August 25th saw 356 participants and record-breaking times (Alex Neuffer, Half Marathon - 1:07:45).

Thank you to everyone who ran and to all the volunteers. Join us in 2025 for the 20th anniversary run!

For more information on the yearly run, visit our website at [colchester.ca/cobequid-trail-run](https://colchester.ca/cobequid-trail-run).

## Stay Connected

Stay connected with Colchester Recreation by following us on Facebook and visiting our website for the latest updates on a variety of exciting programs offered throughout the Fall/Winter. Whether you're interested in multisport activities, learning to play hockey, or enjoying open skates at various arenas, there is something for everyone. Plus, check out our equipment loan program, making it easy for everyone to participate in fun and active opportunities.

## Fundy Discovery Site Picnic Shelter

A beautiful new picnic shelter opened at Fundy Discovery Site on July 8th. It is a place where friends and families can gather, share in laughter, and create memories. What a wonderful addition to this special park which welcomes visitors from near and far!

The shelter is dedicated to the late Bill Masters, former Councillor and Deputy Mayor of the Municipality of Colchester. He generously and capably served his community for 20 years and was a strong supporter of Fundy Discovery Site and community recreation.

The Municipality wishes to thank the Province of Nova Scotia for their support of this project: a \$30,000 grant from the Department of Community, Culture, Tourism and Heritage's Recreation Facility Development Program, and a \$25,000 grant from the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing's Beautification and Streetscaping Program. We also greatly appreciate the private donations from the community that contributed to the completion of the shelter.

For more information on the Fundy Discovery Site, visit [fundydiscovery.ca](https://fundydiscovery.ca).



## Contact

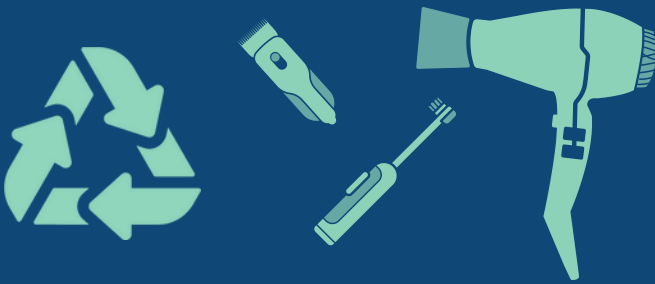
**Website:** [colchester.ca/recreation](https://colchester.ca/recreation)  
**Phone:** 902-897-3150 Option 5  
**Email:** [recreation@colchester.ca](mailto:recreation@colchester.ca)  
**Facebook:** @MunColRec

# Solid Waste

## Electronic Recycling Program

The Electronic Recycling Program has expanded to include more electronic household appliances. For example, curling irons, shavers, electric toothbrushes, steamers and more! These items will no longer be accepted curbside for collection. Residents can take these items to their nearest Enviro-Depot (Subway Bottle Exchange, Tatamagouche Recycling and TNT Recycling).

For more information visit [recyclemyelectronics.ca/ns/what-can-i-recycle](https://recyclemyelectronics.ca/ns/what-can-i-recycle).



## Battery Program

The Colchester Curbside Recycling Program does not accept batteries, but there are many drop off locations across the Municipality. Follow these tips to stop batteries from causing a fire at your local recycling and Balefill facilities:

- NEVER put batteries in your regular garbage or recycling bags.
- Only recycle batteries using the proper battery recycling service.
- Batteries can be taken to a participating location for FREE. Cover lithium battery terminals with tape and place in a zip lock bag or a battery box.
- Use a non-metal container or a battery box to store bagged or tape batteries.

Call our Helpline at 902-895-4777 or use our Colchester Waste app for a list of locations.

## Solid Waste Closures & Curbside Collection Update

The Solid Waste Facilities in Kemptown will be closed on the following days:

National Truth and Reconciliation Day	<b>Monday, September 30th</b>
Thanksgiving Day	<b>Monday, October 14th</b>
Remembrance Day	<b>Monday, November 11th</b>

All garbage taken to the Balefill Facility, whether residential or business, MUST BE in clear bags or you will be asked to re-bag into clear bags.



