



COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD

DISTRICT 12 ONLINE NEWS

TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

WELCOME DECEMBER!

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Happy Holidays,
 Joyeux Noel,
 Merry Christmas,
 Happy Hanukkah,
 Feliz Navidad,
 Happy Kwanzaa
 and Eid Milad
 Saeed to all the
 wonderful
 residents of
 District 12!

This is the first edition of an E-newsletter I will be preparing to keep you up to date on what is happening in District 12 and throughout HRM. Keep reading for information on affordable housing, secondary suites backyard suites, Halifax Transit guides, parking technology upgrades, budget planning, upcoming holiday events plus much more!

If you wish to chat about a municipal program or service, contact me at **902.240.7926** or by email at Iona.Stoddard@halifax.ca.

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HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING DATES

Virtual meetings of Halifax Regional Council will take place on the following dates:

Tuesday, December 15th at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, January 12th at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, January 26th at 10:00 a.m.

Please confirm meeting dates and times on our [website](#) as dates and times are subject to change.

BUDGET SURVEY



Help shape the next municipal plan and budget by participating in the [2020 Municipal Budget Survey](#). As the next cycle of planning begins, I, along with my Council colleagues, ask for your input to help guide us with immediate and long-term business and budget planning.

We recognize that your priorities may have shifted during the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal of this survey is to understand where you would like to see investments in municipal programs and services. **The deadline to complete the survey is Monday, December 14th.**

PLAYING FIELD STRATEGY - SURVEY



Timberlea Titans Minor Football

Exciting news! The municipality is developing a Playing Field Strategy to guide the planning and development of playing fields over the next 15 years to meet community needs across the region. The strategy will include an examination of:

- Sports fields - all weather and natural grass sport fields, often used for soccer, football, rugby, and ultimate frisbee, among others
- Ball diamonds - often used for sports like baseball, softball, slo-pitch, and fastpitch

Whether you use playing fields for organized sports, leisure, or other recreational uses, your input will help develop recommendations towards meeting future recreation needs in our communities.

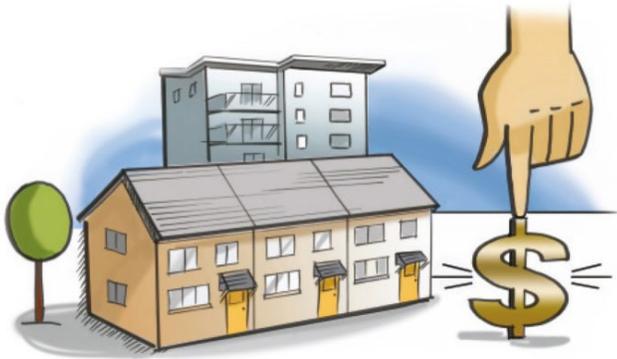
The survey will be available from Thursday, December 3rd Monday, January 18th at: halifax.ca/surveys.



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AFFORDABLE HOUSING

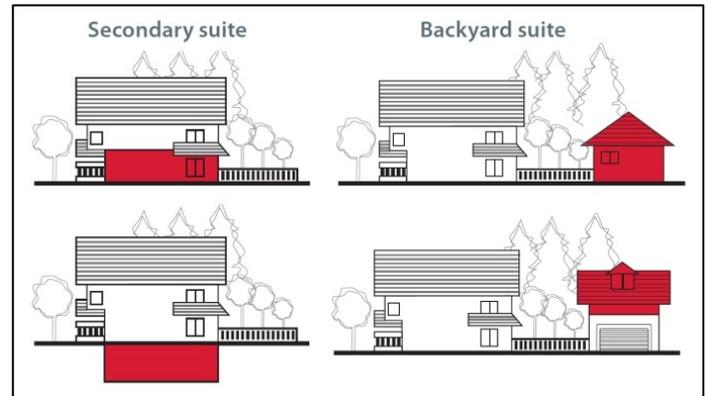


On November 24th, I was thrilled to be part of Regional Council when we passed the [Rapid Housing Initiative investment plan](#), to be submitted to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, in order to accept \$8,659,527 in funding for the creation of a minimum of 28 permanent affordable housing units. The applicants have indicated they may be able to provide 52 units!

In October 2020, the [Federal Government launched a new Rapid Housing Initiative \(RHI\)](#) that invests \$1 billion to create up to 3,000 new permanent, affordable housing units across Canada.

