



COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY
 DISTRICT 9 ONLINE NEWS
 HALIFAX WEST ARMDALE

WELCOME MARCH!



Spring arrives on Saturday, March 20th and I am sure many gardeners, like myself, are counting the days to get back into the garden. Have you thought of doing a [boulevard garden](#)? They are now permitted in HRM and provide a little more beauty to our urban landscape.

With spring comes the annual finalizing of the municipal capital and operating budgets. Please follow the virtual budget discussions and [sign up](#) to speak if you want to comment on how your tax dollars are allocated. Dates for the Budget Committee meetings are included in this newsletter.

In the interest of public health, my drop-in chat sessions with your Councillor at the Chocolate Lake Recreation Centre are still suspended until further notice.

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REGIONAL COUNCIL AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETINGS

March Regional Council and Budget Committee virtual meetings will be held on the following dates:

Budget Committee:

Wednesday, March 3rd at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, March 5th at 9:30 a.m. (Contingency Date)

Wednesday, March 10th at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, March 12th at 9:30 a.m. (Contingency Date)

Wednesday, March 24th at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, March 26th at 9:30 a.m. (Contingency Date)

Wednesday, March 31st at 9:30 a.m.

Regional Council:

Tuesday, March 9th at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, March 23rd at 10:00 a.m.

Halifax & West Community Council:

Tuesday, March 30th at 6:00 p.m.

Regional Centre Community Council

Wednesday, March 24th at 7:00 p.m. (if required)

Please check our [website](#) as dates/times/locations are subject to change.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY – MARCH 8TH

The 2021 campaign theme for International Women's Day is: #ChooseToChallenge. A challenged world is an alert world. Individually, we're all responsible for our own thoughts and actions - all day, every day.

March 2021



We can all choose to challenge and call out gender bias and inequality. We can all choose to seek out and celebrate

women's achievements. Collectively, we can all help create an inclusive world.

From challenge comes change, so let's all choose to challenge.



WE'RE HIRING!



HRM's Parks & Recreation Services is hiring seasonal recreation staff for a

variety of positions this summer including: Outdoor Pool Lifeguards, Canoe/Kayak Instructors, Day Camp Leaders, Sailing Instructors, Dance Instructor, Art Instructor, R.E.C. Van Coordinator and many more!

Find the full list of positions available and job descriptions [here](#). **Application deadlines: March 7th, 28th and April 18th.**



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BOULEVARD GARDENING



Boulevard gardening is the conversion of grass in the boulevard into a garden. A boulevard is defined as the area between the curb and the sidewalk, typically planted with grass. Abutting property owners are required to maintain any grass between the sidewalk and the curb - closely clipped and to a height not greater than six inches. Some residents have placed gardens within the boulevard.

The adoption of [Administrative Order 2020-014-OP, the Boulevard Gardens Administrative Order](#), was approved in consideration of the following concerns identified by HRM staff with the placement of boulevard gardens within the public right of way:

- Public safety and access to HRM rights of way, including driver/pedestrian/cyclist sightlines, clear travel ways and sidewalks, and reduction of hazards.
- Municipal operations within the HRM right of way, including snow clearing, street cleaning, and other road operations.
- Maintenance of HRM right of way, including road and sidewalk repairs, capital projects, and other maintenance projects.

FREE TRAINING – STEP UP TO LEADERSHIP



HRM's Parks and Recreation Volunteer Services offers a **free**, nine-session "[Step Up to Leadership](#)" course. The course was developed by volunteers, for volunteers. It covers a wide range of topics to help you develop leadership skills and build strong communities.

[Register](#) now for Spring 2021 sessions. For more information, contact Devon Bundy, Community Developer at 902-225-5806 or bundyd@halifax.ca.

MARCH BREAK – MARCH 15TH TO 19TH

Check out [Halifax Public Libraries](#) for fun activities during March Break!

