

VOTE!

Welcome to a special edition of the *municipal insight!* It's special because the information contained within these pages has only one purpose: to inform you about the upcoming Municipal Election.

If you're a master at voting in Municipal Elections, feel free to skip over the next few paragraphs. If you're new or unfamiliar with municipal government and how you are represented, read on, Constituent!

The Municipality is divided into seven municipal districts; each district is represented by one person (a councillor) who is chosen by the electors (people eligible to vote) of that district.

Every four years, people (candidates) interested in being one of those representatives (and who meet the criteria) file nomination papers with the Returning Officer and commence campaigning to be elected by their neighbours within a district. Candidates can run in any district they choose, not necessarily the district where their home is.

It's up to those neighbours (electors) to elect the candidate that they feel will best represent their needs and vision for their community and municipality. Having a familiarity with candidate platforms, current issues that can be addressed at the local level, and municipal roles and responsibilities could help with your decision.

Once candidates have declared and campaigns are underway, it's time to focus on

the Election itself. The Municipality of Chester is using electronic voting again this election, which means you can vote by telephone or online.

We cannot stress enough the importance of voting. Voting gives you a "right to complain," but it doesn't just give you a voice in the line-up at the grocery store. It gives constituents a voice around the Council Chambers table. The candidate who you vote for doesn't stop representing you after October 19. Once voted in, Councillors seek and appreciate input from the communities they represent.

If you don't vote, you allow other people to choose your representative for you. Besides, it only happens once every four years.

So, now you know why you vote and the method with which you are voting. Are you registered and eligible to vote?

Voter Eligibility

To vote in this Election, you must

- be 18 years of age on or before October 10, 2024;
- be a Canadian Citizen on or before October 10, 2024;
- have been living in Nova Scotia six months before October 10, 2024;
- be on the Voter List (you can be sworn in up to October 19); and
- be primarily residing in the Municipality immediately before October 10, 2024.

Voter List

Elections Nova Scotia shares their latest information with us to help us assemble our Voter List. We use their information plus rely on residents to contact us with updated information about their residency. We already mailed letters to confirm your information, so if you didn't receive one, you may not be on "the list". If you're not on "the list", you won't get a Voter Instruction Letter with the personal identification number (PIN) you will need to vote. If you don't get this letter by October 9, please contact us ASAP at 902-275-3631 or email election@chester.ca. **YOU WILL NEED THIS LETTER TO VOTE!**

Voting in the Advance Poll begins at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 10 and runs through until the end of Election Day on October 19. Votes must be cast BEFORE the poll closes at 7:00 p.m. It takes approximately a minute and a half to vote. Please don't wait until the last minute. You will have to wait until the last minute AND A HALF at least.

Now that we have covered the Municipal Election, we would like to mention that Municipal Elections ordinarily coincide with the election of the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) School Board member. However, in the Municipality of Chester, a representative has been acclaimed. Congratulations, Diane Racette!

Now that you're prepared, look inside to see who the candidates (or acclaimed Councillors) are in your district.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION 2024

Questions?

Returning Officer Pamela Myra or
Assistant Returning Officer Jennifer
Webber

Municipality of the District of Chester
151 King Street, PO Box 369
Chester, NS B0J 1J0
902-275-3631 or election@chester.ca

MEET YOUR CANDIDATES...

The deadline to declare candidacy is over, and the dust has settled. Candidates are getting ready for the Election and many have representatives who are acclaimed (automatically voted in because there was only one candidate who declared in that district). If listed below their photo. They are interested in what you have to say as they could be representing you around the Council table.

Aspotogan, Bayswater, Deep Cove, Blandford, Northwest Cove, Otter Point, East River, and part of East Chester.

DISTRICT 1



902-277-0322

Terri DeMont is running for a Council seat to represent District 1. She grew up and still lives in East Chester where her family has lived for many generations. Terri and her husband, Rickey, have been married for 37 years and have two children and five grandchildren. Her life has been dedicated to the service of others; a trait she inherited from her parents and has passed on to her children and grandchildren.

Terri has worked in education for many years and has served as a volunteer for most of her life. She is in her 20th year as a firefighter with the Chester Volunteer Fire Department (CVFD) and created the CVFD Junior Department which the Department has maintained for 17 years. She has been both a coordinator and participant in other volunteer organizations and local charities.

Terri has also contributed as a member on advisory committees dedicated to the protection of our Municipality. All of her experience across our beautiful Municipality of Chester makes her proud to be a lifelong resident of District 1 and contributing member of our awesome community.



