

2024

Rural Community of Upper Miramichi

Annual Report

 6094 Route 8

 Boiestown, NB

**Rural Community of Upper Miramichi**

**2024 Annual Report**

**Table of Contents**

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR………………………………………………………………………….3

FORWARD……………………………………………………………………………..………………………..5

COMMUNITY PROFILE……………………………………………………………………………………..6

COMMUNITY COUNCIL……………………………………………………………………………….……6

PROPERTY TAX RATE ……………………………………………………………………………………….8

GRANTS FOR SOCIAL OR ENVIRONMENTAL PURPOSES…………………………………….8

SERVICES …………………………………………………………………..…………………………………….9

 GENERAL SERVICES…………………………………………………………………………………….9

 General Government Services………………………………………………………………9

 Protective Services…………………………………………………………..…………………..9

 Environmental Health Services………………………………………..…………………10

 Environmental Development Services………………………………………………..10

 Recreation and Cultural Services…………………………………………………….….11

 Public Health Services……………………………………………………..…………………11

 Fiscal Services…………………………………………………………………………….………11

APPENDIX 1………………………………………………………………………….………………..………12

APPENDIX 2…………….………………………………………………………….………………………….13

**MESSAGE FROM MAYOR**

Situated in Central New Brunswick along the Miramichi River. The Rural Community of Upper Miramichi was incorporated in 2008 amalgamating 16 smaller communities into one rural community.

Our slogan from day one is:

“Create the prosperous, vibrant Rural Community of Upper Miramichi where youth can be educated, employed, live and safely raise their families with pride, honor and prosperity”.

The Rural Community of Upper Miramichi’s main goal has been fiscally responsible while providing services as efficient and cost effective as possible. The Community Park expansions have increased the usage and are an important part of our Community. Keeping up with the beauty of our surroundings will make a mark on those who visit here.

A trailhead was constructed at the Business Park. It is a place for ATV and Snowmobilers to stop, rest and park their vehicles and hop on the trails from here. Several picnic shelters have been placed in the Community. A section was paved along the trail in Boiestown which enables parking. A celebration of our famous covered bridge “Nelson Hollow” took place in July. We take great pride in our Community.

Garbage and recycling continue to be one of our largest costs to residents. Cost of garbage and recycle continue to be on the Council’s agenda. Recycling pickup and disposal was transferred to Circular Materials responsibility in November. This eliminated the cost for residents for recycling. Council decided to have garbage pickup every week as a result.

Council works well our Volunteer Fire Department and has had a very good relationship with them. There continues to be a great group of volunteers and the numbers remain positive. Our Community is lucky to have such a great group.

Greater Miramichi Service Commission has mandated services for this region that Upper Miramichi is responsible for contributing funds towards.

**FORWARD**

This annual report is prepared pursuant to section 105 of the Local Governance Act, and Regulation 2018-54.

This Report contains general information about Rural Community of Upper Miramichi such as the population; tax base; tax rate, as well as more detailed information regarding village council, the provision of grants, and the types and cost of services provided. The 2024 Audit Financial Statements are appended as Appendix 2.

RURAL COMMUNITY OF UPPER MIRAMICHI

2024 Annual Report

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**COMMUNITY PROFILE**

Rural Community of Upper Miramichi is known as the “Geographical Center of New Brunswick”. Upper Miramichi consists of 16 communities along the Southwest Miramichi River. It is centrally located to travel to Fredericton in the south and Miramichi City in the north. The current population according to 2021 Census is 2,075.

The Rural Community of Upper Miramichi has invested heavily in the Community Park. It has walking trails, tennis court / rink with covered structure, splashpad with one of the largest buckets in New Brunswick, playground equipment, outdoor fitness equipment and a gazebo for entertaining.

The departments include Administration, Protective Services, Environmental Health Services and Recreation Services.

The Community Office is your source for municipal information. Council and staff contact information and council meeting agendas and minutes to name a few.

The current website is under-construction: [www.uppermiramichi.ca](http://www.uppermiramichi.ca)

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

The Community Council consists of a Mayor, Deputy Mayor and 3 Councillors, elected every four years. Council is represented by the following: Mayor MA Douglas Munn, Councillor Wendy Wellwood – Ward 1, Councillor / Deputy Mayor Grant Ross – Ward 2, Councillor Frank McKeil – Ward 3 and Councillor Dustin Munn – Ward 4.

