

FEDERAL GAS TAX FUND PROJECT HIGHLIGHT
MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF WEST HANTS
AVONDALE BOARDWALK PROJECT

Project category: Tourism infrastructure

National objective: Strong communities

Federal Gas Tax Fund contribution to project: \$19,754

Total project cost: \$47,467

Completion date: Fall of 2018

Newport Landing, located in Avondale in the Municipality of the District of West Hants, is a historical landmark site, where settlers first landed from New England in the 1760s. Today, the small hamlet is a hub of activity and a tourism draw with its many amenities and offerings, including a local winery, beautiful walking trails, a heritage museum, a café, artisans showcases and festivals. The Avondale Wharf, built in 1905, was one of Newport Landing's significant historical features. So, when the Municipality made the decision to close it in the spring of 2016 due to structural concerns, the community felt the loss and quickly rallied to save it.

The Municipality met with the members from the Avondale community to discuss options to repurpose the wharf, which would allow it to continue to serve as a useful and important historical structure for the community. After exploring opportunities, Council agreed to invest Federal Gas Tax Funds to upgrade the structure from a working wharf to a pedestrian boardwalk with a viewing platform. In the fall of 2017, in anticipation of upgrades to be completed, Municipality renamed the boardwalk *The Landing*, in recognition of its historical roots.

The Municipality commissioned an engineering study to design the stabilization work. Based on recommendations in the study, the Municipality had climate change considerations incorporated into the design of the upgrades to ensure the structure would remain viable well into the future.



The first phase of the work involved stone-infilling on the wharf's south side to stabilize the structure. The second phase, which was completed in the summer of 2018, included repairing the decking and undercarriage to make it safe for all users. This year, the Municipality will develop new signage to make users aware of the structure's new purpose and provide

historical information about the boardwalk's earlier life as a working wharf. Although work on the Avondale Boardwalk is nearly complete, the Municipality has broader plans to further enhance this tourism hub by developing it into the *Newport Landing Waterfront Park*.

The collaboration between West Hants and the Avondale community not only saved the important landmark but gave it a new function. Now, this repurposed structure will significantly contribute to the quality of tourism infrastructure in the area and will remain an important amenity for the community to enjoy for many, many years to come!