902-277-1409
andrev@ableinc.ca

Andre Veinotte (Incumbent) is a life-long resident of East Chester and the son of Geoff and Sharon Veinotte. He has two children, Chantelle and Eva. Andre founded and runs ABLE Engineering Inc, which is based in Chester. It is a 40-person engineering firm specializing in civil and structural engineering and land surveying. Andre is currently the Councillor for District 1.

Andre has been the President of Engineers Nova Scotia, the Province's engineering regulator, and is also currently serving as chairman of New Ross Credit Union. He was also an advisor for Junior Achievers Canada and member of several South Shore business associations.

In recent years, he has held the position of Director of the Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation whose goal is to promote restoration, enhancement, and conservation of our ecosystem through research, education, and action. He is also a member of the Louisiana-Pacific Community Liaison Committee, which is an environmental advisory body to East River Louisiana-Pacific Ltd (now Maibec).

Fox Point, Mill Cove, Dauphinee Mill Lake, Simms Settlement, part of Hubbards (to the county line), Birchy Head, and The Lodge.

DISTRICT 2



902-857-3997

Clarissa Coolen, also known as "Issie", grew up in Mill Cove and lives in Fox Point. She is a mother of two and is married to Brian, a local career fisherman. Issie attended Chester Municipal High School and has made a lifelong career of working, living, and volunteering in her community.

Issie has worked at Hubbards Scotiabank for 12 years and Canada Post for 20 years. She currently has the position of Postmaster for the past 8 years. She has volunteered at Relay for Life, Match funds for Scotiabank fundraising contributions for local events, beach clean up, and campaigned for the Cancer Society.

She is a founding member and Secretary of Rails to Trails (Hubbards to East River), a founding member and Treasurer of Through the Years Day Care Centre, and serves as the Executive Treasurer for the District 2 Fire Commission.



902-456-9310

Heather Norwood was born and raised in Mill Cove. She and her partner, Darrell, have four grown children and four grandsons between them.

Heather has always made an effort to be involved in her community and has been a member of the Church Guild and Parish Council, a volunteer librarian at the local elementary school, chairperson of the Board at Through the Years Daycare, and was involved with the fundraising and completion of that building. Heather has also been a volunteer cook for seniors' lunches in the past at the Lions Club and a volunteer in the past with bingo at both the Lion's Club and the firehall. Heather is currently sitting on the District 2 Fire Commission for the Hubbards Fire Department.

In her spare time, Heather enjoys camping, drag racing, and enjoying time with her family and friends.



902-299-2550

Ross Shatford is a lifelong resident of Fox Point where he lives with his wife, Tanya, and where they raised their son, Josh. Ross has been an active participant in his community for many years. He coached youth in sports, such as hockey, softball, and really anything they all wanted to give a try.

He worked in construction early on and returned to school later in life to enter the world of IT. His most rewarding job was at Aspotogan Consolidated Elementary School and Chester Area Middle School as an IT Tech. Working in our schools has given him the opportunity to know our youth as well as see all the challenges families face in the world today.

Ross enjoys being an active participant in his community, helping out local groups with fundraisers, assisting with Aspotogan Ridge Golf Club and its many activities, and running after the newest addition to his family: Tatum, Ross' granddaughter.

ACCLAIMED CANDIDATES are uncontested in their District.



Abdella Assaff, elected in 2016, will continue to represent District 5, serving the communities from Martins River Bridge to Gold River Bridge, including Gold River, Beech Hill, Western Shore, Martins Point, and Martins River.

902-277-2765 aassaff@chester.ca



Tina Connors, first elected in 2012, will continue to represent District 6 - New Ross - including the communities of Sefferville, Glengarry Road, Meister Road, Charing Cross, Leville, Mill Road, Forties, Fraxville, Franey Corner, Lake Ramsay, Harriston, and Aaldersville.

902-277-1095 tconnors@chester.ca

started campaigning in their districts. Here is a snapshot of each candidate running in the Municipal Election. Also listed are you have questions for your candidates and they have not yet reached out to you, please contact them using the information for the next four years.

Village of Chester,
Chester Commons,
part of East Chester.

DISTRICT 3



Eltacotom@gmail.com

Tom Bremner was born and raised in Chester and resided here until the age of 39. During that time, Tom was a familiar face in both the Village and the Municipality. He enjoyed playing sports, teaching tennis, playing in local bands, and then, at the age of 16, he joined the Chester Volunteer Fire Department - a decision that really shaped his future.

As a firefighter, both volunteer and career, Tom lived and worked across Canada. He has served on many local and provincial committees as Fire Chief, focusing on both building community safety and leadership.

During this time Tom enjoyed serving his community as a volunteer of the Rotary Club, the Royal Canadian Legion, his Church, and a variety of other organizations. In both his career and his many volunteer endeavors, he has come to value the importance of good communications and respect.

