



Together We Can Build Safe, Healthy, Active Communities



**WELCOME
FEBRUARY!
HAPPY
VALENTINE'S DAY!**

There are many reasons to love the month of February : it's the shortest month with only 28 days (29 in leap years); African Heritage Month is celebrated; Pancake (Shrove) Tuesday falls on February 13th; Valentine's Day on the 14th; and, Regional Council continues budget discussions on the 2018-2019 HRM annual budget. Exciting times !

This month's newsletter includes information on a variety of items such as: update on the Seniors Snow Removal Program, winter fishing, property assessments, recently acquired land for the Blue Mountain Birch Cove Regional Park, information on the Police Audit, the approved Off -Leash Dog Park legislation and much, much more!

Although the shortest month, it is certainly a busy month.



**BIENVENUE
FEVRIER! JOYEUSE
SAINT VALENTIN!**

Il y a maintes raisons d'aimer le mois de février : c'est le mois le plus court 'ayant que 28 jours (29 aux années bissextiles); on célèbre le Mois du patrimoine africain; le Mardi Crêpes (Mardi gras) tombe le 13 février; la Saint-Valentin, le 14; et, le Conseil régional poursuit ses discussions budgétaires sur le budget annuel de la Municipalité régionale d'Halifax (MRH) de 2018-2019. Des moments passionnants!

Le bulletin de ce mois-ci comprend des renseignements sur divers ujets, par exemple, une mise à jour sur le Programme de déneigement pour les înés, sur la pêche hivernale, sur les valuations foncières, sur les terres récemment acquises pour le parc régional Blue Mountain irch Cove, des renseignements sur l'audit des services policiers, la législation approuvée du parc pour chiens sans laisse et beaucoup, beaucoup plus!

Même s'il s'agit du mois le plus court, c'est assurément un mois occupé.



COUNCILLOR TONY MANCINI

HARBOURVIEW - BURNSIDE - DARTMOUTH EAST



CELEBRATE AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH



February is African Heritage Month. The provincial [African Nova Scotian Affairs](#) department has identified the theme for this year as **“Educate, Unite, Celebrate Community”**. The website also advises that: *“Today, there are 50 African Nova Scotian communities throughout the province of Nova Scotia. Almost 21,000 African Nova Scotians call this province home, contributing to the rich diversity that defines Nova Scotia.*

African Nova Scotian Affairs (ANSA) works with government and the African Nova Scotian community to enhance cultural understanding and assist in the delivery of services that meet the unique needs of African Nova Scotians. It is the connecting point to the community, promoting African Nova Scotian priorities and bringing people together to share in cultural experiences.

For this reason, we must Educate, Unite and Celebrate African Heritage Month.”

The [Halifax Public Library](#) also has events / activities planned across the municipality for African Heritage Month.

VILLAGE ON MAIN COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

[Village on Main’s](#) monthly [Newsletter](#) and [morning networking sessions](#) are great sources of information to keep you up to date on plans for the Main Street area of Dartmouth.

On the third Wednesday of each month (8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.), the Village on Main hosts [networking sessions](#) at various locations. This is a great opportunity to get to know some of the business owners who have decided to make The Village on Main their home. Everyone is welcome: you don’t have to be a member to attend.

COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY AND I ON GLOBAL NEWS





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MUNICIPAL AUDITOR GENERAL - T.I.P.S. HOTLINE

You can report concerns or complaints related to potential inefficiencies (waste) or fraud (illegal/irregular behaviour) involving HRM resources to the Municipal Auditor General via the **T.I.P.S Hotline** by calling **902.490.1144**. The Taking Improvement & Performance Seriously (TIPS) Hotline has been established to capture and evaluate those concerns or complaints.

If you choose to submit information, you may remain anonymous but are encouraged to leave contact information (which is held in strict confidence) should the issue require further clarification. You may also submit the information online at the [Auditor General's website](#).

DID YOU KNOW....



The provincial [Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture](#) website provides information on [winter fishing](#) in

the HRM and across the province. For those who love the outdoors, winter fishing is an incredible experience.

Anglers are reminded to check ice thickness before venturing out to fish.

