

**MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF**  
**ANTIGONISH**  
**COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**

Tuesday, September 12, 2023, 7:30pm

Council Chambers  
Municipal Administration Building  
285 Beech Hill Road  
Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

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1. Call to Order – Chair Owen McCarron
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of July 11, 2023 Municipal Council Minutes
4. Correspondence
  - a. Lion's Club – Thank-you Letter
5. Committee Reports
  - a. September 6, 2023 Antigonish Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee Report
  - b. September 12, 2023 Committee of the Whole Report
6. Reports from Individual Council Members on Outside Boards, Conferences, and Community Activities
7. Motions
  - a. Proclamation: British Home Children Day – September 28, 2023
  - b. Recognition of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – September 30, 2023
8. Miscellaneous Business
9. Adjournment

# **MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF ANTIGONISH**

## **Municipal Council Meeting- Minutes**

**Tuesday, July 11, 2023**

**7:30 pm**

**Council Chambers**

**Municipal Administration Building**

**285 Beech Hill Road**

**Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4**

### **Councillors Present:**

Warden Owen McCarron

Councillor Mary MacLellan

Councillor Donnie MacDonald

Deputy Warden Stewart

Councillor Remi Deveau

Councillor Gary Mattie

Councillor Bill MacFarlane

Councillor Harris McNamara

Councillor John Dunbar

Councillor Shawn Brophy (by Zoom)

### **Regrets:**

None

### **Staff Present:**

Glenn Horne, CAO

John Bain, EDPC

Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk

### **Also Present:**

Gallery

### **Media Present:**

Matt Draper, XFM

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### **Call to Order- Chairman, Warden Owen McCarron**

Warden McCarron called the meeting to order at 7:33pm.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda.

**Min # 2023-085**

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved as presented.

**Motion Carried**

**Approval of June 13, 2023 Municipal Council Minutes**

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions in minutes.

**Min # 2023-086**

Moved and Seconded

That the Municipal Council Minutes of June 13, 2023 be approved.

**Motion Carried**

**Business Arising from Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**Statutory Public Hearings**

*Adding medical clinics and ambulance depots to the C-2 Zone in the West River Antigonish Harbour Plan Area*

Mr. Bain spoke to the amendments proposed, being to amend the C-2 Zone in the West River Antigonish Harbour Plan Area to permit medical clinics and ambulance depots. He noted that he felt that this was a housekeeping amendment, and reviewed other similar uses, such as veterinary clinics, already permitted in the C-2 Zone. Regarding the inclusion of government facilities and buildings in all zones, Mr. Bain noted that the policy document noted the uses being permitted in all areas, but the same provision not being found in the Land Use By-law. As such, he felt that this amendment provided a correction to implement the policy intent. Mr. Bain noted that the public hearing was advertised in accordance with the requirements of the Municipal Government Act, and no written submissions were received.

The floor was opened to questions from Council. A question was asked about permitted sizes and heights for these uses, which Mr. Bain addressed. No parties were present wishing to speak against, or in favour of, the proposed amendments.

**Min # 2023-087**

Moved and Seconded

That Council amend the West River Antigonish Harbour Land Use By-law as follows:

PART 6: GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR ALL ZONES is hereby amended by inserting the following text in bold immediately following s. 6.A.13 Front Yard for a Through Lot and renumbering the remaining sections accordingly:

**Government Buildings and Facilities**

**6.A.14 Government buildings and facilities shall be permitted within any zone subject to compliance with the applicable provisions of that particular zone.**

Section 16.1 of PART 16: GENERAL COMMERCIAL (C-2) ZONE is hereby amended by inserting the following text in bold and re-lettering the remaining sections accordingly:

**I. Medical clinics**

PART 25: DEFINITIONS is hereby amended by inserting the following text in bold in alphabetical order:

**GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES means a building or facility where one of the three levels of government provides services to the public. Examples include but are not limited to, courthouses, post offices, hospitals, employment offices, libraries, and emergency services.**

**Motion Carried**

**Correspondence**

Mr. Horne reviewed the correspondence received from Minister Lohr, requesting that the Municipality look at identifying serviceable municipal land for housing. Mr. Horne noted that a preliminary assessment of municipally-owned land has been undertaken, and no suitable properties have been identified.