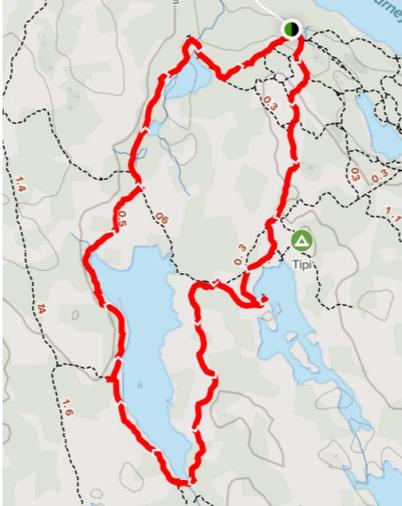




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BLUE MOUNTAIN BIRCH COVE LAKES TRAILHEAD



A survey regarding the development and potential impact of a future trailhead in Bedford West launches on March 5th. This trailhead would provide access to the municipally-owned lands surrounding

Hobsons Lake and Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lake Wilderness area.

Information gathered through this survey will be incorporated into a report to Regional Council.

Visit Halifax.ca/westbedfordtrailhead to learn more.

STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY

ANNUAL STATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY
FREE VIRTUAL EVENT
FEBRUARY 11, 2021
12:00PM - 1:00PM
MAYOR MIKE SAVAGE
 HALIFAXCHAMBER.COM/EVENTS
 HALIFAX PARTNERSHIP RBC HALIFAX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

View the State of the Municipality event here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ZsnOFGJ6oI>.

March 2021

NORDIC SKI YOUTH EQUIPMENT RENTALS



Halifax [Nordic Ski Club](#)'s (HNSC) focus has been to facilitate the seasonal rentals of youth gear to help families with the cost of rapidly growing children requiring different size gear every year. Priority is given to youth registered in club programming. Rentals take place in the fall.

Youths, aged 5 to 16 years registered in a learn to Cross Country ski program, can rent skis, boots and poles for the season. Equipment is returned the following season.

HNSC is a 100% volunteer community organization of over 600 Nordic skiers who enjoy Cross-Country Skiing in the Halifax and Hants regions.

Get membership information [here](#).



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FUTURE OFF-LEASH DOG AREA SURVEY



The municipality invites you to participate in a survey exploring future possibilities for a dog off-leash area in the vicinity of the Governor’s Brook subdivision in Spryfield. Feedback from the survey will help inform a recommendation report returning to Regional Council.

An [assessment was completed](#) to review five parks in the vicinity of the subdivision for their suitability for a dog off-leash area. The two areas being considered are the community trail in MacIntosh Run Regional Park and the Roaches Pond Ball Diamond Park.

For more information and to take the survey, visit [Shape Your City Halifax](#).

Deadline to complete the survey is March 7th.



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If you choose not to find joy in the snow, you will have less joy in your life but still the same amount of snow.





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PROACTIVE TREE PRUNING

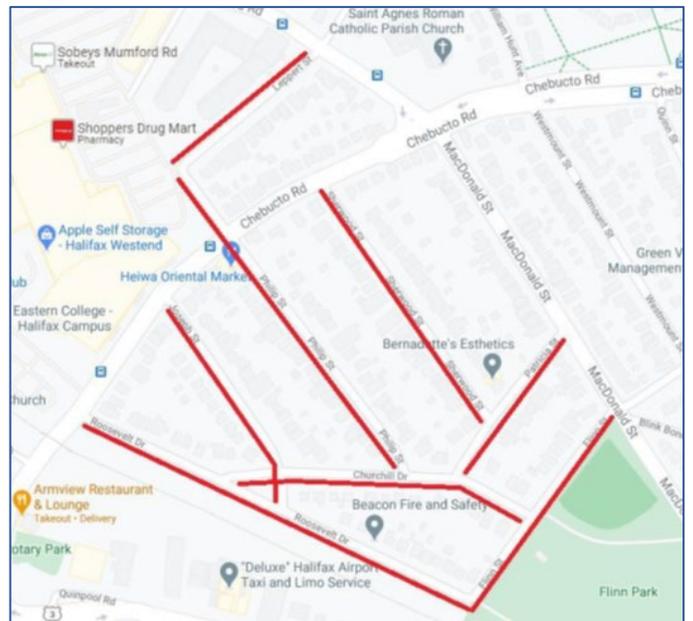
Chebucto Road and Larry O'Connell Park area:

Chebucto Road from Newton Avenue to MacDonald Street to Quinpool Road.