An earlier decision by Regional Council to approve the ability to have Secondary and Backyard Suites may also assist with the availability of affordable housing. See the next article for more details on Secondary/Backyard Suites.

SECONDARY SUITES BACKYARD SUITES APPROVED



Following a public hearing, held virtually on September 1, 2020, Regional Council passed the motion approving [amendments to the Land Use By-Laws \(LUBs\)](#) permitting secondary suites and backyard suites throughout HRM.

The process began back in January 2020 when Regional Council considered amendments to the Halifax Regional Municipal Planning Strategy (RMPS) and all applicable land use by-laws (LUB) to allow secondary and backyard suites accessory to low density residential uses.

Secondary suites are additional dwelling units, typically located within single-unit dwellings.

Backyard suites are additional dwelling units located in an accessory building like a detached garage.

The proposed amendments permitted:

- Secondary suites accessory to single-unit dwellings, two-unit dwellings and townhouse dwellings with no minimum lot area requirement; and,



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- Backyard suites accessory to single-unit dwellings with a lot area of 371 square metres (4000 square feet).

The LUB amendments came into effect on November 7, 2020.

If you are interested in [applying for a permit](#) to have either a secondary suite or backyard suite on your property, please call 902.490.5650 to speak to a Development Officer or call 311.

WINTER PARKING BAN



The overnight winter parking ban will be in place from **December 15th, 2020 to March 31st, 2021**

and enforced between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. during declared weather events and extended clearing operations.

In addition to the overnight parking ban, Section 139 of the [Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act](#) states that tickets can be issued and vehicles can be towed any time, day or night, if they are parked in a manner that interferes with snow clearing.

The easiest way to know when the parking ban will be enforced is to sign up for the municipality's alert system, [hfxALERT](#). Residents can also request registration by [calling 311](#).

To help avoid a ticket, as well as the inconvenience and cost of being towed, ask

yourself these four questions when considering parking on the street this winter:

- Is the overnight parking ban currently being enforced?
- Is my vehicle causing a safety issue?
- Is it making the road impassable?
- Is it impeding snow operations underway in the area?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, **do not park on the street.**

For the most up to date information before, during and after a winter storm, visit Halifax.ca/snow and follow us on Twitter [@hfxgov](https://twitter.com/hfxgov).

Municipal snow clearing updates

For minor (0-5 cm) and average (5-15 cm) winter events, snow clearing updates will be posted three times a day: 7 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. on the [service updates page](#) and via [@hfxgov](https://twitter.com/hfxgov) on Twitter.

For major events (15+ cm accumulation), updates will be posted four times a day: 7 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Additional updates may be posted outside of these times as required.

TRAFFIC CALMING FOR SAFER STREETS

[Traffic calming](#) helps make neighbourhoods safer for non-drivers. That means slowing down cars, trucks, and motorcycles by altering driver behaviour. Studies have shown that reducing



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the posted speed limit in an area typically has no significant impact on how fast people drive. Physical measures are more effective and could include:

- speed humps
- speed tables
- raised intersections and crosswalks
- curb extensions
- traffic circles or mini roundabouts
- on-street parking
- raised median islands

- Greenwood Avenue
- James Street
- Lancaster Drive
- Mountain Maple Drive
- Parkland Drive (ineligible as it is a main collector)
- Prestwick Close
- Red Fern Terrace
- Riverview Drive
- Rosewood Avenue

The following list, updated on November 27th, shows streets in District 12 eligible for future implementation of traffic calming measures and their ranking out of 284 streets:

Ranking as of November 27, 2020				
Ranking	Street Name	Limit From	Limit To	District
28	Beech Tree Rn	States Ln (W)	St. Margaret's Bay Rd	12
99	Sheppards Rn	Beech Tree Rn	St. Margaret's Bay Rd	12
158	North Green Rd	St Margarets Bay Rd	Governors Lake Dr (W)	12
221	Governors Lake Dr	St Margarets Bay Rd	N Green Rd	12
237	States Lane	Beech Tree Run	Beech Tree Run	12
245	Turnmill Dr	Radcliffe Dr	Langbrae Dr	12
247	Stratford Way	Lacewood Dr	Radcliffe Dr	12
254	Charles Rd	James St	Forestglen Dr	12
255	Chelton Woods Ln	Farnham Gate Rd	Langbrae Dr	12
273	Danforth Rd	Theakston Ave	Katrina Cres	12
281	Broadholme Lane	Wedgewood Ave	Wilson Blvd	12

The following streets have been requested for consideration and are currently in the process of being assessed and ranked:

- Beechwood Terrace
- Brentwood Avenue
- Devonshire Drive
- Farnham Gate Road
- Forrestglen Drive

If you would like to have a street considered for traffic calming measures, call 3-1-1 and provide the name of your street for it to be added to the assessment list.