Cash, personal cheques or INTERAC are accepted as payment. Credit cards are NOT accepted.

## Contact

**Website:** [colchester.ca/garbage-and-recycling](https://colchester.ca/garbage-and-recycling)  
**Phone:** 902-897-3150 Option 1  
**Email:** [helpline@colchester.ca](mailto:helpline@colchester.ca)  
**Instagram:** @colchesterwrm

# Public Works + Community Development

## Water and Sewer Lateral Installations

With Fall upon us and Winter approaching, Public Works would like to remind residents that we do not install water or sewer laterals from the main line to the property line during the Winter. While we do not follow specific dates, we stop installations when the asphalt plants close for the season as this prevents us from patching any cuts in the roadways.

Just a reminder that the fee for a new sewer lateral installation at a residential property ranges from \$5,000 to \$7,000, while new water lateral installations cost \$5,500.

### Contact

**Website:** [colchester.ca/public-works](http://colchester.ca/public-works)  
**Phone:** 902-897-3150 Option 2  
**Email:** [engineer@colchester.ca](mailto:engineer@colchester.ca)

## Don't Get Caught Paying Too Much For Heating This Winter!

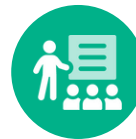
Contact Cozy Colchester today to discover how we can help you transition away from oil and enhance your home's energy efficiency. With loans up to \$30,000, we handle payment directly to your contractor, while you make convenient monthly payments to The Municipality of Colchester over a period of 10 to 15 years!

For more information, and to book your FREE Home Energy Assessment, contact  
 902-920-0615 or  
[info@cozycolchester.ca](mailto:info@cozycolchester.ca)

## Plan It Colchester Project Update

The new Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law are currently being drafted by the project team and will be available for public review in the Fall. While we initially planned to move forward sooner, unforeseen delays have occurred. We are committed to ensuring your voice is heard, so the public engagement process will resume this Fall. We look forward to hearing your feedback on the draft documents!

### The engagement will include:



Community Meetings



Online Zoning Map



Stakeholder Meetings



Fact Sheets

Stay Tuned for Details!

[colchester.ca/plan-it-colchester](http://colchester.ca/plan-it-colchester)

## Lifetime Dog Tags

Every dog in the Municipality of Colchester must be licensed and wear a dog tag. Having a license helps your dog be brought home sooner when they are lost or loose!

The Municipality of Colchester is now offering Lifetime Licenses for \$25 per dog.

### Contact

**Website:** [colchester.ca/community-development](http://colchester.ca/community-development)  
**Phone:** 902-897-3170 Option 4  
**Email:** [comdev@colchester.ca](mailto:comdev@colchester.ca)



Colchester

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Municipal Dates & Meetings

## September 2024

**25** Council Meeting 6 PM  
WED

**30** Municipal Office Closure  
MON Truth and Reconciliation Day

## October 2024

**01** Council Committee Meeting 6 PM  
TUES Presentation Meeting (on an as needed basis)

**05** HHW Drop Off  
SAT Clean Harbors, Debert, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

**14** Municipal Office Closure  
MON Thanksgiving

**19** Municipal Election Day  
SAT See pages 8-11 for more information

**Compost Giveaway**  
Balefill Facility, Kempton. Also running October 21-26

**25** Funding Program Deadline  
FRI Not-for-Profit Insurance Grants

**30** Council Meeting 6 PM  
WED

## November 2024

**02**

SAT

### HHW Drop Off

Clean Harbors, Debert, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

**05**

TUES

### Council Committee Meeting 6 PM

Presentation Meeting (on as needed basis)

**11**

MON

### Municipal Office Closure

Remembrance Day

**14**

THURS

### Council Committee Meeting 6 PM

**25**

MON

### Council Meeting 6 PM

## December 2024

**03**

TUES

### Council Committee Meeting 6 PM

Presentation Meeting (on an as needed basis)

### Colchester Courage Award Nominations

The Colchester Courage Awards were established to acknowledge residents of the Municipality of Colchester for outstanding acts of courage and bravery in the County. Nominations for 2024 will be accepted until Friday, October 25th at 4:00 pm.

