



COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD
DISTRICT 12 ONLINE NEWS
TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD



WELCOME DECEMBER!



Happy Hanukkah!
 Merry Christmas!
 Happy Kwanzaa!
 Happy New Year!
 As we bring another year to a close, I wish you and yours the happiest of New Years with health and happiness always!

The Otter Lake Survey closes on December 3rd – please get your comments in – we need to hear from you on this important issue. Keep reading for important updates on municipal programs and services as well as a new Senior’s Care Grant from the province of Nova Scotia.

To discuss municipal programs or services, you can reach me at **902.240.7926** or email Iona.Stoddard@halifax.ca.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME DECEMBER! 1
TABLE OF CONTENTS..... 1
HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL, AND HALIFAX & WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL..... 2
HALIFAX & WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES..... 2
OTTER LAKE – SURVEY DEADLINE DECEMBER 3RD 2
PARK WEST SCHOOL – UPDATE 3
WINTER RECREATION REGISTRATION 3
CROSSWALKS | SIGNALS..... 3
HELPING TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS IN HRM..... 4
SENIORS & PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM..... 5
SENIORS CARE GRANT 5
2022 VOLUNTEER AWARDS –DECEMBER 15 DEADLINE..... 6
THE HEAT FUND 6
FALL STREET LEAF CLEANUP PROGRAM 7
HOLIDAY SHOPPING SAFETY TIPS FROM HRP 7
2022/23 FISCAL FRAMEWORK..... 9
NEW YEAR’S EVE 9
NEW YEAR’S DAY LEVEE – CITY HALL 9
IN THE COMMUNITY..... 10
COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD..... 10



COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD

TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL, AND HALIFAX & WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meetings of Halifax Regional Council, and Halifax & West Community Council will take place on the following dates:

Budget Committee:

Tuesday, December 7th at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, December 14th at 10:00 a.m.

Regional Council:

Tuesday, December 7th **Following Budget**

Tuesday, December 14th **Following Budget**

Halifax & West Community Council:

Wednesday, December 15th at 6:00 p.m.

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

HALIFAX & WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES

At the November 16th meeting of the Halifax & West Community Council, consideration was given to the following:

[Case 22879: Amending Development Agreement for Lovett Lake Estates, Beechville](#)

Notice of Motion given for the inclusion of additional lands (Phase 3) within the Lovett Lake Estates residential development in Beechville and **public hearing scheduled for December 15th.**

For more information on the Halifax & West Community Council or to view the full meeting agenda/video, click [here](#).

OTTER LAKE – SURVEY DEADLINE DECEMBER 3^{R D}



I encourage you to participate in the public consultation process on the Otter Lake FEP & WSF that **ends on December 3, 2021**. Your feedback is important!

TAKE THE SURVEY [HERE](#).

The Otter Lake Waste Processing & Disposal Facility (Otter Lake) was commissioned in 1999 and included the Front End Processor (FEP) and Waste Stabilization Facility (WSF). The FEP consists of mechanical equipment that processes bagged garbage. The main function is to separate organics containing waste such as food waste and to send this material to the WSF for biostabilization (treatment similar to composting) prior to landfilling to mitigate landfill nuisance factors such as odours and attraction of birds.



COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD

TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

On July 20, 2021 Regional Council accepted staff recommendations, including to submit an application to Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change to deactivate the Front-End Processor (FEP) and Waste Stabilization Facility (WSF). View the staff report [here](#).

Take the survey or provide your feedback:

By email: otterlake@halifax.ca

By mail:

Solid Waste Resources

PO Box 1749, Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

PARK WEST SCHOOL – UPDATE



The staff report regarding the potential sale of municipal parkland as the site for the proposed new Park West school will be at Regional Council on Tuesday, December 7th.

WINTER RECREATION REGISTRATION



Winter registration for all ages will begin at 10 a.m. on each of the following days:

- December 1st - Winter Dryland Registration
- December 9th - Winter Aquatic & Skating Registration

NOTE: Registration times for the Canada Games Centre, Cole Harbour Place, Zatzman Sportsplex and St. Margaret's Centre take place at different dates and times. Please visit their websites directly for their registration information.

Go to Halifax.ca/myREC to register.

The Recreation Funding Access Program is now part of the combined Affordable Access Program. [Learn more here.](#)

CROSSWALKS | SIGNALS

St. Margaret's Bay Road at Brentwood Avenue

I am thrilled to share that HRM's Senior Traffic Operations Engineer has advised that the



COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD

TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

crosswalk on St. Margaret's Bay Road at Brentwood Avenue is on the list to have Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) installed in the next few weeks.