PARKING TECHNOLOGY CHANGES – PARKING ZONES VS INDIVIDUAL METERS

As of Tuesday, October 13th, 2020, the municipality changed from individual meters to pay stations – this is a pay-by-plate, pay-by-zone system. You will now see the new pay stations installed on-street. There will still be a mixture of paid, permit and hourly parking in parking zones.

When looking for on-street paid parking in areas that have historically had meters, look for these signs and note your pay parking **ZONE**.

Zones are listed on parking signage and are letters A through H.

You will need to know your license plate and parking zone to initiate a parking session.





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P WHY PAID PARKING?

The municipal parking program is comprised of a number of tactics to help balance the priorities of Council as they relate to the Integrated Mobility Plan and the needs of residents. These tactics include:

- Residential parking restrictions (Urban, Suburban, Rural)
- Permit parking (residential and commuter - Urban)
- Paid On-Street Parking (Central, Urban)
- Paid Off-Street Parking (Metro Park, Alderney Landing)
- Park & Rides (Urban, Suburban, Rural)
- "Free" or un-restricted parking (Urban, Suburban, Rural)

Did you know?
On-street parking in the municipality hadn't changed in over 15 years before Council approved the recent changes.

It is estimated that each on-street parking space costs around \$1,750 to build and \$400 to maintain annually.[1]

Offering parking for free, or at a highly subsidized rate, further incentivizes car culture and provides benefit to the individual as opposed to the broader community.

Why Incremental Rates?

Renowned Parking economist Donald Shoup believes that "If meters are priced right, cars will fill most of the curb spaces, leaving one to two vacant spaces per block." (Shoup, 2019 p. xxvi)

Pricing on-street parking appropriately results in turn over for businesses, creates spaces for when residents need them, reduce the need to "circle the block to find parking" resulting in decreased carbon emissions and has been shown to drive consumer behaviour to consider alternate modes of travel such as transit, active transportation, ride sharing etc.

Our incremental rate system prices the first two hours well below off-street value and then increases for the subsequent hours, encouraging motorists to make informed choices about how they use parking.

How Can Technology Help?

The municipality's parking system is designed to accommodate incremental and time of day pricing. Our rates are set by Council via By-Law P500 for on-street paid parking and By-Law P1200 for permits.

The system can show us time of day usage and help inform staff on setting the appropriate rate(s) for the area and demand based on time of day.

Staff are exploring future use of sensors that provide real-time information on space-occupancy. In the interim, we are leveraging system data and field studies to monitor performance of the current rate system.

Questions?

Contact us:
parking@halifax.ca

[1] Shoup, D. C. (2018). The High Cost of Free Parking. London: Routledge.



HOW TO PAY FOR PARKING

Park using our new system in 5 easy steps

1 Press any button to start

The screen on the parking station may be black. Press any button to start your session.



2 Select payment type

if you're paying with coins or credit swipe, select "coins/swipe".

If you're paying with tap debit/credit or smartphone, select "tap card".



3 Enter plate and zone

Type the license plate number for the vehicle using the keypad.

The zone you are in is already selected. If purchasing time in a different zone, press the "select zone" button and type the letter of your zone.



4 Select time

You can select time in 15 minute, 30 minute, or 1 hour increments up to a maximum of 4 hours. Press the "next" button once you have entered your time.

Press confirm if the time and payment due displayed are correct.



5 Make payment

Paying with coins: add coins when screen displays "Confirm to pay with card or Insert coins to pay total and confirm". Press confirm when Payment Due reads \$0.00.

Paying with swipe: press confirm when the screen displays "Confirm to pay with card or Insert coins to pay total and confirm". Insert card when screen reads "Insert card".

Paying with tap: press confirm when the screen displays "Please confirm and Tap Card when instructed". Tap card when screen reads "TAP card below and wait processing to complete".



Or, skip these steps and download the HotSpot app. Pay for parking from the palm of your hand.

Available for Apple and Android devices.



You may now purchase and manage your residential or commuter parking permits [online](#). Most permits will be tied to your license plate - no need to display permits in your window. Zones are listed on parking signage and are numbers.

Learn more about our [parking permit options](#).