Fishing licences for 2017 are valid until March 31, 2018. [Sportfishing Weekend](#) is February 17-19, 2018. More information is available in the [Anglers Guidebook](#).

FRENCH TRANSLATION OF MUNICIPAL PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS (PSAs)

I was pleased to put forward the motion, passed by Regional Council on October 17, 2017, to allocate \$200,000 over 2 years in the multi-year budget, for French translation services.

The latest census data from Statistics Canada shows that 49,575 residents of HRM speak both official languages. Approximately 10,000 people list French as their mother tongue and, 340 speak French only.

The translation services are contracted to an outside agency that charges per word. The \$100,000, to be set aside annually for the next two years, will cover the cost to have all municipal PSAs translated into French.

I have requested that the “Welcome” section of the District 6 E-newsletters also be translated into French.



TO BAN OR NOT TO BAN SINGLE USE PLASTIC BAGS

China’s decision to no longer accept film plastic has left us scrambling with the question: “What do we do with our plastics”. Film plastics are used in plastic shopping bags, the wrapping around paper towels/toilet paper, water bottles, pop bottles and juice cans.



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HARBOURVIEW - BURNSIDE - DARTMOUTH EAST

Why consider a ban on single-use plastic bags? Well, there are many reasons, the most important being protection of wildlife (many marine animals confuse plastic bags for food) and our environment. Plastic bags **do not** biodegrade. Plastic breaks down and becomes more brittle and degrades into micro-plastics but never fully breaks down. One statistic, provided by the state of California when they implemented the ban on single-use plastic bags in December 2016, states that **in 2050, plastic will outweigh fish in the ocean.**

Many residents are asking what their options would be if a ban were introduced, specifically for dealing with pet waste. Options for pet waste would be to use newspaper, paper bag, re-use plastic bags from bread/produce/cereal/flyers.

In January, I arranged a meeting with The Honourable Iain Rankin, Minister of Environment, and various Solid Waste Managers and Committee Chairs from around the province to discuss how to move forward on the issue of low-grade plastics. The meeting was very productive.

Although the province has allowed a temporary six-month exemption to allow film plastic in the landfill, HRM has not yet taken advantage of the exemption. My objective would be to put less in the landfills, not more. If the plastics do end up heading to a landfill, hopefully it will be temporary and could be dug-up at a later date.

Some of the topics discussed at the January meeting included EPR – Extended Producer Responsibility, such as the policy in place in British Columbia. The EPR policy would mandate that the producer must reduce environmental impact by managing its product across the life cycle of the product, from selection and design to the product’s end of life.

I believe now is the time for all options to be considered and discussed.

KEURIG PODS – RECYCLABLE



Coffee pods, such as the Keurig pods, are recyclable. The new Keurig design allows the coffee and plastic bits to be separated.

Throw the coffee grinds into the green bin and the plastic in with the recycling and HRM will deal with both.

TRIPADVISOR ANNOUNCES HALIFAX RANKS #4 IN TOP 10 PLACES TO VISIT GLOBALLY



In January, TripAdvisor announced that Halifax was ranked 4th globally in the 2018

TripAdvisor Travelers’ Choice® awards for Destinations on the Rise. The January 10th, press release by Destination Halifax included the following quote by Brooke Ferencsik, Senior Director of Communications for TripAdvisor: *“The Travelers’ Choice Destinations on the Rise award winners are a great source of inspiration for travelers interested in going somewhere exciting that’s emerging in popularity. These winners were based on destination feedback*



COUNCILLOR TONY MANCINI

HARBOURVIEW - BURNSIDE - DARTMOUTH EAST

and interest from the TripAdvisor community, and a common thread is that they all have outstanding accommodations, wonderful restaurants and exceptional attractions for every travel budget.”

Mayor Mike Savage was quoted as follows: “Halifax has found its way into the hearts of travelers from around the world. From the exceptional waterfront and the walkable downtowns on both sides of Halifax Harbour, to the pristine escapes offered by the 100 Wild Islands, our many beaches and the character-rich communities that dot the region, we offer a unique travel opportunity,”

Destination Halifax’s press release also noted that Halifax welcomes 5.3 million overnight stays each year, who spend \$1 billion. Halifax alone represents over 54% of all visitation to Nova Scotia, and 24,000 Nova Scotians are employed by the tourism industry.