**Committee Reports**

**June 27, 2023 Asset Management Committee Report**

**Min # 2023-088**

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council award the tender for the water storage tank associated with the St. Josephs Water System Expansion project to Greatario at a value of \$490,000 + HST.

**Motion Carried**

**June 27, 2023 Committee of the Whole Report**

**Min # 2023-089**

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approve the 2023/24 Antigonish County Water Utility Budget as presented.

**Motion Carried**

**Min # 2023-090**

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council commit \$49,869 to the establishment of a regional emergency shelter at the Heatherton Community Centre and the CAO be authorized to sign the associated facility usage agreement.

**Motion Carried**

July 5, 2023 Asset Management Committee e-Poll Report

Councillor MacFarlane declared a conflict and removed himself from the table for the vote.

**Min # 2023-091**

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council authorize the Chief Administrative Officer and the Director of Finance to sign Construction Agreement No. 2023-027.

**Motion Carried**

July 11, 2023 Committee of the Whole Report

There were no motions coming forward from this meeting.

**Reports from Individual Council Members on Outside Boards, Conferences, and Community Activities**

- Councillor Dunbar provided updates from the Heritage Museum Board, being that they met on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, that two students hired for the summer, and that lots of events planned.
- Councillor Dunbar also shared that the Heatherton Mural Committee has been created.
- Councillor MacFarlane wished staff and Council a thanks and best wishes for the summer.
- Councillor Deveau shared that the Heart Tour wheels and walk took place in the community earlier in the day.
- Councillor McNamara shared that the RK MacDonald AGM was held and went well.
- Councillor Mattie attended the Antigonish Community Transit Society AGM earlier in the day.
- Councillor Brophy also attended the RK MacDonald AGM.
- Warden McCarron attended the funding announcement held at Paqtnkek First Nation for a microgrid project and fast charging station project earlier in the day.

**Motions**

There were no additional motions.

**Miscellaneous Business**

The following messages of congratulations were shared by Municipal Council:

- Congratulations to Antigonish County resident Brooke Hayne, who won the Highland Dancing Canadian Championship (12 & Under 14) at the ScotDance Canadian Championship Series hosted in Halifax. Brooke will be going to Scotland to compete in the worlds in August.
- Congratulations to Christian Gerro, who won a gold medal in the standing long jump, a bronze medal in the 4x100m Relay, and placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the 100m run at the Special Olympics Worlds competition in Berlin.
- Congratulations to Paul (PJ) Prosper, Regional Chief for the Assembly of First Nations and representative of the Mi'kmaw Chiefs of Nova Scotia, on the recent announcement of his appointment to the Canadian Senate.

Councillor MacLellan raised a question from a resident in her district about the process of appointments to the RK Foundation Board. Staff noted that they have reached out to staff at the RK MacDonald Foundation Board and are awaiting an answer.

Warden McCarron thanked staff for staff's work during this year's Council session, and noted that there was no meeting scheduled to take place in August.

### **Adjournment**

**Min # 2023-092**

Moved

That the Council meeting adjourns at 7:54pm.

**Motion Carried**

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Warden Owen McCarron

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Glenn Horne, CAO



# THANK YOU!



MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF



## ANTIGONISH



**for your generous donation of \$6400**

toward a new generator for the Lions Den

(with a special shout out to Councillor Shawn Brophy)

**Antigonish Lions Club**



**TO:** MUNICIPAL COUNCIL  
**FROM:** COUNCILLOR DONNIE MACDONALD, CO-CHAIR  
**SUBJECT:** **ANTIGONISH REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**DATE:** September 6, 2023

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An Antigonish Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee Meeting was called on Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at 1:30 pm in the County Council Chamber.