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HOW TO RIDE TRANSIT

HOW TO RIDE HALIFAX TRANSIT

Multilingual guides and videos now available!

HALIFAX TRANSIT

I am excited to share with you an example of the municipality's latest initiative on our ongoing commitment to creating an accessible and inclusive transit system for all. Halifax Transit has launched the *How to Ride* campaign, designed to help new riders and newcomers understand how to access and use the transit system.

With the help of ISANS and the municipality's Office of Diversity & Inclusion/ANSAIO, the campaign includes the launch of the [How to Ride: A Guide to Using Halifax Transit](#), a collection of easy-to-follow guides and videos in multiple languages, covering information about how to access route maps and schedules, plan a trip, pay fares, transfer and ride safely.





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Printed guides will be available at Halifax Public Library branches and can be also accessed and ordered [online](#) in the following languages:

- English
- Arabic
- Farsi
- French
- Korean
- Simplified Chinese
- Spanish

Educational videos are now available [here](#) in the following languages:

- English
- Arabic
- Nepali
- Somali
- Swahili
- Tigrinya

To learn more and to access the guides and videos, visit halifax.ca/howtoridetransit.

REMEMBRANCE DAY THANK YOU



Thank you to Nicole Mosher and the organizers of this year's Remembrance Day service. The service, normally held at the Korean War Memorial, was held inside J.A. Snow Funeral Home on Lacewood Drive, due to COVID-19 restrictions. It was a touching service and I was humbled to take part.

MAYOR MIKE'S LOCAL STUFF CHALLENGE



Mayor Mike Savage has engaged local business districts in a friendly holiday shopping competition in aid of an important cause. Each of the participating districts will fill a stocking with products from shops in their area. The stockings will then be auctioned off in support of Shelter Nova Scotia.

"The Local Stuff Challenge is an opportunity for all of us to think about our spending decisions this holiday season and throughout the year," said Mayor Savage. *"Local businesses put money back into our community, they provide employment and support neighbourhood causes and events. This year they need us more than ever."*

Once the stockings are filled, they will go up for live auction with all proceeds going to Shelter Nova Scotia's efforts to help homeless and precariously housed people throughout HRM.

Follow along with #stuffit2020 on Twitter and Instagram as the BIDs shop, taking advantage of curbside pick-ups, delivery options and COVID-cautious in-person alternatives as we build to the stocking reveals and auction dates in the days ahead.



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HAPPY HANUKKAH!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Hanukkah begins on Thursday, December 10th and ends on Friday, December 18th.

The in-person Menorah lighting ceremony is cancelled for this year, however; the Menorah will be lit in Grade Parade from Friday, December 11th until Friday, December 18th.

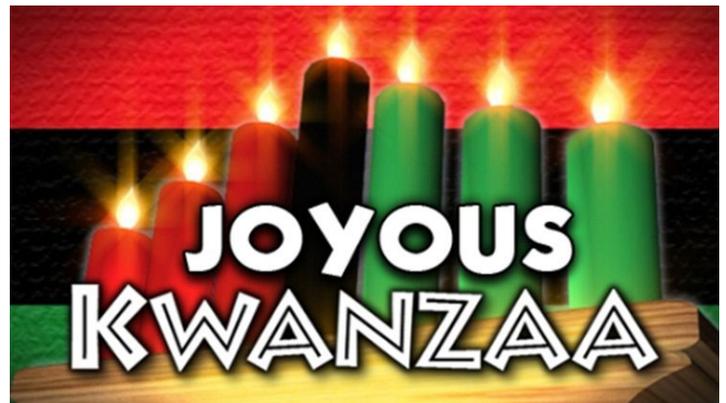
The in-person tree lighting ceremony at Grand Parade Square is cancelled for this year, however; the tree is in place and decorated.

The municipality has created a [video](#) about the story of how the Christmas Tree came to be in the Grand Parade next to City Hall.

A holiday projection and light show at Grand Parade Square began on Saturday, November 28th and runs until Friday, January 1st. For the full schedule and details, [visit the website](#).



JOYOUS KWANZAA!



Kwanzaa is celebrated from December 26th to January 1st.



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The lighting of the Kinara takes place each day and represents one of the seven core principles of the holiday: Unity, Self Determination, Collective Work and Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity and Faith.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!



This year, due to current COVID-19 regulations, **there will be no outdoor gathering.**

A studio broadcast of the New Year's Eve show will be held with live music and entertainment.

More information, as well as an artist announcement, will be made in the coming weeks on the [municipal website](#).

