

April 2026



Councillor
Activity Report

Brian Cornish
Councillor



Council Accomplishments & Reflections (2023–2026)

I wanted to take a moment to provide an overview of what I believe are some of the key accomplishments of our Council team over the past three years—rather than a standard monthly report.

Before Council (Pre-2023 Amalgamation)

Before being elected, several of us were appointed by the Province of New Brunswick to participate in a 12-month process to amalgamate urban and rural communities into what is now the **Municipal District of St. Stephen (MDSS)**.

We were told clearly:

“This amalgamation will happen—with or without your participation.”

We chose to participate—to ensure both rural and urban voices were represented.

Our Early Priorities

Upon election, Council inherited several ongoing challenges following COVID and rapid municipal change.

Our first major step:

- Develop a **3-Year Strategic Plan**
 - Establish a clear **vision and mission**
 - Focus on **measurable results for all wards**
-

Key Accomplishments



Amsterdam Inn Hotel

- Attracts visitors and boosts tourism
 - Creates **50–70 local jobs**
 - Generates new tax revenue
 - Supports surrounding businesses
-



The Dock Project (66-Unit Housing Development)

- Addressed critical need for housing
- Repurposed a long-abandoned hockey rink
- Now actively under construction

Additional Housing Support:

- 5-unit NB Housing family project
 - 20-unit not-for-profit housing development
-



Community Health Centre

- Identified as a **top priority** in our strategic plan
- Supported through ongoing advocacy and engagement
- Achieved through collaboration with many dedicated individuals and groups

We are proud to have supported this long-awaited and much-needed facility.

Return of Junior A Hockey – The Moose

- Secured a **3-year franchise agreement**
 - Restored high-level hockey to our town
 - Required nearly **2 years of negotiation and analysis**
-

Challenges We Faced

Post-COVID Impacts

- Financial strain
 - Increased homelessness
 - Rising addiction issues
-

Homelessness & Addiction Concerns

I want to be clear:

I support helping those in need—but I am deeply concerned about systems that lack **accountability and recovery outcomes**.

Key concerns:

- Facilities with **no exit or treatment strategy**
- Increasing **drug-related activity**
- Impacts on:
 - Community safety
 - Property values
 - Quality of life

We saw:

- Multiple relocations of shelters and facilities
- Rising pressure on neighborhoods
- No long-term rehabilitation solutions

A proposed **Bridge Facility** was ultimately rejected due to strong public concern around safety.

Rural Impact Concerns

- Movement of individuals into wooded and rural areas
 - Use of vacant buildings for shelter
 - Risk of expanding the issue into rural communities
-

Provincial Response

At a recent public meeting, residents were told:

“Find a solution and a location.”

This is not a solution—it’s a deflection.

My Perspective

Council Performance

Despite challenges, I believe:

- Council performed **well under pressure**
 - We maintained focus on:
 - Strategic goals
 - Long-term planning
 - Community development
-

A Strong Team

Our Council brought together over **300 years of combined experience**, including:

- Engineering
- Social work
- Business leadership
- Public safety
- Military service
- Energy sector leadership

We worked under core principles:

- Communication
 - Respect
 - Accountability
 - Commitment
 - Delegation
 - Support
-

Final Thought

Were we successful?

That decision belongs to you.

Looking Ahead

I am running again in the upcoming May election.

With your support, I believe the next three years can build on our progress—and deliver even stronger results for our community.