

Public Meeting  
Cavendish Beach Music Festival After Action  
October 20, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

The Public Meeting was held on October 20, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at the Cavendish Visitor Information Centre.

PRESENT: Mayor Lee Brammer, Deputy Mayor Kay Hryckiw. Councillors Ryan Simpson, Julia Gaudet and Ian Stewart.

Brenda MacDonald, CAO, Heather Hay Deputy CAO.

ABSENT: Sarah Simpson.

VISITORS: There were 20 visitors in attendance at the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Brammer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Brammer advised everyone to sign in at the front of the room if they haven't done so for the record.

Mayor Brammer advised the public of the public meeting process and that the meeting was being taped for accurate minutes for the municipal office.

Mayor Brammer advised that the meeting was being held to discuss the 2025 Sommo Festival After Action for the event held from September 13-14, 2025, and that no other business would be discussed.

Mayor Brammer introduced the Senior Ops Team Members that were present at the meeting and that they would be speaking on behalf of each of their Departments at the meeting.

Ben Murphy — Cavendish Beach Music Festival

Nick Doyle – District Commander – RCMP

David Rossiter - Provincial Fire Marshal's office

Richard Blacquiére — Liquor Control Commission

Vanessa Vuong - Department of Health and Wellness.

Ben Murphy – CBMF:

Ben provided numbers of around 30,000 for the two days in total of participants that attended the festival.

It was a pretty smooth process this year for the event.

75% of the people were from off Island.

The weather was great.

The Senior Ops team and these meetings help to eliminate any issues during the event as any issues can be addressed prior to or during the event.

Nick Doyle – RCMP:

Nick Doyle District Commander with the RCMP advised that their priority was public safety.

The call log was a lot lower this year during the event.

The RCMP did a lot of traffic control during the event.

It was a great concern like CBMF.

There were no issues and it was a great event.

**David Rossiter – Fire Marshal's office:**

Things went very smooth this year.

Vendors were up and running.

Staff were there from the Fire Marshal's office for the entire event.

They had a few issues but they were straightened out before the event.

Mayor Brammer asked if there were any issues due to the dryness.

David Rossiter advised that all permits for fireworks were pulled.

Department of Forestry was the first point of contact for the fire ban.

Campgrounds were well looked after with the total fire ban in place for the event.

John Carroll questioned the fireworks and advised that they are in a box and come from the distributor.

David Roisster confirmed that the tight controls that were in place eliminated issues with fire due to the ban.

**Department of Health and Wellness:**

Vanessa Vuong was there to report for Health.

There were 4-5 health inspectors on site each day and they had a few students work on site as well.

They did a number of inspections over the weekend with the vendors on site and at bar inspections.

Samples were collected from each vendor.

UV light and washrooms were monitored on the site.

There were 96 food premise and 75 bar inspections completed during the event.

No major issues and no reported illnesses report post event.

**Liquor Control Commission:**

Linda sent here regrets as she was unable to attend the meeting.

Liquor Control Commission Staff were on site during the event.

Richard echoed Nick Doyle and David Rossiter's comments about the event.

Richard advised that there has been a great run with the event the last three years.

No major issues.

They worked with security during the event.

There was 1 e-mail received and 5 calls in to the municipal office regarding the Sommo Event.

Mayor Brammer read the e-mail out for the record.

**Mayfield Cottages**

*"Hi Brenda,*

*I don't seem to be available to attend the meetings regarding the music festivals and I'm not sure I will be able to attend this fall as it depends on the date and time of the meeting.*

*I just wanted to say that CBMF was wonderful this year, didn't hear any base or anything inside my house with the TV and A/c running this year.*

*So far the Sommo was great too but whoever is on the stage at 7:30pm needs adjustment to the volumes as siting inside my house with the TV on all I hear is thumping of drums (unless it's the base) and I can even hear some of the guitar music. I am about 7-8-9 kms away and I don't think I should be hearing anything from up there to be honest. If CBMF can perform the whole weekend without excessive noise to reach down, if Sommo could perform all yesterday and even today up to 7:30pm (probably sooner but I was in town from 5pm and onward and just getting back) that I think whoever is on the stage now should be able to adjust their noise level to not reach down here.*

*So for me my comments for the meeting would again be the levels they play their music, especially the base and drums. It should be able to be lower so as not to travel upwards of 9 kms away and be heard not just outside but inside someone's home with a TV running.*

*Please pass on my complaint for this on my behalf.*

*Thanks, Lorraine”*

Ben advised that the noise can travel depending on the wind capacity.

Kevin MacNeill asked if there is a limit to the sound decibels.

