

Information Note

Title:	2026 Municipal Open House
Date Prepared:	April 1, 2026
Report To:	Regular Council Meeting
Councillor and Role:	Councillor Jill Bruce, Community Services
Ward:	N/A

Issue:

The City of St. John's will host a Municipal Open House at various City sites and facilities on Sunday, May 3, 2026, in recognition of Municipal Awareness Week.

Discussion – Background and Current Status:

In fall 2024, the City of St. John's hosted its first Municipal Open House. The event was well received by residents and staff, with approximately 1,000 residents visiting six City sites and facilities. In 2025, 10 facilities participated, and approximately 1,500 residents attended. The Municipal Open House provides an opportunity to showcase City facilities and to inform residents about municipal operations.

Seven City facilities are currently confirmed to participate in this year's event. The Municipal Open House is a free, family-friendly event that is open to all ages. The event is promoted on the City website and through the City's social media channels.

Participating sites include:

City Archives - 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Visitors are invited to learn about the City's history at the Archives through a guided tour. Attendees will have the opportunity to view archival materials (including maps, photographs, ledgers, and Council minutes) and to see the archival stacks.

Robin Hood Bay Waste Management Facility- 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Residents are invited to learn about waste management processes and to participate in a guided bus tour highlighting the environmental features of the Robin Hood Bay Waste Management Facility.

City Hall - 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

City Hall will offer a self-guided tour, including the Council Chambers and the civic art collection in Wyatt Hall. Visitors will have the opportunity to sit in the mayoral chair, learn about the Council meeting process, and view the ceremonial mace. Information tables and activities will also be available from Engagement, Parking, and Occupational Health and Safety.

Central Fire Station-10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Central Fire Station will offer a self-guided tour. Visitors can learn about fire safety and view fire apparatus, with opportunities for photographs.

Kenmount Terrace Community Centre- 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The Kenmount Terrace Community Centre will offer open play in the gym, along with a craft table and a sensory area. Staff will be available to answer questions regarding programs and services.

H.G.R. Mews Community Centre – various times

The H.G.R. Mews Community Centre will host an open house from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., featuring large-format games, a craft area, a sensory zone, and a bouncy castle. Adaptive equipment will be on display, and staff will be available to answer questions. Visitors may also access the walking track at no cost from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The facility will offer a free open gym session from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for court sports.

Paul Reynolds Community Centre- 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The facility will offer a free open gym session from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for court sports.

Rotary Park- 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Outdoor activity stations will be available from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., including archery, hut construction, slackline activities, and other outdoor experiences. Programming at this location is weather dependent.

Key Considerations/Implications:

1. Budget/Financial Implications: N/A
2. Partners or Interested Parties: N/A
3. Is this a New Plan or Strategy: No

If yes, are there recommendations or actions that require progress reporting?

If yes, how will progress be reported? (e.g.: through the strategic plan, through Cascade, annual update to Council, etc.)

4. Alignment with Strategic Directions:

A Connected City: Increase and improve opportunities for residents to connect with each other and the City.

5. Alignment with Adopted Plans: N/A

6. Accessibility and Inclusion: N/A

7. Legal or Policy Implications: N/A

8. Privacy Implications: N/A

9. Engagement and Communications Considerations: N/A

10. Human Resource Implications: N/A

11. Procurement Implications: N/A

12. Information Technology Implications: N/A

13. Information Management Implications: N/A

14. Other Implications: N/A

Conclusion/Next Steps:

Council is requested to share information about the Municipal Open House and to encourage residents of St. John's to participate and attend.

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