Tom is now retired from the fire service, and has moved back home to Chester. But retired doesn't mean tired! He is still very busy in his community. You might find him at Picnic at the Park, Sunday Night Brass Band Concerts, community-sponsored breakfasts, or honing his crib game, to name a few ...



902-973-1164

After living in Toronto for 22 years, **Amber Brown Keddy** moved to Chester Village in 2020. Amber originally moved to Nova Scotia to buy a house, but God had other plans for her. She got a husband and a daughter instead! Best wrong order ever! Amber feels that Chester is an amazing place to raise a child. She loves hearing her husband's stories about what it was like to grow up in the Village. They don't sound too dissimilar to the way she grew up in B.C. where the summers were spent swimming, biking and playing with friends until dark. They are excited to see Amelia grow up the same way.

Amber shares that the great thing about living in Chester is they are surrounded by natural beauty. They don't have to go far to find a beach, park or trail. During the day you'll find Amelia and Amber at the various parks, walking through the Village or taking a break in a coffee shop. As a family they try to make the most of the outdoors, even if it's just stargazing on the back deck. There is something special about being this close to nature. As a mom, Amber also appreciates the local events that are put on that allow them to spend time as a family in the community. Professionally, her background is in office administration and finance. Amber holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree in accounting. Prior to becoming a stay-at-home mom, she worked from home as an accountant for a TV production company in Toronto.

Chester Basin, Chester
Grant, Borgel's Point,
Middle River (west).

DISTRICT 4

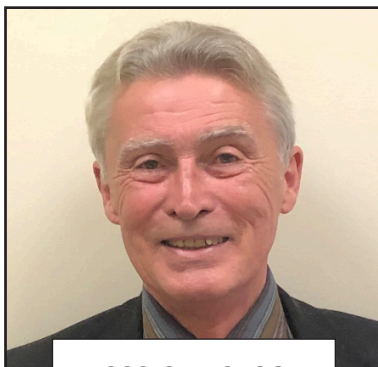


902-275-5938

Lee Harnish has been living in the Municipality of the District of Chester all his life. He lived in Blanford until the age of 22, saved enough for a down payment, and purchased property on Borgels Point Road in Chester Basin in 1988 where he still resides for the past 36 years. Lee opened a U-fish many years ago, and although the U-fish is no longer in operation, he still enjoys watching the trout jumping in the pond. Lee's wife raised chickens, incubated chicks, and sold eggs for many years.

Being concerned about the new municipal land use by-laws, Lee joined the Municipal Planning Advisory Committee when a vacancy opened up in 2019. He is still on the Committee. He is also the treasurer of Clarke Lodge #61 in Chester and Chair of the Bursary Committee where bursaries are given to graduating students from Forest Heights High School annually. Each year, the Lodge donates to Bonny Lea Farm, Our Health Center and the Sea Cadets.

Lee's work experience started at Karlsens fish plant in Blandford, and he later worked in Halifax for many years before starting and operating a small solar business in Chester Basin. Lee is a grandpa but prefers "Poppy" to three wonderful grandsons. He enjoys the beauty in our Municipality and loves boating, swimming, fishing, sunsets, and spending time with family and friends.



902-275-2536

Allen Webber (Incumbent) is a life-long member of the community with family connections going back for centuries. He has raised three sons here who continue to have strong connections to Chester Basin.

Allen is a member of, and strong supporter of, many community organizations and has assisted in the development of numerous community projects.

Allen was the owner/operator of two local businesses for many years: Odd Things Gift Shop and Lacey Realty.

He has had the good fortune of seeing the Rolling Stones live twice, Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen once, and is a long-time friend of Joel Plaskett's father, Bill.

Allen loves his community and has been, and likes to be, involved in projects that continue to make it a fantastic place to live and raise a family.

Windsor Road, Canaan,
Robinsons Corner, Marriotts
Cove, east side Middle River.

DISTRICT 7



902-275-2281
sharonchurch2016@gmail.com

Sharon Church (Incumbent) is a life-long resident of District 7 and has been a Municipal Councillor for 24 years. As a graduate of Mount Saint Vincent University with a Bachelor of Business Administration, Sharon has pursued a career as an administrator in the public and private sector. She is currently employed at Bonny Lea Farm as their Office Manager. Sharon also has gained valuable business experience as an active partner in a Christmas tree and wreath exporting company for over 15 years.

Sharon is a founding member of Card Lake Park Conservation Committee and is pleased that the Provincial Park is maintained for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike. Sharon is proud to call Chester Municipality home and lives in the community of Windsor Road. In her spare time, Sharon enjoys volunteering at the Canaan and District Hall or other venues as needed. She appreciates the many volunteer organizations in the Municipality and continues to support their events.