Ben advised that the mix station controls the levels and in some cases the musicians have their own team that looks after the sound.

Mayor Brammer advised that there were a number of concerns raised over the amount of garbage in the area that is thrown along the roadways and walkways during the concert during and after the concert ends.

Wendy Munro asked about the fencing before the event. She advised that there is no access open towards Hammies Lane for the public to access.

CAO advised that there are open gates until the event starts and then they are locked down.

A note will be sent to the providers to remind them of the gates for the 2026 event.

Mayor Brammer advised that the public has until October 27, 2025 to send in any written comments.

Mayor Brammer moved on to the second portion of the meeting for the three-season amphitheater building that the Council recently received a request on from Ben Murphy. The first steps in reviewing the amphitheater request is for a public meeting on the major development for the site.

Ben Murphy presented the plans on the proposed amphitheatre.

Ben advised that this will be their second major investment for the site and this kind of structure will help to eliminate some issues with the current tent for events going forward.

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The amphitheatre will hold 1500 people standing and 1200 people sitting.

The amphitheatre will allow them to hold larger and smaller events on the site.

The amphitheatre will be partially closed in, but will be open to the elements.

Ben advised that there is tons of potential for the structure and the site with various sized events.

The public will park in the parking lot and enter the site.

Jim Harris questioned the decibel levels along this area of the roadway.

Ben Murphy advised that the level will vary depending on what is happening at the building.

Kevin MacNeill asked about a bar and washrooms.

Ben Murphy advised that there will be upscale containers for the washrooms and there will be a bar in the structure.

Wendy Munro asked about the timeframe for construction of the building.

Ben Murphy advised that they are hoping to get the foundation in before Christmas and to be able to use it for CBMF in 2026 and to have programming in it for 2027.

Kay Hrckiwi advised that she is a resident and a Council member and she wondered about connection to the municipal sewer.

Ben Murphy advised that the building will be connected to the municipal sewer.

Phil Davison asked about heating for the building with no roof on the structure.

Ben Murphy advised that they would probably use some electric or propane fire heaters.

Garth MacNeill asked about the size of the building.

Ben Murphy advised that the building will be three stories and will be 80' X 200'.

Wendy Munro asked if this structure will be replacing the kitchen stage.

Ben Murphy agreed that this structure will replace the kitchen stage.

Garth MacNeill asked about the set up of the amphitheatre.

Ben Murphy said depending on the type of event, but the plan is that it would be cabaret style.

The building will be fully accessible and the grounds would be improved on with a walkway to make it accessible from the parking lot to the structure with an accessible washroom.

Garth MacNeill asked what the structure would be made of.

Ben Murphy advised that the structure would be made of wood and corrugated plastic. The plastic would be clouded to allow lights to change the colours of the structure and it will be hurricane proof. Stage will be steel.

Mayor Brammer advised that there were 15 calls at the office, 3 e-mails looking for more information on the meeting and 1 e-mail received to be read into the record for the meeting.

Mayor Brammer read out the letter from Kevin Dallimore.

*“As per the proposal for the new three season building in Cavendish. What is that going to look like tourism. With a history of visitors not coming to the island during concert day it seems this municipality is catering to this company to turn Cavendish into a concert venue only with a little tourism on the side. Great for the liquor store. Great for the tourist mart. Not so great for cottage run businesses, restaurants, ect. But really great for White cap Entertainment. Visitors like during CBMF will soon catch on not to come to Cavendish during concert dates. So cottage owners try to fill vacancies around those dates? Seems like this municipality is serving A business interests and the rest of us have to just get what we can. As before when the vote was NO then turned around into a YES we will assume we have zero say in the matter.  
Tourism Business owner FEOM Cavendish.”*

Ben Murphy advised that it is not a big money maker for the structure. He advised that it is a new venue that will help fill a void in the area. It will be a great fit for the area and will allow various forms of artists to be able to perform at the site.

Phil Davison asked about the branding for the building.

Ben Murphy advised that they are looking at calling it the Cavendish Beach Performing Arts Centre.

Mayor Brammer advised that there are comment sheets at the front of the room and any comments can be sent through by October 27, 2025.

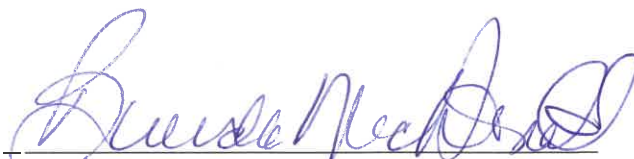
Mayor Brammer thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Brammer adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.



Mayor, Lee Brammer



CAO, Brenda MacDonald