AT THE DARTMOUTH NORTH TOWN HALL WITH MLA SUSAN LEBLANC, JOHN WOODS AND QUENTREL PROVO



QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AND MUNICIPAL TAX RATE...



An assessment is an estimate of a property's market value as of a certain date. The [Property Valuation](#)

[Services Corporation \(PVSC\)](#) annually assesses property value and mails you an assessment notice to tell you your property’s value for tax purposes. The assessed value of your property will reflect the property sales in your neighborhood and factors that may enhance or detract from your property's value.

If you believe the assessed value is not a reasonable estimate, contact the [PVSC](#) at 1.800.380.7775 or, file an appeal by following the instructions on the back of the Notice of Assessment.

YOUR ASSESSMENT AND THE PROPERTY TAX RATE



HRM sets a [tax rate](#) each year that will be multiplied by your taxable assessed value (capped amount or market value) per \$100 of assessment to determine your property tax. The interim tax bill (due on the last business day in April) will be exactly half of your estimated current year tax bill. The final bill (due on the last business day of October) will reflect the actual current year's tax rate multiplied by the current year's taxable assessed value, minus the interim bill amount.



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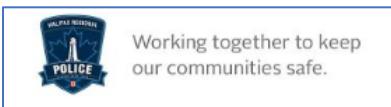
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HRM's budget must be approved by Regional Council to determine the amount of money that is required to support each service (fire, police, schools, sidewalks, etc.). The rate is determined by dividing the total money required by the total taxable assessment within the Halifax Regional Municipality. There is a general rate for urban, suburban, and rural areas, as well as other area rates.

are continuously adhering to the enhanced measures.”

The Review Team identified and reconciled all drug exhibits that showed as missing in police's Records Management System (RMS). The missing/misplaced exhibits included 293 cash exhibits (of which 255 were located), 331 large drug exhibits (of which 68 were located) and 2,628 small drug, paraphernalia and miscellaneous non-drug exhibits (of which 140 were located).

HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE – AUDIT



Halifax Regional Police (HRP) has completed its final

drug exhibit audit report, including details of the complete inventory of all drug exhibits. The report, presented to the HRM [Board of Police Commissioners](#) on January 15, 2018, also outlined significant efforts made to address issues around adherence to policy and procedure, training, proper documentation, quality assurance, supervision and infrastructure.

Using a comprehensive methodology to locate each exhibit (e.g. interviews, electronic reviews and physical reviews of exhibit rooms and written journals), the Review Team believes that the exhibits that could not be physically located were destroyed and found no evidence of misuse or misappropriation.

With the progress being made on the audit recommendations and many additional initiatives as outlined in the final audit report, significant improvements have been made to both exhibit handling and accountability and ensuring that our organization maintains public confidence.

Chief of Police, Jean-Michel Blais noted that: *“Our extensive, self-initiated audit helped bring to light significant process gaps and a lack of policy adherence over the decades. This audit, along with the progress on all 34 recommendations, demonstrates that we took this matter seriously to address gaps that caused these issues in the first place.”*

Click here to view [Final audit report](#) submitted to the Board of Police Commissioners.

“An improved system is now in place to ensure procedures are strictly adhered to by all officers. We've also put in place an annual inventory of drug-related exhibits to further ensure officers





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HARBOURVIEW - BURNSIDE - DARTMOUTH EAST

BIRCH COVE BLUE MOUNTAIN – LAND ACQUISITION



On January 18, Halifax Regional Municipality purchased approximately 197 acres of lands to form part of a Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes Regional Park. This important acquisition marks the first parcel of land to be acquired by the municipality towards the creation of the regional park, which is proposed in the municipality’s Regional Plan.