If approved, I know this crossing will address the concerns of many residents.

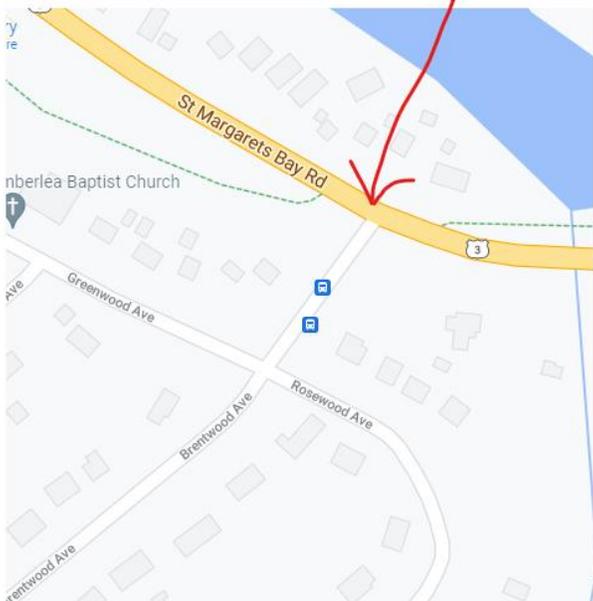
HELPING TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS IN HRM



Halifax Regional Municipality recognizes that all residents deserve a home and has adopted an [empathy-based approach](#) to homelessness and homeless encampments that recognizes the human dignity of people experiencing homelessness.

As housing insecurity continues to be an issue in the region, work with community partners and other levels of government has significantly accelerated, and collaboration has expanded to help address both [affordable housing](#) and homelessness.

On November 9, 2021, Regional Council approved allocating \$3.2 million dollars towards the purchase, installation and maintenance of modular units, at two sites, to accommodate unhoused individuals in our region. This is in addition to the \$500,000 approved by Regional Council for emergency accommodations during the August 31 meeting.



Proposed Crosswalk - Washmill Lake Drive / Grand Haven Boulevard



Residents of Clayton Park West, I have received some good traffic news for you too!

HRM's Traffic Analyst has advised that there will be a proposal in the upcoming budget for a

RA-5 crosswalk with overhead flashing lights to be installed at Washmill Lake Drive and Grand Haven Boulevard pending budget approval in spring of 2022.



COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD

TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

Going forward, updates will continue to be posted regularly until these emergency accommodation sites (modular units) have been installed by the municipality at the Dartmouth and Halifax sites, and the Province of Nova Scotia has begun to place individuals at the sites and provide wrap-around services:

<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/helping-address-homelessness/recent-ongoing-efforts>

Here is the update for this week (posted November 16th):

https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/about-the-city/regional-community-planning/Nov_16_Update_EmergencyAccommodations_forNov8-14.pdf

These updates are part of HRM’s ongoing efforts to ensure the latest information is shared with residents to keep you informed.

SENIORS & PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM



Removing snow around your property can be a challenging – or even impossible – task for many people. There is help available: the

DECEMBER 2021

Halifax Regional Municipality provides an annual contribution of \$400,000 in support of the YMCA for its Snow Removal Program for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities.

Program eligibility:

- Seniors (65 years of age or older) and persons with disabilities in HRM
- Residential properties only – commercial properties are ineligible
- Participants must reside in a single dwelling home which is owned or rented
- The total gross household income of all people living on premises must not exceed \$32,000
- The program is NOT available to landlords

The program does **NOT** apply to driveway clearing, but helps clear snow from steps and walkways, including:

- Front and back steps
- Walkways
- Ramps
- Access to fuel tanks

The program operates on a first-come, first-served basis as the funding allows the YMCA to serve about 450 households.

To find out more about this program and to apply, please call the YMCA at 902.483.3678 or visit the YMCA online:

<https://ymcahfx.ca/community-initiatives/ymca-senior-snow-removal/>

SENIORS CARE GRANT

Beginning Wednesday, December 1st, 2021, Service Nova Scotia & Internal Services will deliver a new grant program on behalf of the



COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD

TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

Department of Seniors and Long-term Care.

