



COUNCILLOR BECKY KENT
DISTRICT 3 ONLINE NEWS
DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

MESSAGE FROM BECKY

Hello District 3 Residents,

The holiday season is upon us and many of us are busy preparing for family and friends. While we do this, I ask you to remember that there are many families and people in our area who are not as fortunate. Some are living rough, some struggle with bills and putting food on the table. Others struggle with loneliness, mental health, or physical health challenges. All of these can often be amplified during the holidays. If you know of someone who needs a helping hand, please reach out to me, or better yet, reach out to our many service clubs, churches, and kind people in our community. We are all here to help where we can.

I am thrilled to share that the Eastern Passage Parade of Lights will be taking place this Sunday, December 5th at 6:00pm. Come on out and enjoy the show!

As always, feel free to reach out to me with your municipal concerns or questions. I am always happy to hear from you.

From my family to yours, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season. Stay well and be safe.

Warmly,

The Halifax Regional Municipality is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people. The municipality acknowledges the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed in this Territory and recognizes that we are all Treaty People.





TAKE TIME TO RECOGNIZE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

I look forward to recognizing and celebrating the International Day of People with Disabilities (IDPWD) on December 3. The IDPWD flag will be raised in recognition of the day at City Hall.

This day aims to raise awareness and mobilize support for the dignity, rights, and well-being of persons with disabilities. This year's theme is Fighting for rights in the post-COVID era.

HRM is committed to improving accessibility across the region and in its programs and services. In support of these efforts, the municipality's Office of Diversity & Inclusion/ANSAIO has developed a fulsome Accessibility Strategy, which was unanimously approved by Regional Council in May this year.

Learn more about the municipality's dedication to advancing access and inclusion in our community:

<https://www.halifax.ca/home/terms/accessibility>

For more information about the International Day of People with Disabilities, visit www.idpwd.org

We all play a part in shaping an integrated, accessible future.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

UPDATE ON EASTERN PASSAGE SKATEPARK COMMITTEE

I am working with community volunteers who have an interest in contributing to plans for the replacement of the skate park on the Eastern Passage Commons. The approved masterplan identifies the skate park be replaced and relocated. We have had several meetings to date and will be bringing local fundraising elements and details forward for consultation over the coming months. If you are interested in being part of this effort, please reach out to me for more information.

HONOURING OUR VETERANS

I was pleased to take part in the Remembrance Day assembly at Island View High School on November 10th.





2022 VOLUNTEER AWARD NOMINATIONS

Nominate an outstanding volunteer for the 2022 Volunteer Awards



Do you know an outstanding volunteer who gives back to your community? You can nominate an adult, youth, or group for the 2022 HRM Volunteer Awards until December 15, 2021. [Nomination forms](#) are available now.

HRM honours our community volunteers every spring during National Volunteer Week. Successful nominees will be invited to attend a ceremony and reception to receive their award with the Mayor and members of Regional Council.

SHAPE YOUR CITY: SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON SHORT-TERM RENTALS

Share your thoughts on proposed regulations for Short-Term Rentals (like Airbnb or VRBO) in the municipality by filling out a survey.



The survey will be available until December 17. Click [here](#) to learn about the project and take the survey.

SQUARE ROOTS

I spent a wonderful evening volunteering with Councillor Mancini, preparing bags of fresh produce for those in need through the Square Roots program. For more information on this initiative, please visit the Square Roots [Facebook page](#).



STATION 16 VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

I met with Station 16 Volunteer Captain, Shelby Lendrum recently to hear about the program and volunteers who support our fire services in District 3. Shelby is a dynamic and passionate leader who takes her role and commitment very seriously. I am inspired by her energy and dedication to the team that she leads. Our community is stronger and safer because of our firefighting personnel and I thank them all for it. I have heard about the challenges that they have at the station and we are working together to make positive change. Stay tuned for updates in future editions. My husband and I are happy, on a personal level, to help transport the Christmas trees this year (through Jesse James Trucking) to the station. Glad we could help.