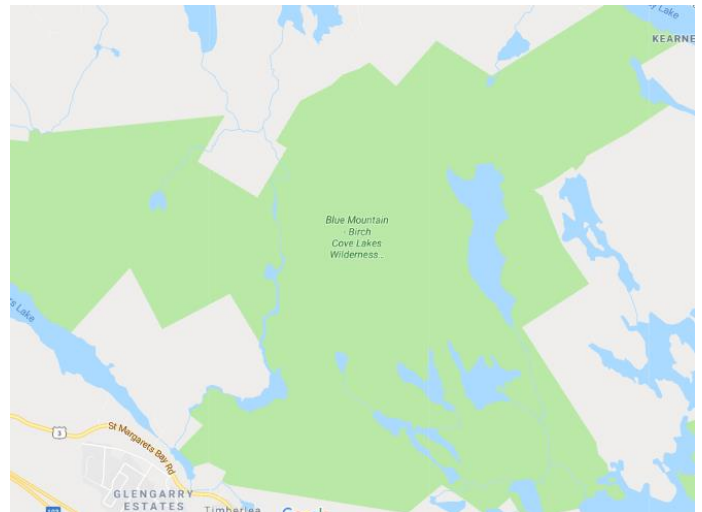
The Hobson Lake lands are to the rear of properties along Collins Road and beside provincial Crown lands that are already designated as part of the Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area. The Halifax Regional Municipality has been seeking a formal access to the provincially-designated wilderness area for some time. The municipality continues its efforts to acquire additional lands towards the creation of the park.

The Hobson Lake lands have been acquired from West Bedford Holdings and will both enable public access into the regional park and support the protected wilderness area by acting as a buffer between it and developed lands. The acquisition includes provision for a future regional park trailhead entrance that is anticipated to be developed with parking and services for park users. The entrance will be achieved as part of the parkland dedication

process as the company develops the next stages of its Bedford West community, which is anticipated in the next four to six years.

With the acquisition, municipal staff will be consulting with both the province and the public regarding the future planning of the Hobson Lake lands as part of the creation of the overall Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes Regional Park.

Public consultation is expected to begin in the spring.





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DARTMOUTH NORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY



Figure 1 Photo courtesy of CBC.

Ms. Asa Kachan, Chief Librarian of Halifax Public Libraries, proudly proclaims that: *“Dartmouth North is blazing a trail. I have colleagues across the entire country watching this project very closely.”* The project being watched is the innovative outdoor library at the Dartmouth North Public Library and Community Centre, 106 Highfield Park Drive. It will be the first outdoor library space in Canada and one of only a few in the world.

One exterior wall has been replaced with a wall of windows and sliding doors. A deck and playground area have been added. Books will be placed on mobile racks that can be moved inside/outside depending on the weather.

The renovations were paid for with a \$500,000 grant from TD Bank's Friends of the Environment Canada 150 Program, Halifax Regional Municipality, and a matching grant from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA).

CONNECT WITH COMMUNITY

Halifax Regional Municipality is looking for community members to serve on the following boards and committees:

- Board of Police Commissioners
- Design Review Committee (Requires an Architect)
- Halifax Dartmouth Bridge Commission
- Halifax Port Authority - Board of Directors
- Regional Watersheds Advisory Board
- Western Common Advisory Committee

Additional Information on Boards and Committees - halifax.ca/city-hall/boards-committees-commissions/volunteer-boards-committees

Apply to Serve Online - halifax.ca/city-hall/boards-committees-commissions/volunteer-boards-committees/boards-committees-volunteer

Deadline for Application: Friday, February 16, 2018

Applicants are encouraged to provide additional information that may assist in the selection process, such as a cover letter or resume. All applications received will be processed in accordance with the Halifax Regional Municipality Public Appointment Policy.

Questions?
Email: clerks@halifax.ca Phone: 902.490.4210

HALIFAX

2018-2019 BUDGET DISCUSSION



It's that time of year again – when Regional Council engages in discussions to consider the proposed budgets and business plans of the municipality for the next fiscal year.

I encourage you to attend one or more of these sessions as residents are provided an opportunity to comment on what **your** budget priorities are for 2018/19. If you are not able to attend one of the sessions on the dates shown below, you are welcome to use the [Budget Allocator](#) tool to help determine spending priorities and service delivery.