The Seniors Care Grant will be an annual reimbursement program of up to \$500 to help cover the costs of household services. It can be used to reimburse costs for such things as snow removal, home repairs, lawn care, grocery delivery, and more. It is available to homeowners and renters.

The applicant must meet the following criteria to be eligible for the program:

- They must still reside in their home
- The property or lease agreement must be in their name or include their name
- They are 65 years of age or over
- They have an annual household net income of \$37,500 or less

Applicants can submit online at www.novascotia.ca/seniorscaregrant or by paper. Paper applications will be available at MLA offices as well as Access Nova Scotia Offices starting on December 1st.

Applicants have until May 31, 2022, to apply for the grant. For more information please visit www.novascotia.ca/seniorscaregrant or call 1.800.670.4357.

2022 VOLUNTEER AWARDS – DECEMBER 15 DEADLINE



Do you know an outstanding volunteer who gives back to your community? The deadline to nominate an adult, youth, or

group for the 2022 Volunteer Awards is Wednesday, December 15, 2021. Successful

DECEMBER 2021

nominees will be invited to attend a ceremony and reception in the spring to receive their award with the Mayor and members of Regional Council.

To find out more information about the awards, nomination criteria and to nominate someone in your community, go to: www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/volunteering/volunteer-awards

THE HEAT FUND



Helping Nova Scotians in need with home heating costs.

The Home Energy Assistance Top-Up (HEAT) Fund provides up to \$400 for these income thresholds:

- \$29,000 for a 1-person household
- \$47,703 for a 2-4 person household
- \$67,937 for households with 5+ people

Apply **online** or by **phone**:

www.SalvationArmy.ca/Maritime/Heat
902-422-3435

The Fund is proudly administered by The Salvation Army.

The Home Energy Assistance Top-up (HEAT) Fund supports Nova Scotians in need with home heating cost during the winter months.

The deadline for all 2021 applications has been extended indefinitely, meaning those who received funds in 2020, may also apply in 2021. The HEAT Fund offers a maximum assistance in the amount of \$400 for individuals and families.

You can download an application here: <https://salvationarmy.ca/maritime/home/programs/heat/>



COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD

TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

FALL STREET LEAF CLEANUP PROGRAM



We encourage you to help keep the streets, sidewalks and public walkways clear of fallen leaves.

The annual Fall Street

Leaf Cleanup Program begins Monday, November 22nd and concludes on Sunday, December 12th. Crews will begin collecting and removing leaves from streets in the heavily-treed areas of the Halifax peninsula first, and then in other areas of the urban core as required. Please note that this service is scheduled to happen only once on a street-by-street basis; however, crews may return to address areas that were not initially accessible as a result of parked vehicles or other barriers.

The municipality is asking for the cooperation of residents to efficiently complete this program. Temporary 'No Parking' signs will be posted in neighbourhoods prior to cleanup in that area. **In order to facilitate proper cleanup, residents**



are asked to abide by posted signage and not park on the street.

The potential for street flooding increases greatly when catch basins are clogged with

debris. Residents are also asked to respect municipal by-laws which prohibit the sweeping or depositing of leaves along the gutter of the street or in the roadway.

Cleanup on private property is the responsibility of the property owner. Leaves and yard waste are collected on regular green cart (organics) collection weeks. This waste is permitted in the green cart and any excess must be placed in large paper bags. Roll the tops of the bags closed to keep out rain and moisture. Store bags in a cool, dry area until collection day.

Each household can place a maximum of 20 bags at the curb on the designated collection day. Each bag can weigh no more than 55 pounds. Residents are reminded that grass clippings are not accepted in the green bin or bags. For tips on grasscycling, visit halifax.ca/grasscycling.

For details on the scheduled cleanup for neighbourhoods on the Halifax peninsula, visit halifax.ca/fallcleanup.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING SAFETY TIPS FROM HRP



Holiday shopping season is in full swing. Whether you're going to stores or shopping online, Halifax Regional Police have a

few simple tips for you to keep the bah-humbug away from your holiday purchases.

Online shopping



COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD

TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

- It is best to shop from your personal device at home on a trusted network.
- Consider using different user ID and passwords for different accounts and updating your passwords frequently.
- Verify secure connections and make sure you are on a secure website. Look for the padlock icon in the address bar and check for the valid certificate by clicking on the padlock icon.