Present were: Co-Chair Donnie MacDonald, Councillor, County of Antigonish  
Co-Chair Donnie McInnis, Councillor, Town of Antigonish  
Warden Owen McCarron, County of Antigonish  
Mayor Laurie Boucher, Town of Antigonish  
Blaise MacDonald, Regional Emergency Management Coordinator  
Glenn Horne, CAO, County of Antigonish  
Jeff Lawrence, CAO, Town of Antigonish

**The following items were discussed:**

- EMC, Blaise MacDonald, provided an overview of emergency management highlights for the last quarter and priorities moving forward.
- A status report was provided on the status of Comfort Centres and Emergency Shelters. An MOU has been signed with the Heatherton Community Centre, making it our first Regional Emergency Shelter.
- The Committee discussed the need for and benefit of a provincial voluntary vulnerable persons registry integrated into the 911 system.
- The Committee discussed previous and upcoming table top exercises being organized to build proficiency with emergency planning and response.

**The following recommendations were made:**

- The Committee recommends Municipal Council request the Province of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Public Safety Advisory Committee prioritize the implementation of a province-wide Voluntary Vulnerable Persons Registry, integrated into the 911 system.





**You could be a descendant of a Home Child and not KNOW**

**An estimated 4 Million Canadians are.**

*This is a part of Canadian History which has not been openly discussed.*

*Most Canadians do not know what a Home Child is or that they could be related to one!*

***This is still NOT taught in our school as a part of Canadian History!***

## Who are the Home Children?

DESERVED, HOME DESOLATE & BARE,  
HAPPINESS FLOWN, WILL ANY CARE?



From the late 19th Century until the 1970's thousands of children, of all ages coming from poor and culturally marginalized families in the British Isles were sent to Canada (and various parts of the British empire) in a little-known migration scheme. The migration scheme effectively helped to address the labor needs of our growing nation. Children were used for cheap labor on farms and as domestics throughout Canada and in various parts of the world. Many of the organizations responsible received a fee for service, children had to pay back their passage through servitude and upon arrival in Canada many never saw their families again. Siblings were often sent to different countries or if they were sent to the same country those siblings were separated. Many Home Children spent their lifetime searching for lost family.

Media propaganda about these children was contrived to justify the actions of the sending agencies claiming the agencies as benevolent helpers of 'orphans.' Only 12% of children were true orphans. There were over 30 sending agencies with a few of the larger ones being: Maria Rye, Annie MacPherson, Fegan, Quarriers, Barnardo's, Middlemore, Catholic Emigration Society, Emma Stirling, Church of England Waifs and Strays and Fairbridge. The agencies and Canada itself were very persistent in their efforts to secure cheap labor. During WW1 the migration schemes stopped for a short time however the need for cheap labor was an overriding and pressing need for Canada. Sending of children resumed immediately after the war ended.

The propaganda supporting the continuation of these migration schemes overrode numerous reports, laws and measures that come into place within Canada (as well as within the United Kingdom) that would have legally and ethically stopped the migration scheme. For example:

1874 - The Doyle Report highlighted the inhumanity of the child immigration scheme with recommendations to immediately stop the migration.

1897-1910 Tuberculosis Measures/Reports- various attempts to address the health issues of the Canadian public including those coming into the country and children living in Residential Schools and settings. The media turned against many socially marginalized and ethnic groups during this time including Home Children.

1910 The Immigration Act- limited persons of certain ethnic groups, persons with health issues and/or cognitive issues from entering the country. The media stigmatized ethnic minorities and those of socially marginalized groups including Home Children.

1924 the Geneva Convention on the Rights of Children. Gave children special protections including speaking to their care needs and right to food, medical care and safety

1959 the United Nations General Assembly on the Rights of the Child now known as The Declaration on the Rights of the Child stated (among other things) that a child is entitled to their culture, an education, a family, a nation, as well as to be protected from exploitation of any kind.

May 1948 the last 'shipment' of children arrived on Canadian soil. Other countries continued to receive children until the 1970's.