COUNCILLOR TONY MANCINI

HARBOURVIEW - BURNSIDE - DARTMOUTH EAST

The remaining dates, including the municipal departments scheduled to present their budgets, are:

- **Feb. 14, 2018 (9:30 a.m.):** Halifax Regional Police, Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency
- **March 7, 2018 (9:30 a.m.):** Fiscal and Consolidated Accounts
- **March 28, 2018 (9:30 a.m.):** Budget Adjustment List Review
- **April 24, 2018 (10 a.m.):** Full Review of Final Budget

You may [view previous sessions](#) online including videos of the discussions. The previous dates were January 10th, 17th, 19th and 24th.

If you have questions or would like more information, contact the Municipal Clerk’s Office (902.490.4210) or email: clerks@halifax.ca.

OFF-LEASH DOG AREAS PROGRAM AND ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER APPROVED!



I am pleased to announce that on January 16th, Regional Council gave second reading and approved the legislation, By-law P-601, an Amendment to By-law P-600, Respecting Municipal Parks, **and** Administrative Order 2017-013-OP, Respecting Off-Leash Dog Areas

Within Parks – Off-Leash Dog Areas Program and Administrative Order.

Council also approved continuation of the existing off-leash dog areas approved pursuant to the 2007 off-leash strategy within Point Pleasant Park, Fort Needham Park, Mainland Common, Hemlock Ravine, Shubie Park, Dartmouth Common, Sandy Lake, and Ardmore Park. Regional Council approved the continuation of the existing seasonal off-leash dog areas listed in [Attachment E](#) of the same report and directed the Chief Administrative Officer to identify potential additional Off-leash Dog Areas for the communities of Cole Harbour, Eastern Passage, Spryfield area, and Dartmouth.

This new legislation is in response to the highly successful pilot project for off-leash dog areas; and, the recommended expansion of the program as per a staff report sent to Regional Council in 2015 following a review of the pilot program. At that time, a stronger policy framework including clearer procedures for receiving/approval for off-leash areas was also recommended.

The communities of Eastern Passage, Cole Harbour, and Purcell’s Cove / Spryfield are primary candidate areas for the designation of new off-leash areas as the review showed that these areas were underserved. The overuse of the Shubie Park off-leash dog area may be a sign of inadequate service in the Dartmouth area.





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HARBOURVIEW - BURNSIDE - DARTMOUTH EAST

THE SALVATION ARMY - H2O FUND

	H₂O Fund (Help 2 Others Fund) April 2017 – March 2018	<small>H₂O Fund Administrator 2038/2044 Gottingen Street Halifax NS B3K 3A9 Tel: 902-422-1598 Fax: 902-444-8914 james_woods@can.salvationarmy.org Applications Available: www.halifaxwater.ca www.salvationarmy.ca/maritime/H2O</small>
		<small>Applications Available: www.halifaxwater.ca www.salvationarmy.ca/maritime/H2O</small>

Need help paying your water bill? The [H2O Fund](#) assists low income households with the cost of residential water and waste water in an emergency situation if eligibility guidelines are met. A household is determined to be in an emergency situation when there are no resources to pay the Halifax Water bill and/or the household is about to face disconnection of water service. The fund operates from April 2017 to March 2018.

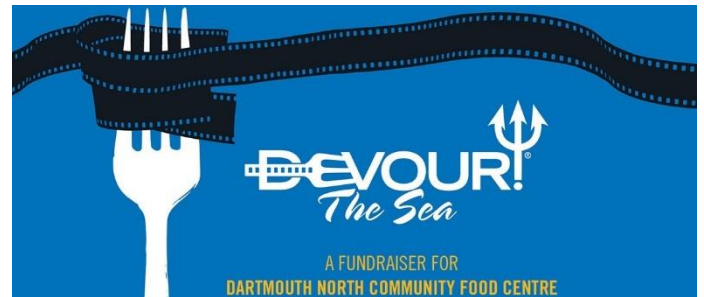
The contact information for the program is:

H2O Fund Administrator
 2038/2044 Gottingen Street
 Halifax NS B3K 3A9
 Tel: 902-422-1598 Fax: 902-444-8914
james_woods@can.salvationarmy.org

Applications Available: www.halifaxwater.ca
www.salvationarmy.ca/maritime/H2O.