**Council members and their responsibilities:**

Mayor: MA Douglas Munn

Chair of the following Committees:

Chair and Representative of the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission

Garbage and Recycling

Forestry

Planning and Development

Animal Control

Councillor Ward 1: Wendy Wellwood

Chair of the following Committees:

Policy Review

Business Park

Doaktown Arena

Deputy Mayor and Councillor Ward 2: Grant Ross

Chair of the following Committees:

Parks and Recreation

Library Board

Community Housing Development

Councillor Ward 3: Frank McKeil

Chair of the following Committees:

Tourism

Transportation

Economic Development

Planning and Development

Community Housing Development

Councillor Ward 4: Dustin Munn

Chair of the following Committees:

Fire Department

Emergency Measures Operations

Animal Control

Garbage and Recycling

Planning and Development

**Remuneration of Council**

The Mayor and Council each receive an honorarium and travel expenses for travelling on village business per By-Law 02-2012C. Total cost for 2024 totalled $41866.26.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Honorarium | Travel Expense |
| Mayor MA Douglas Munn | $10151.04 | $1896.84 |
| Deputy Mayor Grant Ross | $7708.08 | $615.51 |
| Councillor Dustin Munn | $6807.24 | $50.00 |
| Councillor Wendy Wellwood | $6807.24 | $150.72 |
| Councillor D. Frank McKeil | $6807.24 | $872.35 |

**Council Meetings**

All regular Council meetings are held at the Upper Miramichi Community Centre located at 6094 Route 8 in Boiestown. All regular, special and committee meetings are open to the public. They are held on the fourth Monday of each month. Special meetings are held periodically to deal with matters that Council deems urgent.

Refer to Appendix 1 for the types, dates of meetings and member attendance.

**PROPERTY TAX RATE**

The tax base for Upper Miramichi in 2024 was $136,289,650 and the residential property tax rate was $1.1692. This rate includes the Municipal rate, the Provincial rate and the Local Service District rate. The LSD rate covers the policing services. A homeowner with a property assessed at $70,000 paid $818.44.

**GRANTS FOR SOCIAL OR ENVIRONMENTAL PURPOSES**

One of the purposes of a local government as stated in the *Local Governance Act* is to foster the economic, social and environmental well-being of its community. In 2024, Upper Miramichi gave out $18,000 in grants to local organizations.

The following are the organizations who received grants in 2024:

1. Astle Recreation Center - $1000.00 Funding towards repairs to building.
2. Central NB Woodmen’s Museum - $10,000.00 Funding towards the renovation project to building.
3. Landmark Lodge - $500.00 Funding towards repairs to building.
4. McNamee Recreation Council - $500.00 Funding for dehumidifier and vacuum.
5. Mark Betts - $500.00 U13 Baseball Tournament.
6. Upper Miramichi Lions Club - $2500.00 Funding towards the Community meal program.
7. Upper Miramichi Elementary School - $500.00 – Funding for indoor play structure.
8. Boiestown / Doaktown Minor Hockey - $2500.00 – Funding for hockey program.

**SERVICES**

Local government budgets and services are established in accordance with a standardized classification system. Council adopted a general operating budget of $1,152,117 in 2024. Actual revenues were $1,142,417. Actual expenditures were $1,143,122. RCUM put money into the General Operating Reserve Fund and General Capital Reserve Fund to pay for future infrastructure costs.

**GENERAL SERVICES**

Total expenditures $1,143,122

**General Government Services**

Total expenditures $380,966

This category includes administration costs of Mayor and Councillors - $60,411: administration -$191,754; auditing fees - $11,000; grants to local organizations - $18,000; public liability insurance - $26,948 regional and collaborative services - $4,792, Office supplies - $21,693, Former nursing home – $19,928 and the cost of assessment of properties within the boundaries of RCUM - $26,440.

**Protective Services**

Total expenditures $190,265

Protective services include, fire protection, emergency measures, animal control and building inspector.

The Upper Miramichi Fire Department provides protective services to has Mutual Aid agreements with Stanley, Doaktown and Blackville. The Department has a Fire Chief and 25 volunteer firefighters. Total expenditures for 2024 was $147,224.

The UMFD has two fire halls, one in Boiestown and one in Bloomfield. One fire tanker is housed at the Bloomfield fire hall. UMFD purchased a new tanker in 2017. The Department is

equipped with a total of 3 tankers, 1 rescue vehicle, 1 pickup, 1 four-wheeler with tracks, 1 enclosed trailer, 1 rescue sled and fully equipped fire halls.