- Unlike secure order forms on a websites, email and text messages are not private. Don't send confidential personal or financial information by email or text.
- Be cautious if an online deal looks too good to be true then it probably is.
- Watch out for email scams. Be wary of clicking on links in an email message, even if the deal seems great.
- After making purchases it can be helpful to keep the receipt, confirmation number and postal tracking numbers in a safe accessible place.
- If you are at an online store that you are unfamiliar with, read and understand the online shop's policies. It's always a good idea to check a site's reviews before making a purchase.

In-store shopping

- When shopping in-person, make sure you are up to date on COVID-19 provincial directives by visiting: <https://novascotia.ca/reopening-plan/phase-five/>

- We encourage you to lock your vehicle and park in well-lit and busy areas if they are available.
- Would be thieves will look for shoppers storing valuables in their vehicles. If you're going to drop off your purchases and return to the stores, consider locking your packages in the trunk and move your vehicle to another location in the parking lot.
- Thieves sometimes watch shoppers exiting a store. You may want to shop strategically; wait until the end of your shopping trip to make high-end purchases or make a special trip to take high-end items home and then return to continue shopping.
- Protect your PIN when using bank and debit machines. Cover the keypad to prevent someone from observing your key strokes or from recording your PIN. It's a good idea to change your PIN frequently.
- After a day of shopping, we recommend removing parcels and valuables and locking the vehicle upon returning home. Even an empty shopping bag can create the appearance that there's something in your car worth stealing.

No matter whether your shop in-person or online, we encourage you to monitor your bank and credit card statements closely and immediately report any discrepancies to your bank or to the company that issued the credit card.



COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD

TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

2022/23 FISCAL FRAMEWORK

The Fiscal Framework is presented annually to Regional Council with recommendations for tax modifications to accommodate changing operational costs, capital investments, as well as debt and reserve changes including funding for current and new strategic initiatives. The Framework sets the broad, opening strategy for developing the initial municipal budget.

Detailed discussions, along with public input, will begin in February 2022. This will provide appropriate time for Regional Council to debate and adjust the budget over the coming months, with the final budget expected to be completed April 12, 2022.

The November 23rd [report to Council](#) sought direction regarding the development of the 2022/23 municipal budget. This includes a recommendation to increase the average property tax bill for residential and commercial properties by 2.9 per cent. Additionally, a 3.0 per cent increase is being recommended as part of a new dedicated Climate Action Tax. If approved, the average property tax bill would increase by a total of 5.9 per cent.

When considering the average residential property tax bill (home assessment of \$262,700), initial calculations indicate that the impact of the 2.9 per cent increase would be \$58, and the 3.0 per cent Climate Action Tax would be \$63, for a total of \$121 annually. For the average business (commercial assessment of \$1,456,100), the impact of the 2.9 per cent increase is \$1,258 and the Climate Action Tax is \$1,296, for a total of \$2,554 annually.

The 2.9 per cent increase supports the redevelopment of the Halifax Forum, the Windsor Street Exchange project, the Mill Cove Ferry and 13 multi-modal transportation corridors, including the Bedford Highway enhancements designed to respond to known growth pressures.

NEW YEAR'S EVE



Stay tuned for more details on HRM's New Year's Eve **FREE** event to be held in

the Grand Parade on Friday, December 31st from 11:00 p.m. to midnight!

HRM's Civic Events web page will be updated with more detail in the coming weeks:

<https://www.halifax.ca/parks-recreation/events/new-years-eve> .

Proof of vaccination will be required.

NEW YEAR'S DAY LEEVE - CITY HALL



Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 limitations on social gatherings, there will **not** be a New Year's Day

Levee at City Hall this January 1st.



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 TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

IN THE COMMUNITY

COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD



Had a great time at the Christmas Tree Lighting Event at the Grand Parade with Deputy Mayor Pam Lovelace and Councillor Tony Mancini.



COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD
 DISTRICT 12
 Timberlea - Beechville - Clayton Park - Wedgewood
 Cell: 902.240.7926
 Fax: 902.490.4122
 Iona.Stoddard@halifax.ca

Halifax Regional Municipality
 PO Box 1749
 Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

HALIFAX

halifax.ca

311

I currently serve on the following boards and committees along with Regional Council and the Halifax & West Community Council:

- Appeals Standing Committee
- Transportation Standing Committee
- Community Design Advisory Committee
- Heritage Advisory Committee
- Community Monitoring Committee
- Women's Advisory Committee



**What the new year
 brings to you will
 depend a great
 deal on what you
 bring to the new year.**

VERN MCLELLAN