DARTMOUTH NORTH COMMUNITY CENTRE/FAMILY CENTRE FUNDRAISER – DEVOUR THE SEA



I am pleased to help share the word about this wonderful fundraising event organized by Ms. Anne-Marie McElrone, Partnership Development for the Dartmouth Family Centre / Dartmouth North Community Food Centre and partners at Devour. Ms. McElrone explains that Devour the Sea is held in collaboration with the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.

Six renowned chefs create small plates inspired by six short films. Each course is paired with a wine and the entire event takes place in different spaces within the museum. Tickets are \$100 +HST and all proceeds go to support the work of the Dartmouth North Family Centre and Dartmouth North Community Food Centre; last year the event raised more than \$7,000 (the equivalent of 3,500 meals!)

For more information, please contact:
Anne-Marie McElrone
 Partnership Development
 Dartmouth Family Centre/Dartmouth North Community Food Centre
[902.223.0674](tel:902.223.0674)
www.dartmouthfamilycentre.ca



CORNWALLIS STATUE



Photo Courtesy of Andrew Vaughn – The Canadian Press

I was very disappointed when I first heard the news that the Assembly of Chiefs would be stepping away from the Committee. We knew the process would be hard, but I was prepared to immerse myself into this process in order reach a resolution. I was truly looking forward to having the discussion so that we could all learn and make a sound decision.

I am a white man; therefore, I don't know what it feels like to walk by a statue of someone that contributed to the oppression of my people. I recognize that while the statue may represent the founding of our city to a white person, it serves as a constant reminder of oppression and suffering to our Indigenous community. The meaning and the presence of this statue is significantly impactful to our Indigenous community and frustrates all efforts to reconcile with our Mi'kmaq community.

Truth and Reconciliation is essentially about working to rebuild our relationship with our Indigenous population. All orders of government

have dishonored the Mi'kmaq people. We have a responsibility at every level of government to seek opportunities to rebuild a trust that our ancestors were responsible for breaking. This is a chance for this government to take a big step forward.

In working through the process with Council, I have added an amendment to the motion (see below) suggesting that if the assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs were not on board with a new committee within six months, staff would come to council with options.

This isn't about changing or rewriting history. Cornwallis will stay in the history books. This is about making choices through a more progressive lens than that of the past. We are a progressive community. As Maya Angelou stated "*when you know better you do better*". We know better and we must move forward as a municipality. Our progression is not simply about economics, it must also address social progression.

HRM is a community that takes pride in its embrace of immigration and social equity. Let's work together to step forward into a more tolerant future.

17.1 Commemoration of Edward Cornwallis

Moved by Councillor Karsten, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Mason:

- It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council:
1. Direct the CAO to proceed to remove the statue of Edward Cornwallis immediately and to place the statue in temporary



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HARBOURVIEW - BURNSIDE - DARTMOUTH EAST

storage until Council makes a decision about the statue's long term situation;

2. Seek, through the Mayor's office, to re-engage the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs in establishing a special advisory committee as set out in Administrative Order 2017-012-GOV; and
3. If the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs (ANSMC) chooses not to re-engage under the current committee process, direct the CAO to return to Council within six months with a staff report setting out a revised approach to examining the commemoration of Edward Cornwallis and the commemoration and recognition of Indigenous history in the lands now known as Halifax Regional Municipality, and with any necessary proposed amendments to Administrative Order 2017-012-GOV.

Motion Carried

ENJOYING THE NEW YEAR'S DAY LEVEE WITH NOELLE MURPHY



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Currently serving on:

Halifax Regional Council
Harbour East Marine Drive Community Council
Board of Police Commissioners
Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee
Executive Standing Committee
Special Events Advisory Committee

Halifax Partnership
Shubenacadie Canal Commission
Liaison to the HRM Acadian Francophone Community
School Advisory Committee (SAC) for Prince Andrew High School

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