



MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: September 28, 2026
SUBJECT: Municipality of Chester launches
Community Wells Program
STATUS: PUBLIC – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUNICIPALITY OF CHESTER – Residents experiencing low water levels caused by dry weather conditions or an emergency can now access safe drinking water through a new program implemented by the Municipality of Chester (MOC). The Community Wells Program is a more cost-effective and accessible alternative than previous measures taken.

Public taps will be installed by MOC at seven locations (one in each district) in partnership with community organizations with four of the locations currently operational. Council recently finalized agreements for access at the following locations:

- Western Shore Volunteer Fire Department (operational)
- Grace Anglican Church, Chester Basin (operational)
- Ross Farm, New Ross
- East Chester Recreation Association (operational)
- Hubbards Fire Station
- Public Works Facility, Windsor Road
- Church Memorial Park, Village of Chester (operational)

While clean containers and safe transportation are the responsibility of users, water at each site will be tested frequently by municipal staff to ensure that federal drinking water standards are met or exceeded.

“We have been anticipating the completion of this project for some time,” shares Allen Webber, Warden for the Municipality of Chester. “We no longer have to wait for a certain number of wells to go dry before offering help – help is there now for those who need it.”

The Community Wells Program will replace the bottled water distribution programs previously administered by the Municipality. Participation in the bottled water program more than doubled in 2025, costing nearly \$135,000. While last year’s program was funded through the Nova Scotia Department of Emergency Measures (provincial), the cost to taxpayers of implementing this program reached \$47,655 the previous year.

Council for MOC is looking to replace short-term options, like bottled water, with more long-term solutions. In August 2024, they approved a lending program that offered residents long-term, low-interest loans to install household systems that will secure reliable water supply and wastewater collection that are efficient and climate-resilient. Also, MOC continues its exploration on long-term water sources capable of supporting a central water system.

Warden Webber shared that findings in an interim report are promising. “We are encouraged with the results so far. A viable, long-term solution to water availability is something we’ve been looking at for a long time.”

More information is available on MOC’s engagement website, www.engagechester.ca.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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