

## Ward 4 candidate Matt Estabrooks's opening statement

For those of you who do not already know me, I'm Matt Estabrooks. And I live just three houses that way, 1 Pond Shore Road.

I am proud to be running for the position of councillor in Ward 4 Tantramar. I have lived in Sackville my entire life and this place is home. I care deeply for this place and for all the people who also call it home with me. I am married to my high school best friend Chrissy who I travelled all the way from here to Mount View to meet. We have three wonderful children together, Alexis, Sophia, and Matthew Blair.

What a wonderful community we live in. We should be so very thankful that we live in a democracy where all people have a voice. This local government reform process has strengthened that for us, giving a voice to all members of Tantramar, giving a voice to some that did not have one before.

For anyone who took in any of the town council meetings over the last year and some you could see with regard to this issue that I was on an island. I like to think a beautiful island. But nonetheless, I was the lone councillor on that island. On an island choosing positive change, positive change based on a collaborative way forward for our region.

I considered what our new community would look like with all the communities brought together. And it would give us a larger and stronger voice, a larger and stronger voice to be heard at the Regional Service Commission table as well as in dealings with the provincial government. I looked past the negativity and instead, chose to see the longer term positive outcomes that this necessary change would bring.

The relationships between our communities have been damaged over the last year by some outspoken people, and we now have the task ahead of us to repair them. The new mayor and council we elect needs to understand the impacts their decisions make on all residents of Tantramar, not just the residents of the former Town of Sackville. Tantramar needs leaders on council who can bring success through change, through positive change focused on repairing and strengthening the ties between our communities. We need leaders who understand the

importance of these relationships and have the vision to bring all the communities in new Tantramar together through collaboration.

And I am ready and willing for that job.