To learn more about the award, eligibility criteria, or to nominate someone you feel would be deserving of a Colchester Courage Award, please contact the Municipality's Administration Office by calling 902-897-3184, email [tveno@colchester.ca](mailto:tveno@colchester.ca), or find the Policy and nomination form online at [colchester.ca/policies](https://colchester.ca/policies).



# 2024 Municipal Election

## Candidates

The Municipality of Colchester will be holding an election for the Office for Mayor and eight of 11 Council Seats.

<b>Mayor:</b>	Christine Blair* Geoff Stewart
<b>District 1:</b>	Eric Boutilier* Paul Weatherby
<b>District 2:</b>	Laurie Sandeson* - acclaimed
<b>District 3:</b>	Joel Dawe Sheldon Richardson
<b>District 4:</b>	Mike Cooper* John Vissers
<b>District 5:</b>	Bonnie Brown Tim Johnson*
<b>District 6:</b>	Kelly Herron-Jacobs Nigel Leggett
<b>District 7:</b>	Sherry Martell - acclaimed
<b>District 8:</b>	Lisa Patton* - acclaimed
<b>District 9:</b>	Marie Benoit* Andrew MacKinnon
<b>District 10:</b>	Charlene Fletcher Victoria Lomond* Doug MacInnes Mike Rushton Cheryl-ann Slack
<b>District 11:</b>	Al Kennedy Wade MacCallum Sean MacDonald
<b>CSAP:</b>	Jessica Hinton - acclaimed

## Important Dates

Regular Polls (Election Day)  
**Saturday, October 19, 2024**

8:00 am to 7:00 pm



## Alternative/Electronic Voting

Opens  
**Monday,  
October 7,  
2024**  
8:30 am

Closes  
**Saturday,  
October 19,  
2024**  
7:00 pm

## What District Do You Live In?

Want to know which District you'll be voting in? Visit our website at [colchester.ca/electoral-districts](https://colchester.ca/electoral-districts) to view a map by District. You can also call the Returning Office at 902-893-0677.

## Contact

**Returning Officer**  
**Phone:** 902-893-0677  
**Email:** [gwheeler@colchester.ca](mailto:gwheeler@colchester.ca)

**Assistant Returning Officer**  
**Phone:** 782-370-2954  
**Email:** [dgraham@colchester.ca](mailto:dgraham@colchester.ca)

**Voter Helpline**  
**Phone:** 1-866-843-0790

*On the table to the left, \* indicates the incumbent*

*Acclaimed means the candidate ran unopposed and therefore a vote is not needed in this District.*

# Election Day – Polling Locations

District	Polling Division – Community	Location
1	1A- Brookside, Bible Hill (West)	Bible Hill Fire Hall
	1 B - Vimy Court Bible Hill	Vimy Court
2	2A, 2B, 2C - Truro Heights, Lower Truro, Old Barns, Clifton, Beaver Brook Princeport, Green Oaks	Cobequid Fire Hall, Lower Truro
	2D, 2E - Green Creek, Pleasant Valley, Shortts Lake, Riverside, Fort Ellis	Brookfield Sportsplex
3	3A, 3B, 3C- Hilden, Brookfield, Alton, Brentwood, and Forest Glen	Brookfield Sportsplex
	3D- Elk Court Brookfield	Elk Court
4	4A, 4B - Eastville, Burnside, Pembroke, Newton Mills, Upper Stewiacke, Meadowvale, Otter Brook, Cross Roads, Cloverdale, Birch Hill, South Branch, Middle Stewiacke, Halfway Brook	Middle Stewiacke Rec Centre
	4C, 4D - West St. Andrews, Wittenburg, Lanesville, East Stewiacke, MacKay Siding, Gays River, Pine Grove, Shubenacadie East, Coldstream	Wittenburg Baptist Church
5	5A- Salmon River, Murray Siding, Harmony, Camden	Salmon River Fire Hall
6	6A- Greenfield, Manganese Mines, East Mountain, Valley (North)	Bible Hill Fire Hall
7	All of District 7	Tatamagouche Fire Hall
	7F - Willow Lodge Tatamagouche	Willow Lodge
8	8A, 8B, 8C - Onslow Mountain, Upper Onslow, North River, Nuttby, McCallum Settlement, Upper North River, Central North River, Upper Brookside	North River Elementary School
	8D - Riversdale, Kemptown, Upper Kemptown	Colchester Materials Recovery Facility
9	9A, 9B, 9C - East Folly Mountain, Debert, Lower Onslow, Central Onslow Belmont, Moose Lake, Crowes Mills	Admin Building, Debert Air Industrial Park
	9D - Debert Court Debert	Debert Court
10	10A, 10B, 10C - Lynn, Lower Five Islands, Five Islands, Simpson Lake, McCormack Lake, Lower Economy, Carrs Brook, Economy, Upper Economy, Little Bass River, Bass River, Castlereagh, Montrose, Five Houses, Portapique	Bass River Fire Hall
	10D, 10E - Lornevale, Londonderry, Hart Lake, Folly Lake, Folly Mountain, Londonderry Station, East Village, Highland Village, Great Village, Glenholme, Little Dyke	Great Village Fire Hall
	10F - Lower Debert, Masstown	Admin Building, Debert Air Industrial Park
11	11A - Bible Hill (East), Valley (South)	Bible Hill Fire Hall
All	VOTING KIOSK - October 7th thru October 18th 8:30AM - 4:30PM, Monday-Friday Election Day - October 19th - 8AM to 7PM	Municipal Office, 1 Church St, Truro