In the early years, few voices were raised against child migration. When they did speak out, their concerns, were about how the labor shortage would affect local economies. Ironically Home Children became invisible to the rest of Canada because the sponsoring agencies operated as separate entities. The local economies consisted of farms and for the most part Home Children were moved onto farms or into domestic labor situations. The children were British citizens and thus able to move freely throughout British colonies to meet labor needs. As citizens these children were exempt from laws or measures such as the Immigration Act and the Geneva Convention (unless it suited the receiving parties to use those measures) as in the case of cognitive requirements or ethnicity. It is difficult to find evidence of any concern for the psychological well-being of these children who, in terms of modern, Western understandings of child-rearing, were denied their family, heritage, homeland, and childhood. The stigmatization and ostracization these children suffered in Canada caused most to remain silent their entire lives about being a Home Child, the shame so deeply ingrained in their souls even telling their close family was unbearable.

Over 25,000 Home Children enlisted in both world wars, (10,000 "Home boys" enlisted in the First World War alone). Some Home Children enlisted in the war just for the opportunity to reconnect with their family in the United Kingdom, many lost their lives, and all served with honor. Home Children grew up to find steady jobs, marry, raise children, serve our country of Canada and live apparently normal lives. Their survival is surely a testament to their strength and resiliency. Home Child Canada honors the memory of the many contributions that Home Children have made to society, to the founding of our Nation. The biggest of which still resonates in freedoms we enjoy today through their service in WW1 and WW2 and in the Human Rights measures for children that give everyone the right to a family, a nation and a community.



# About Home Children Canada

CRA Charity Registration Number # 792523003RR0001

*The leader in continuing the mission to bring the true stories of the British Home Children to light, maintain their memory, and to reunite the families separated by the child migrant schemes.*

Home Children Canada (HCC), formerly known as British Home Children Advocacy & Research Association (BHCARA), was launched in 2012, operating for a decade before taking on our new name and achieving charitable status. Our work has been instrumental in bringing awareness to the story of the over 100,000 children brought to the shores of Canada. We are exceptionally proud of our work with the service of the Home Children in the Wars and the key role we played in the recognition of their service by Veterans Affairs Canada. Home Children Canada has done over 400 presentations, created award-winning exhibits, and participated in films, documentaries, studies, and the writing of books.

Home Children Canada is supported by a strong team of volunteers who are credited with reconnecting countless descendants with their past. We are dedicated to ensuring HCC becomes sustainable and protects the legacy of our Home Children. They deserve no less.

## Supporting Our Work

We need to continue to educate Canadians and preserve the memory of the British Home Children for future generations.

Please consider supporting the work of Home Children Canada. Your contribution, however small, will play a vital roll in ensuring the memory and contributions of the BHC to Canada will never be forgotten. All donations are tax deductible.

To donate: We are registered with Canada Helps  
[www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org)  
or visit [www.HomeChildrenCanada.com](http://www.HomeChildrenCanada.com)

*Thank you*

## Suggested reading

### Historical books:

The Little Immigrants by Kenneth Bagnell  
The Golden Bridge: Young Immigrants to Canada by Marjorie Kohli  
Uprooted - Roy Parker  
Labouring Children by Joy Parr  
For the Sake of the Children by June Rose  
The Home Children Paperback by Phyllis Harrison

### Biography

Too Afraid to Cry by Pat Skidmore  
Neither Waif nor Stray by Perry Snow

### Children's books

Charlie - A Home Child's Life in Canada By Beryl Young  
Orphan at my Door - Dear Canada series

### Fiction Books

No Ocean Too Wide and the sequel No Journey Too Far by Carrie Turansky

## Contact Us

Home Children Canada

[www.homechildrencanada.ca](http://www.homechildrencanada.ca)

**British Home Child Registry**

Now containing details on over 83,733 children

[www.britishhomechildrenregistry.com](http://www.britishhomechildrenregistry.com)

**Home Children in Canada - research site**

Thousands of children are mentioned here as well as comprehensive historical information.

[www.CanadianBritishHomeChildren.weebly.com](http://www.CanadianBritishHomeChildren.weebly.com)

### **Facebook:**

We have a experienced team of researchers available to help with your research. With almost 11,000members we are the largest group of BHC descendants and interested persons in the world. We have many experienced researchers available to help families at no cost. Researching Home Children is a specialized field.