For leisure, Sharon is involved in numerous outdoor activities such as gardening, biking, walking and kayaking.



theresagriffinchester@gmail.com

Theresa Griffin has been a Chester area resident for 34 years. She is kind and hardworking, with a deep appreciation of Chester's unique strengths as well as the current and future challenges we face as a community. Theresa's career and volunteer work have been dedicated to the service and care of children, families and community well-being. She is eager to continue to put this experience to work as District 7's municipal councillor.

Theresa's work experience includes Founder and Director of The Child-Life Institute for Early Learning and Childcare, Halifax; Supervisor of Curriculum, Yellowhead School District, Alberta; Case Management Coordinator for Mental Health, City of Philadelphia; Supervisor of Student Services, Lunenburg County School District; and Research Coordinator, Toronto First Duty Project.

Her volunteer activities include Maritime Coordinator, Council of Early Child Development; Board Member, Nova Scotia Community Health Board - Western District; School Board Member, South Shore Regional School Board - Chester Municipal District; and Researcher (Nova Scotia Partner) Co-design with Older Adults for Health - Aalto University.

With both professional and volunteer experience as a public representative in health and education, Theresa understands how governance works and the connections between community infrastructure and individual well-being.

WHO TO VOTE FOR

OFFICE OF COUNCILLOR	CANDIDATES (Alphabetical)	COMMUNITIES SERVED (district maps available at www.chester.ca/election)
DISTRICT #1	Terri DeMont Andre Veinotte	Aspotogan, Bayswater, Northwest Cove, Blandford, Upper Blandford, Deep Cove, Schnare's Cove, East River Point, East River, Otter Point, Squid Cove, Goat Lake, Scotch Cove, part of East Chester (to Village of Chester Planning boundary).
DISTRICT #2	Clarissa "Issie" Coolen Heather Norwood Ross Shatford	Fox Point, Mill Cove, Simms Settlement, Dauphinee Mill Lake, part of Hubbards (to the County line), Birchy Head, The Lodge.
DISTRICT #3	Tom Bremner Amber Brown Keddy	Village of Chester, Chester Commons, part of East Chester (to the end of the Village Planning boundary).
DISTRICT #4	Lee Harnish Allen Webber	Chester Basin, Chester Grant, Borgald's Point, Lower Grant, Middle River (west side).
DISTRICT #5	Abdella Assaff ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION	Martins River Bridge to Gold River Bridge, including Gold River, Western Shore, Martins Point, and part of Martins River.
DISTRICT #6	Tina Connors ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION	Seffernville, New Ross, Leville, Mill Road, Aaldersville, Harriston, Glangarry Road, Lake Ramsay, Forties, Fraxville, part of Leminster (to County line).
DISTRICT #7	Sharon Church Theresa Griffin	Windsor Road, Canaan, part of Haddon Hill, Robinsons Corner, Marriotts Cove, east side of Middle River.
SOUTH SHORE REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES		
Member of Conseil scolaire acadien provincial	Diane Racette - ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION	

WAYS TO VOTE



...by phone

During the Advance Poll, residents have the option to vote via telephone. When you receive your Voter Instruction Letter, you will see a unique personal identification number (PIN). Use that PIN and your birth date, and call the toll-free number in your letter. On average, it takes less than a minute and a half to vote over the phone.

...by internet

Again, during this year's Election, online voting (or e-voting as we affectionately like to call it) is available to residents with internet access. Use your desktop, laptop, smart phone or tablet to cast your virtual ballot. Login to a secure website using your unique PIN and birthdate as directed in your Voter Instruction Letter that you should receive in early October.

WHEN TO VOTE

...in the Advance Poll & ...on Election Day

Because all voting is electronic, there is a continuous voting period. Electronic voting is available during the Advance Poll and into Election Day. Use the unique PIN in your Voter Instruction Letter to access electronic voting. You will need this letter to vote! If you don't have a letter by October 9, contact us as soon as you can by calling 902-275-3631.

Voting starts at 8:00am on Thursday, October 10 and continues 24 hours per day until Election Day, Saturday, October 19 at 7:00pm. Please give yourself enough time before the close of polls to ensure your vote is counted. Polling closes at exactly 7:00pm.

INFORMATION...

Election information:

www.chester.ca/election
902-275-3631
election@chester.ca

Election results:

www.chester.ca/election/ChesterMunicipality on Facebook

Results will be almost instant as ballots are cast electronically and automatically counted when voting ends at 7:00 p.m. Results will be posted manually by municipal staff shortly after.



Didn't receive a Voter Letter?

902-275-3631
election@chester.ca