



**COUNCILLOR LISA BLACKBURN**  
DISTRICT 14 ONLINE NEWS  
MIDDLE/UPPER SACKVILLE - BEAVER BANK - LUCASVILLE

## WELCOME FEBRUARY!



Although we are still experiencing cooler temperatures, our hearts are warmed by the acts of kindness we give and receive with every thoughtful deed we do. Helping a neighbour with snow removal or offering to run errands may be just the thing to show how much you care, especially this time of year when getting around may be a challenge for some residents.

Thank you to all volunteers who work to provide activities and events for us to enjoy such as the [Sackville Snow Days Festival](#), running from February 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> and the Curling

Funspiel hosted by the Kinsman Club Sackville on February 24<sup>th</sup>!

February is African Heritage Month and a time for us to reflect on the important thread woven into our collective heritage through the contributions of past, present and future African Nova Scotians. More information from the African Nova Scotian Affairs website is included in this newsletter.

With only 28 days (29 in leap years), February may have the least number of days but certainly has family fun-packed days: Shrove Tuesday – or Pancake Day is on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> and Valentine's Day follows on February 14<sup>th</sup> then on to the Sackville Snow Days Festival.

I am always happy to meet with you about municipal services or programs at my Beaver Bank-Hub office. Hours are: **1<sup>st</sup> Friday of every month from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm** at the Beaver Bank Kinsac Community Centre, 1583 Beaver Bank Road, Beaver Bank.





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### CELEBRATE AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH



I found the following information, from the [African Nova Scotia Affairs](#) website, to be very interesting.

*“The 2018 African Heritage Month theme **“Educate, Unite, Celebrate Community”** will honour and pay homage to African Nova Scotians and their long legacy of uniting a passion that has provided a base to educate and celebrate an important part of Nova Scotia’s culture and Heritage.*

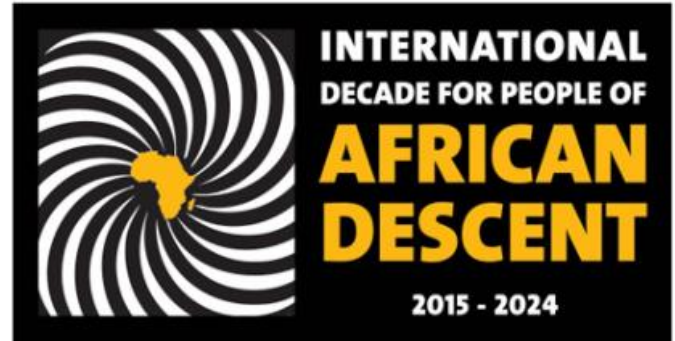
*Together, we can **unite and ignite** the culture and heritage we share as a community as we observe the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent from 2015-2024.*



*The province of Nova Scotia has over 50 historic African Nova Scotian communities, dating back over 400 years. These communities have a unique and rich legacy of resistance, resilience and triumph that needs to be shared with all of Nova Scotia. It is for this reason we must Educate, Unite and Celebrate African Heritage Month.”*

There are many events planned throughout the municipality for African Heritage Month, including, at various branches of our [Halifax Public Library](#). The Sackville branch is offering the following:

- [African American Read-In](#), Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>


- [Learn the FUN-damentals of African Drumming with Dr. Henry V. Bishop](#) on Saturday, February 24.








## Curling Funspiel for Cystic Fibrosis

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24, 2018**  
LAKESHORE CURLING CLUB  
(at Sackville Sports Stadium)



**No experience necessary – we show you how!**

Visit [www.sackvillekinsmen.ca](http://www.sackvillekinsmen.ca) or call:  
Gerry Archibald (902) 497 6562 / [gernan@bellaliant.net](mailto:gernan@bellaliant.net)  
Wade Dooley (902) 865 7367 / [sackvillekinsmen@live.ca](mailto:sackvillekinsmen@live.ca)





## PROPERTY TAX SALES 2018

The list of properties up for property tax sales may be found [here](#).



The Municipal Government Act states that any property that has taxes outstanding **for more than one year** is eligible for a tax sale auction. It is mandatory for the municipality to attempt to notify the owner as well as all lien holders of the property regarding the pending sale by issuing a registered letter; however, this is not always possible and the property is then posted with a Tax Sale Notice. If the taxes remain unpaid, the property is advertised in the local paper twice prior to the tax sale.

Once the bidding commences, the owner or lienholders will not be able to withdraw the property and must partake in the bidding.

### NEED HELP PAYING YOUR PROPERTY TAXES?

If you need help paying your property taxes, the municipality offers a few choices. You can apply for:

1. **A payment plan:** rather than two large payments, [you can pay in smaller monthly amounts](#).
2. **A rebate:** if your household income is less than \$33,000, the municipal government will pay a portion of your property taxes. The amount of rebate varies with income and residential tax.

3. **A rebate and a deferral:** after the rebate, has been applied to your tax account you can postpone payment of all or a portion of the balance. Interest is charged on the deferred tax amount. The rate of interest is set by Regional Council. For 2016 the interest rate is Prime -2% for customers in the program and Prime +2% for customers whose income now exceeds the limits and must start a repayment plan.
4. **A deferral of local improvement charges:** you can postpone payment of all or a portion of your local improvement charge.

You can also combine different options to meet your needs. For more information call 311 or email [proptax@halifax.ca](mailto:proptax@halifax.ca).

## PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AND THE MUNICIPAL TAX RATE



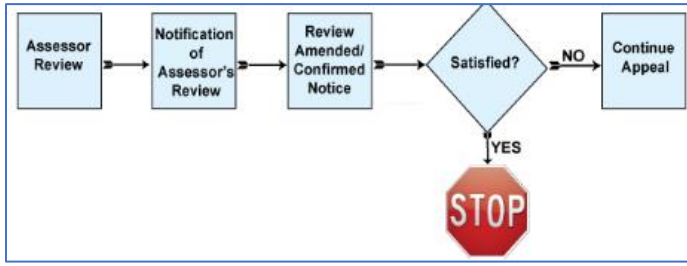
The provincial government sets the legislative framework for property assessment in Nova Scotia through the [Assessment Act](#). The [Property Valuation Services Corporation](#) (PVSC), a not-for-profit corporation, determines your property's market value. The municipality uses that assessed value to calculate your [municipal tax bill](#). Property taxes help to pay for services such as garbage pick-up, sewers, new roads and repairs, police and fire services, etc.



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You have the right to appeal your property assessment. It is important to review your Notice of Assessment as soon as it is received as the appeal period is noted on the Notice of Assessment. Below is a figure outlining the appeal process.



If you agree with the outcome of the assessor's review, you do not need to do anything else. **PVSC will provide notification of the outcome to your municipality.** If you are not satisfied with the review by the PVSC assessor, you may continue your appeal with the [Nova Scotia Assessment Appeal Tribunal](#) – an independent, third party tribunal.

## SACKVILLE SNOW DAYS FESTIVAL FEBRUARY 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018



Thank you to the [Sackville Business Association](#) for organizing this wonderful community event. For more details on the activities planned, please go to their website by clicking [here](#).

The fun includes a Snowman Contest, Scavenger Hunt, Winter Wonderland Skate, Teen Night (ages 13-18), Costume Party, Giant Kerplunk Game, Open Mic/Coffee House and many more fun, family events!

Come on out and have a great time.

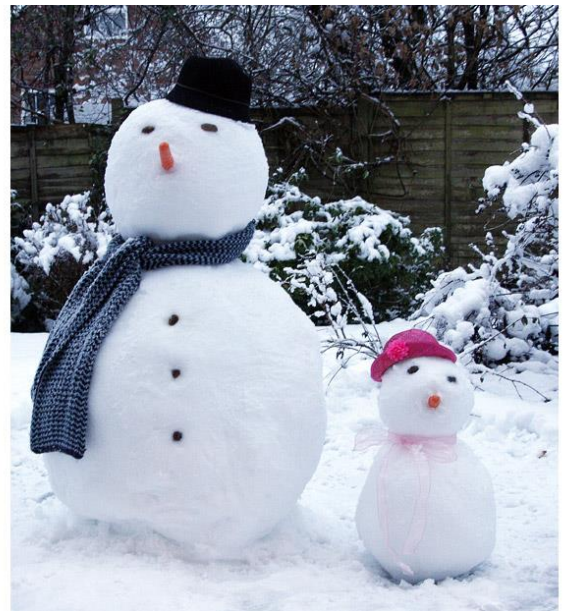
## BUDGET ALLOCATOR HELP US PLAN THE 2018/19 MUNICIPAL BUDGET



Each year the municipal budget is presented to, debated, and approved by Regional Council. The [municipal budget](#) determines spending

priorities and service delivery for residents.

Use the [Budget Allocator](#) tool to simulate spending and have your say on municipal spending priorities.





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### CN PUBLIC INQUIRIES LINE – 1-888-888-5909



I have received calls and emails regarding the rail tracks at the Beaver Bank Road and Windgate Drive intersection. In response, I have spoken with CN who confirmed that they do investigate each incident as reported; and, when required, perform the needed patch work to the area.

CN has asked that you contact them directly so that they may accurately record the issue in their files and hear directly from you, your concerns with the tracks.

Respecting the wishes of CN, I encourage you to call 1-888-888-5909 or email [contact@cn.ca](mailto:contact@cn.ca) and have your concerns/comments documented in relation to the rail tracks at Beaver Bank Road and Windgate Drive.



### COUNCILLOR CRAIG AND I WITH MP DARREL SAMSON AT THE OPENING CEREMONIES - NOVA SCOTIA UNDER 21 CURLING TOURNAMENT



### I WAS HONOURED TO BE GUEST AUCTIONEER AT THE SACKVILLE ROTARY CLUB FUNDRAISER WITH COUNCILLOR STEVE CRAIG







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### COUNCILLOR SAM AUSTIN AND I CHATTING ABOUT MUNICIPAL MATTERS ON GLOBAL NEWS



### I ATTENDED THE TOWN HALL MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER JUSTIN TRUDEAU



### STARTING THE YEAR OFF RIGHT WITH THE SACKVILLE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION MEET 'N GREET!



### MAYOR SAVAGE AND I SERVED AS JUDGES FOR THE CRIMESTOPPERS FUNDRAISER – BATTLE OF WITS





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I currently serve on the following Boards and Committees along with Halifax Regional Council and the North West Community Council:

- Appeals Standing Committee
- Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee
- Halifax Regional Library Board
- Accessibility Advisory Committee
- North West Planning Advisory Committee

- Destination Halifax
- Halifax Water
- Diverse Voices