**Home Children Canada Research Group  
or our Home Children Canada page**

*We also offer help through email to  
[HomeChildrenCanada@gmail.com](mailto:HomeChildrenCanada@gmail.com)*

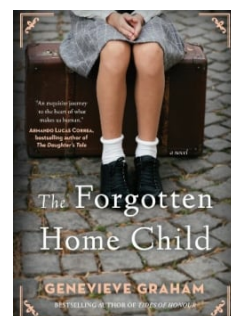
Read about: The Declaration on the Rights of the Child, the Home Child's gift to the future generations of children.

<https://archive.crin.org/en/library/legal-database/un-declaration-rights-child-1959.html>

## Canadian Best Seller!

" **The Forgotten Home Child**" is a poignant, edgy, and skillfully written portrayal of a Home Child's experience that typified so many. The absence of any sugar coating makes this story come to life and brings a level of reality that is often lacking--an emotional journey well worth reading." - Lori Oschefski

Lori served as the historical consultant for "The Forgotten Home Child" by Canadian best selling author, Genevieve Graham. Released in 2020, this book was the Canadian best seller for four months.







# Why the Sunflower?

*Why the sunflower represents the Home Children that came to Canada.*

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British Home Children came to Canada hoping for a brighter future.

The Sunflower are bright and inspire hope.

As the sunflower grows, the flowers and leaves grow and face the sun in order to maximize photosynthesis. On sunny days, the stems elongate on the side of the stem away from the sun. The immature (young) flowers and leaves follow the light of the sun throughout the day. By the end of the day, the immature flowers are facing the west.

When there is no light, the other side of the stem grows and pushes the flower and leaves back to face the east at sunrise. This is otherwise known as heliotropism. Mature flowers, leaves and plant do not turn to follow the light of the sun.

British Home Children disembarked from their ships in the east, notably in Halifax and Quebec, and most travelled west into all parts of Canada.

Sunflowers are very strong and can endure various environments.

British Home Children had to be strong mentally, physically and emotionally and endured various living situations.

Sunflower seeds are encased in shells.

British Home Children, on the most part, kept their stories of their lives to themselves, encasing them within their hearts, minds & souls.

Sunflower seeds can be cracked open to reveal itself for others to share and appreciate.

British Home Children stories need to be cracked open, shared and appreciated.

*Credit - The Ontario East British Home Child Family. This was a group effort and was created to be used by others nationwide and around the world.*

# MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF **ANTIGONISH**

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **British Home Children Day**

WHEREAS, from 1869 right up to 1948, over 100,000 children of all ages were sent from the United Kingdom to Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and South Africa, to be used as indentured farm workers and domestics; and,

WHEREAS, it was believed by Canadians that these children were orphans, when only two percent truly were; and,

WHEREAS, the vast contributions of these children to our country should never be forgotten.

Therefore, be it resolved that I, Owen McCarron, Warden of the Municipality of Antigonish County, do hereby proclaim September 28, 2023 as

### **“British Home Children Day”**

in the County of Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Official Seal of the Municipality of the County of Antigonish to be affixed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023.

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Owen McCarron

Warden of the Municipality of the  
County of Antigonish



## **Each year, September 30 marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.**

The day honours the children who never returned home and Survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process.

This federal statutory holiday was created through legislative amendments made by Parliament. The Municipal Office will be closed on Monday, October 2, 2023 in observance of this holiday.

## **Wear orange**



Both the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day take place on September 30.

Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led grassroots commemorative day intended to raise awareness of the individual, family and community inter-generational impacts of residential schools, and to promote the concept of “Every Child Matters”. The orange shirt is a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by

Indigenous children over generations.

On September 30, we encourage all Canadians to wear orange to honour the thousands of Survivors of residential schools.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/national-day-truth-reconciliation.html>

**The Orange Shirt Society** is a non-profit organization with its home in Williams Lake, BC where Orange Shirt Day began in 2013. The Orange Shirt Society was founded by Phyllis (Jack) Webstad and others. The purposes of the Society are as follows:

- To support Indian Residential School Reconciliation
- To create awareness of the individual, family and community inter-generational impacts of Indian Residential Schools through Orange Shirt Society activities
- To create awareness of the concept of “Every Child Matters”

Compiled from <https://orangeshirtday.org/reconciliation-hub/resources/> Sept 2023