



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release: Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Budget 2024: Shediac focuses on the safety of its citizens

Shediac (NB) – The municipal council of the Town of Shediac adopted unanimously its 2024 budget at its regular meeting on November 6. The municipality is maintaining its basic tax rate, while taking important steps to ensure the safety of its citizens by investing in an upgrade and expansion of its fire station and proceeding with the purchase of a ladder truck.

The Town of Shediac will embark on several major projects in 2024, including the fire station upgrade and expansion. This project has been in development for several years, and 2024 will see the completion of the project development and tendering process. This is a major project amounting to \$10 million.

"The safety of all citizens in the area depends on our fire department. With the new technologies and equipment needed to serve the populations of our greater region, the capacities of the current fire station were becoming limited," said the Mayor of Shediac.

The municipal council also approved the purchase of a ladder truck at a cost of \$2.5 million for the fire department. This vehicle has become indispensable with the height of certain buildings, but also to ensure the safety of firefighters.

"Contrary to what many people think, it's not just equipment that allows firefighters to reach higher buildings. With the introduction of metal roofs and solar panels, roofs are slippery, and firefighters can't climb on them like they used to, said Shediac Fire Chief Donald Cormier. So, the purchase of this truck is important to ensure the safety of our firefighters."

Tax rates

As part of its budget for 2024, the Town of Shediac will maintain its basic tax rate at \$1.4484 per \$100 of assessment. For the other newly amalgamated areas, namely the former local service districts of Pointe-du-Chêne, Shediac Cape, Scoudouc and Scoudouc Road, a slight increase of \$0.05 will be added to the tax rate for 2024.

"The Shediac community has grown with the amalgamation of four new territories at the beginning of 2023, said Mayor Roger Caissie. Our population is now approaching the



11,000 mark, and the tax rate for all citizens of our greater region must reflect all the services offered to our population."

The total operating budget for 2024 is \$21,582,014, and the sum of \$19,777,746 represents the municipality's actual warrant for 2024.

During its budget deliberations on October 17 and 19, the Town of Shediac's municipal council also decided to maintain the rate for water service at the same level as in recent years. The rate remains at \$365 per unit per year, with a \$34 rebate available if the user pays his bill by March 31, 2024.

A growing town

The Town of Shediac has seen a significant increase in its tax base in recent years. This growth makes the Town of Shediac one of Canada's fastest-growing municipalities. On the economic front, the town has also set a new record for building permits, reaching the \$100 million mark for the first time in 2023.

"The significant increase in our tax base and building permits demonstrates that the Town of Shediac is a growing community, says the mayor. The value of building permits in 2023 has already surpassed \$100 million. This is unprecedented, but above all it demonstrates the confidence that local investors as well as developers from other regions have in our community."

Major projects in 2024

The municipality's councillors also believe it is important to enable citizens to remain active by investing more in the town's infrastructure. As a result, the budget for sidewalk repairs and construction has been increased to over \$750,000.

"Council members believe that the sidewalks will give Shediac residents of all ages a safe place to walk around town, says Mayor Roger Caissie. Citizens will be able to get around more easily and safely, while remaining more active."

One of the community projects that has brought people together in recent years, the multisport surface, will also benefit from an additional investment of nearly \$400,000 over the next year. The funds will be used to purchase equipment and finalize preparation for the area to ensure better access.

"The multisport surface was originally intended to enable people from the area to play ball hockey, but our Community Living team saw even more potential in the facility, says Caissie. The surface is so large that the Town of Shediac will be able to offer not only what the community was originally aiming for - ball hockey - but also basketball, pickleball, training and a multitude of other disciplines."



In this pivotal year following the amalgamation of 2023, the administrative team of the Town of Shediac has been working closely with the authorities of the province of New Brunswick. Discussions over the past month have revealed a promising future for the municipality. The record growth in building permits over the past few years, and particularly in 2023, will generate more revenue and consequently help maintain Shediac's debt ratio. Both the municipal council and administration are committed to sound financial management.

"I'm very pleased with the Town of Shediac's fiscal position, but it's important to point out that with the growth we're experiencing, our needs are significant. We must manage public funds well, while investing in our long-term growth," added the Mayor of Shediac.

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For more information

Sylvain Montreuil
Director of communications
Town of Shediac
(506) 531-2229
Sylvain.montreuil@shediac.ca