Animal control services are provided by RCUM. One animal control officer is on duty. Total expenditures for 2024 was $1,928.

Emergency Measures has a Committee in place to develop a working plan for RCUM. Total expenditures for 2024 was $63.

The Building Inspector is charged with preparing building permits, inspections of constructions and land development. The cost for 2023 was $40,617.

Greater Miramichi Service Commission has costs for Public Safety and was $433 in 2024.

**Environmental Health Services**

Total expenditures $340,603.

This category includes the cost of garbage and recycling collection and disposal. Joe’s Garbage Pick-up Ltd. collects the waste at a cost of $257,510 for 2024. Waste is disposed of at Red Pines Sanitary Landfill in Allardville, NB. Greater Miramichi Solid Waste looks after billing of tonnage for tipping fees and the cost for 2024 was $83,093. The tipping fee for residents was $96.00 for garbage and the tipping fee for recycling was $40.00. Recycling was managed by Circular Materials starting in November 2024. Residents no longer pay for Recycling.

**Environmental Development Services**

Total expenditures $37,515

Other community projects costs was $22,791.

Tourism costs for 2024 was $9,294.

The Business Park is also included in this section. The total cost for 2024 was $2,833.

Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission is responsible for regional planning and economic development support to RCUM. This cost for 2024 was $2,597.

**Recreation and Cultural Services**

Total expenditures $62,226.

This category includes the MOU with the Upper Miramichi Community Library which cost $10,000 for 2024.

Also, included is Exhibitions and Fairs which provides free events to citizens. Cost for 2024 was $10,830.

The Upper Miramichi Community Park cost for 2024 was $41,092. These costs include student salaries, upkeep and maintenance for the park.

Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission is responsible for support to RCUM Sport and recreation development. This cost for 2024 was $304.

**Public Health Services**

Total expenditures $63

This category is for maintenance of the Community Vault. The roof was replaced as necessary. Total cost for 2024 was $39.

**Fiscal Services**

Total expenditures $131,508.

This category includes the interest on capital expenditures, transfer to reserves, long-term loans, principal repayment of long-term debt and bank charges.

2024 cost of long-term debt was $4,680.

2024 cost of principal repayment was $41,000.

2024 cost of bank charges was $670.

2024 capital expenditure was $64,158.

2024 transfer to capital reserve was $21,000.

General Fund Debt

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Purpose** | **Year** | **Amount Borrowed** | **Term** |
|  |  |  |  |
| Firetruck and Jaws of Life | 2017 | $398,000 | 10 Years |

**APPENDIX 1**

**2023 Council Meeting Dates and Attendance**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Dates** | **Meetings** | **MA Douglas Munn** | **Grant** **Ross** | **Dustin Munn** | **D. Frank McKeil** | **Wendy****Wellwood** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Jan. 22** | **Regular** | **🗹** | **🗹** | **🗹** | **🗹** | **🗹** |
| **Feb. 26** | **Regular** | 🗷 | **🗹** | **🗹** | 🗹 | **🗹** |
| **Mar. 25** | **Regular** | **🗹** | **🗹** | **🗹** | **🗹** | **🗹** |
| **Apr. 22** | **Regular** | **🗹** | **🗹** | **🗹** | **🗹** | **🗹** |
| **May 27** | **Regular** | **🗹** | **🗹** | **🗹** | **🗹** | **🗹** |
| **June 25** | **Regular** | **🗹** | **🗹** | **🗹** | **🗹** | **🗹** |
| **July 22** | **Regular** | **🗹** | **🗹** | **🗹** | **🗹** | **🗹** |
| **Aug. 26** | **Regular** | **🗹** | **🗹** | **🗹** | **🗹** | **🗹** |
| **Sept. 23** | **Regular** | **🗹** | **🗹** | 🗷 | **🗹** | **🗹** |
| **Oct. 28** | **Regular** | 🗷 | **🗹** | 🗷 | **🗹** | **🗹** |
| **Nov. 25** | **Regular** | **🗹** | **🗹** | **🗹** |  **🗹** | **🗹** |
| **Dec. 16** | **Regular** | **🗹** | **🗹** | **🗹** | **🗹** | **🗹** |

**LEGEND:**

PRESENT 🗹

ABSENT 🗷

**APPENDIX 2**

(2024 Audited Financial Statements)