# 2024 Municipal Election

## Introducing E-Voting for the First Time

Municipality of Colchester is offering Electronic Voting, providing more opportunities for residents of Colchester to vote. Telephone and internet voting will be available during alternate polling days, as well as on Election Day (Saturday October 19th, 2024).

On Election Day traditional paper ballot voting will be offered at Polling Stations.



## Voter Information Letter (VIL)

Electors will receive a VIL the first week of October. The letter will contain the following:

- Elector qualifications to vote in the Municipal and CSAP elections
- Elector’s unique voter Personal Identification Number (PIN)
- The internet address that will link Electors to the voting website
- A Toll-Free telephone number that electors can call to vote by telephone
- The date, times, and location of Election Day voting
- A list of candidates running for office within the electors District

## Managed Urban Deer Hunt Plebiscite for Select Colchester Communities

The Municipality of Colchester is considering a managed urban deer hunt in response to a rising deer population that has caused significant disruptions, including ecosystem imbalance, property damage, and an increase in Deer Vehicle Collisions (DVCs). Following the example of the Town of Truro, which has successfully implemented such hunts since 2022, Colchester has begun the process of data collection in collaboration with the NS Department of Natural Resources and Renewables (DNR&R).

A managed urban deer hunt would involve experienced archery hunters using bows or crossbows under strict guidelines to ensure safety and humane population control. This approach aims to benefit the natural environment, protect landscapes, reduce DVCs, and minimize human-deer conflicts. The hunt would only occur in designated areas, away from residences and frequented locations, with numerous precautions taken to ensure public safety.

A plebiscite is being conducted in the upcoming Fall Municipal Election for residents in affected communities (Districts 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 11). They will vote on whether they support a managed deer hunt, provided that data supports this as a viable option. The decision will consider public opinion as part of the broader effort to address the challenges posed by the growing deer population.

**Electors in affected Districts can vote Yes or No to the following question:**

*“Do you support a safely managed urban deer bow/crossbow hunt to control and reduce the urban deer population in and around your community?”*

# How Can You Vote

## Vote by Internet October 7th - 19th (Takes About 5 Minutes)



Vote online, from anywhere, via the INTERNET, using a device such as a computer, laptop, tablet, iPad or smart phone.

- Visit the voting website found in your Voter Instruction Letter.
- Enter your PIN (Do Not Include Spaces) and date of birth.
- Complete the Captcha challenge as shown on the screen.
- If you receive an error after several attempts to login, this may be because your birthdate information is incorrect in our Voting System. You will need a new PIN. Please contact the Voter Helpline at 1-866-843-0790.
- Follow the prompts to complete the voting process.

Visit our Voter Kiosk if help is required to vote on-line. The Kiosk will be located in the Municipal Building, 1 Church St, Truro. The Kiosk will be open, weekdays, from October 7th through October 18th, from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m and on October 19th from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

## Vote by Proxy October 19th



Electors who are unable to vote at the polls due to illness, physical disability or absence from the Municipality, may authorize another voter to cast a ballot on their behalf.