Chebucto Road to Flinn Street:

Chebucto Road from Roosevelt Drive to Sherwood Street to Flinn Street and also Leppert Street.



HRM's [Urban Forest Master Plan](#) (UFMP) outlines the value in being proactive with street tree pruning activities. Damage to street trees – as well as nearby utility lines – can be avoided with more regular cycles of tree pruning, rather than simply reacting on an “as needed” basis whenever there is a problem. Regular pruning can also extend the life, and improve the canopy, of street trees.

Two areas in District 9, as outlined on the maps below, are underway with an expected completion date of March 31st.



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During pruning, there may be temporary lane closures and no-parking signs in place:

- Pedestrians may also experience delays due to temporary sidewalk closures.
- Motorists are reminded to reduce speed when entering the work area.
- Drivers are encouraged to use alternative routes due to the potential for delays.
- Tree concerns around pruning should be directed to our 311 call agents.
- Pruning should not exceed one week in duration for any one street listed below.
- Additional one-off pruning will occur throughout this period.

For more information about the UFMP please visit our website at: <https://www.halifax.ca/trees>.

2021 MASTER COMPOSTER RECYCLER PROGRAM



DIVERSITY IN HALIFAX



The Halifax Partnership recently posted an article outlining Halifax as the multicultural hub of Atlantic Canada. *"Halifax had the third fastest population growth in 2019, and the second-fastest in 2020 across all cities in Canada. The largest component of growth in both years was international migration."*

Read the full article [here](#).

Registration for the Spring 2021 Master Composter Recycler program is now open.

The [Master Composter Recycler](#) (MCR) program is a free, six-week education program that provides training sessions and virtual facility tours for residents to become more knowledgeable on waste management in the Halifax region. Participants will also learn how to reduce waste through backyard composting and other at-home solutions.

This virtual program is open to all residents interested in becoming waste champions within their families, communities and work places.

For more information, [visit the website](#).



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INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION - MARCH 21ST

WINTER MAINTENANCE FOR WALKING PATHS IN REGIONAL PARKS



United Nations

The United Nations recognizes the International Day for the

Elimination of Racial Discrimination on March 21st.

This year focuses on the midterm review of the [International Decade for People of African Descent](#) undertaken by the Human Rights Council in Geneva as part of its 43rd session.

The United Nations General Assembly reiterates that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and have the potential to contribute constructively to the development and well-being of their societies.



On February 25th, the Transportation Standing Committee approved a motion to go forward for Regional Council's consideration regarding [winter maintenance of walking paths in regional parks](#), such as Sir Sandford Fleming Park.

The expectation of HRM residents to have access to parks and recreational spaces year-round continues to grow, especially as weather patterns change resulting in more temperate weather through the winter months. Currently, most park spaces are accessible to residents throughout spring, summer and fall. While there are several parks with pathways cleared for winter activities, not all regional parks have snow clearing with designated priorities and council approved standards.

Both Parks and Road Operations employees are involved in the Transportation and Public Works (TPW) Winter Operations program that runs from the third Sunday in November to the first Friday the following April. As a result, approximately 80% of Parks staff transition to TPW during snow events.





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Staff have advised that the seawall pathway in Sir Sandford Fleming Park could be added to the regional park areas in 2021/22 for winter maintenance. This pathway is of an adequate width for equipment with asphalt surfacing.

There are minimal financial implications associated as the equipment costs (\$10,000 - \$20,000) could be absorbed by the Parks Operations budget (W705). The TPW operating budget would be impacted by the additional Parks staff exemption, requiring replacement seasonal staff estimated at \$50,000, which would be brought forward for consideration in the 2022/23 operating budget.

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I am a member of Halifax Regional Council, Halifax and West Community Council, Regional Centre Community Council and the following boards and committees:

- Audit and Finance Standing Committee
- Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee (Chair)
- Halifax Chain of Lakes Trails Association

