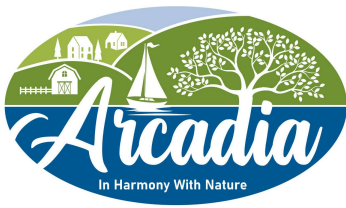


Frequently Asked Questions

Council has compiled answers to the most frequently asked questions that have been recently received.

- ❖ The Mayor is subject to the discretion and control of Council and shall abide by the decisions of Council. The Mayor only votes in the event of a tie.
- ❖ All councillors work for the betterment for all of Arcadia, not only the wards they represent. They attend functions throughout Arcadia. Many councillors volunteer with community organizations within Arcadia on top of their councillor duties.
- ❖ The duty of Council Committees is to fact find, seek expert advice when needed, and provide recommendations to Council. Committees do not have any power to make decisions.
- ❖ Agendas for council meetings have always been posted on the Arcadia website prior to a meeting, even if the meeting includes a closed session. Closed sessions are only allowed for certain discussions, which are listed in the Local Governance Act 68(1)(a-j). Council meetings have been live streamed since the amalgamation of Arcadia in January 2023.
- ❖ Council and employees of Arcadia respect a Code of Conduct pertaining to engagement on social media. We shall use social media in a responsible and respectful manner, referring questions, comments or complaints to the municipal office. Arcadia Municipal Government has an official Facebook page where information will be posted.
- ❖ Council has great support by our MLA Don Monahan and MP John Williamson. Local government can advocate for things such as grants, support for schools, healthcare, and has a responsibility to establish important relationships with those that are decision makers in these areas.
- ❖ The Strategic Plan provides a high level of what the community and council feel are important. Staff and Council will be focusing on delivering more details and actions as it pertains to the plan.



Frequently Asked Questions

- ❖ As part of the Strategic Plan, the task of creating a combined Capital Asset Plan as well as a Rural Plan is ongoing, but respecting rural lifestyle is priority. Rural Plans already exist in the following wards: Ward 2 Gagetown, Ward 4 Cambridge, Ward 5 Cambridge-Narrows, and Ward 6 Waterborough.
- ❖ Council has approved the development of a new website which is at no cost to the municipality as funding was received through Local Reform. Development is already in progress.
- ❖ The Medical Committee appointed by Council is making great progress with Horizon Health and practitioners on the health care front in Arcadia. The Gagetown Medical Clinic and Cambridge-Narrows Medical Clinic will continue to be maintained by Arcadia.
- ❖ Fire departments in Arcadia utilize joint training opportunities, common supplier purchasing, and sharing of equipment, which includes but not limited to training items, off road rescue, mutual aid, etc. Two council members and one staff work together as liaison between the fire departments and Council. The fire departments are committed to working together and with the liaison. There is no need for a paid overall Chief.
- ❖ Having a municipal office accessible by all residents of Arcadia is a requirement for Local Government. Questions are currently being asked to assist in compiling a preliminary feasibility study. The Committee is fact finding, seeking expert advice, and will provide recommendation to Council when ready. There has been no cost to Arcadia where a recommendation has not been brought to Council for discussion and approval.
- ❖ Recreation facilities currently in Cambridge-Narrows and Gagetown will continue to be maintained by Arcadia. The Cambridge-Narrows Municipal Building has been deemed recreational and is home to many group activities. It is the only available public space for group activities such as family or public celebrations. It is home to the Cambridge-Narrows Fire Department and the activities that they hold. In the event of an emergency, it is also available as a shelter and distribution location.



Frequently Asked Questions

- ❖ We recognize the importance of every volunteer in Arcadia. They are the heart and soul of our community. Their dedication is what allows Arcadia to grow, evolve, and thrive.

- ❖ With the exception of approximately 40 kms in Gagetown and approximately 4 kms in Cambridge-Narrows, road maintenance is at the discretion of DTI. Council may give recommendations, but ultimately the decisions are made by DTI. In the former LSDs, funding for road maintenance comes from the 0.4115 from every \$100 of property tax assessments that goes directly to the province. In the former villages of Cambridge-Narrows and Gagetown, the cost of road maintenance is embedded into the tax rate, and we pay DTI a set rate for summer and winter maintenance. In the former villages, we are responsible for ditching and bush cutting even on the provincial roads that we pay DTI to maintain. The 40 kms of roads that are ward specific in Gagetown, rebuilding or maintenance is funded by grants and Gagetown tax dollars.

- ❖ Budgets are prepared using fixed rates from services that we are not able to control, and variable rates such as insurance, power, phone, security, and internet, which are calculated based on the costs from the previous year and quotes for upcoming year if they are available.

- ❖ Fire department budgets are calculated between the Chiefs, liaisons, and staff based on the annual servicing/life span requirements (NFPA, Worksafe, manufacturer) of all equipment. Each fire department must renew certificates for some qualifications (ie First Aid, MFR, EMR, fit testing, etc). Each line of the budget is calculated using previous years costs and quotes obtained for current year.

- ❖ Tax rates are set at the time the budget is completed in the November time frame. Municipal tax rates are set based on ward expenses. Preparing the budget is a lengthy task with many costs that are out of our control. We need to balance creating a thriving municipality and keeping property taxes affordable. Council/Mayor are not able to commit to lowering any tax rates as we do not know what the future holds—set prices for services we do not control, requirements of services from the Province of New Brunswick, and emergencies as they arise. Would we like to if possible? Absolutely!



Frequently Asked Questions

- ❖ The Gagetown Wastewater System is not funded by the Gagetown mill rate. There is a separate budget that is funded by user fees and grants, which are used for the cost of maintenance and upgrading.

- ❖ Council does not set the assessment value of properties, nor can we control them. Property assessments are managed by Service New Brunswick.

- ❖ Power costs are set by NB Power. Council has no control.

- ❖ Policing costs are set by the RCMP. The possibility of using Public Safety officers would incur a cost to Arcadia, which would be additional to the RCMP set rate.