Visit the election website at [colchester.ca/election](http://colchester.ca/election) or contact the Returning Office for additional information.

**902-893-0677**  
**gwheeler@colchester.ca**

## Vote by Telephone October 7th - 19th (Takes About 5 Minutes)



Vote by Telephone, from anywhere in North America, by dialing the Toll-Free number found, in the VOTER INFORMATION LETTER.

- Call the phone number provided in your Voter Instruction Letter.
- Enter your PIN and date of birth (example 19800101 # January 1, 1980).
- If you receive an error after several attempts to login, this may be because your birthdate information is incorrect in our Voting System. You will need a new PIN. Please contact the Vote Helpline at 1-866-843-0790.
- Follow the audio prompts to vote (use the '#' to confirm your selections).
- Don't hang up until you get your confirmation code.

## Vote in Person on Election Day October 19th



Vote in person on Election Day by visiting your assigned Poll Station, found in your Voter Instruction Letter and cast your ballot using the traditional Paper Ballot.  
Polls are open 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

## Voter Helpline



If you require assistance in voting, lost your Voter Information Letter or your PIN does not work, call the Voter Helpline for assistance at 1-866-843-0790

## Property Taxes

The Municipality of Colchester 2024/25 property tax bills were due on August 30, 2024. Any outstanding balances are accruing interest at 1.00% monthly. There are many options for you to pay your property taxes:

- Payments can be made by online banking or at most banks. Please make sure you use the assessment account number as your account number. Allow 2–3 business days for processing.
- Cheques can be mailed to 1 Church Street, Truro, NS, B2N 3Z5. Please note the “Assessment Account Number” in the cheque memo.
- There is a secure drop box located at the back entrance of our office located at 1 Church Street, Truro.
- The Tax Office can accept cash, cheque, and debit only payments at 1 Church St, Truro between 8:30AM–4:30PM, Monday to Friday.
- You can pay with your credit card through our third party Paymentus on our website: [colchester.ca/paymentus-online-payments](https://colchester.ca/paymentus-online-payments). Paymentus does charge a service fee of 2.5% for each transaction. Colchester does not collect this fee. \*We cannot accept credit card in person or over the telephone.

If you did not receive your tax bill, please contact our office to verify your mailing address. It is the responsibility of the resident to ensure that we have your correct mailing address for all property tax bills. Interest will not be waived due to incorrect addresses.

If you have any questions regarding your tax bill or need to set up a re-payment plan for your outstanding property taxes, please contact Chelsea Veling at 902-897-3162 or [cveling@colchester.ca](mailto:cveling@colchester.ca).

### Did you Know?

We have a variety of pre-authorization tax payment plans available!

- **Due Date** – The full tax bill amount is withdrawn on the annual due date.
- **Pre-Payment** – Pre-pay next year’s bill with equal monthly instalments.
- **Recurring Payment** – You choose how much you want withdrawn monthly.

For more information, call 902-897-3162 or email [taxoffice@colchester.ca](mailto:taxoffice@colchester.ca).

### Connect With Us Online



Website: [Colchester.ca](https://colchester.ca)



Facebook: [@ColchesterNS](https://www.facebook.com/ColchesterNS)



Instagram: [@ColchesterCounty](https://www.instagram.com/ColchesterCounty)



Linkedin: [@Municipality-of-Colchester](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Municipality-of-Colchester)



X: [@MunColchester](https://twitter.com/MunColchester)

### Accessibility & Inclusion

Do you, or someone you know, have challenges accessing municipal information or services, or participating in programs or community engagement opportunities (for example a visual or hearing impairment, mobility, or cognitive challenge)?

Please contact Devin Trefry by calling 902-897-3182 or email [dtrefry@colchester.ca](mailto:dtrefry@colchester.ca) to discuss ways that we may be able to accommodate or assist.

### Contact

**Phone:** 902-897-3150  
**Hours of Operation:** Monday to Friday  
 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM  
 For evening and/ or weekend emergencies, call 902-897-3175