COUNCILLOR BECKY KENT

DARTMOUTH SOUTH - EASTERN PASSAGE

JUST FOOD ACTION PLAN SURVEY



HRM and the Halifax Food Policy Alliance have teamed up to develop JustFOOD: an action plan for the Halifax region, working towards a more healthy, just, and sustainable food system built on existing strengths and community wisdom.

They are seeking input from community members to help shape actions for positive change in the food system! I encourage you to head over to the [website](#) to have your say by completing their Action Survey.

EMERGENCY ACCOMODATIONS UPDATE



Updates are currently issued on a weekly basis to provide progress reports on efforts to establish emergency accommodations sites in Dartmouth and Halifax. These updates are part of HRM's ongoing efforts to ensure you are informed with the most up-to-date information.

The update from November 23rd can be found [here](#).

These updates will be provided until modular units have been installed at both sites by the municipality and the Province of Nova Scotia has begun to place individuals at the sites and provide wrap around services. Depending upon the status of progress, frequency of updates may vary.

Winter Registration Dates
Dec 1 - Winter Dryland Registration
Dec 9 - Winter Aquatic & Skating Registration

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.



HRM'S ONGOING COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC DATA ACCESS

As part of Halifax Regional Municipality's commitment to improving citizen engagement and enhancing transparency and accountability to its residents, the municipality is pleased to provide public access to its data. [Open Data](#) is a permanent service provided to citizens and businesses to access data free of charge.

The Municipality recently released five new datasets:

- Bike Amenities;
- Cityworks Service Requests;
- Cityworks Service Requests Custom Fields;
- Road Safety Countermeasures Tracking; and,
- Traffic Calming Infrastructure.

The addition of these five sets brings the total number of open data datasets to 165. Additionally, other datasets have been updated, including building permits from the new permitting & licensing application, construction permits from the new permitting & licensing application, and HRM Tax Rates – adding in new rates for 2021 (this dataset is updated annually).

A wide range of data can be sourced for free through the catalogue, including transit routes and schedule data, solid waste collection schedules, and area rates. New data releases occur several times throughout the year.

The Open Data initiative was launched in early 2014 to help improve resident engagement and enhance transparency on municipal data. The program was formalized by Regional Council later that year through the adoption of [Administrative Order 2014-006-ADM Respecting Open Data](#).

HALIFAX AND THE YMCA: WORKING TO KEEP YOU SAFE THIS WINTER



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

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

To find out more about this program and to apply, please call the YMCA at 902.483.3678 or visit the YMCA [online](#).



SOLUTIONS LEARNING CENTRE

Solutions Learning Centre is a FREE Employment Training Centre located at 15 Poseidon Court, Dartmouth. Running for 26 weeks (4 assessment, 12 skills training, 10 work placement), our three programs: Food Service, Commercial Cleaning and Computer Skills provide entry level access to the work force. Participants gain experience in resume writing, interview skills, personal development, and essential skills setting them up for success in their future employment. Courses start every 4-6 weeks. Call 902 468 1320 or visit www.sollic.ca and contact us to get you started.



MY ROAD HAS GOTTEN NARROWER-WHY?



Q: I've noticed some streets around the municipality are narrower than they once were. Why is this done?

A: Engineering improvements like street narrowing are part of the municipality's ongoing initiatives to improve road safety. Traffic calming helps make neighbourhoods safer for non-drivers:

- Curb extensions and/or raised medians narrow the road width. This reduces vehicle speeds by making the road feel more constrained, making it safer for people to walk, roll, and cycle in their community.
- Curb extensions, located at intersections, reduce the crossing distance for pedestrians and increase mutual visibility between pedestrians and motorists. These modified roadways are designed to have minimal impact on resident access, buses, emergency vehicles and maintenance vehicles, and are designed to accommodate turning movements for larger vehicles.
- I am aware that while these changes are intended to improve overall safety, cyclists can sometimes feel squeezed on these narrower sections. While these measures slow down motorists, I urge users of the road to respect each other - and the rules of the road.



Citizens on Patrol Meeting

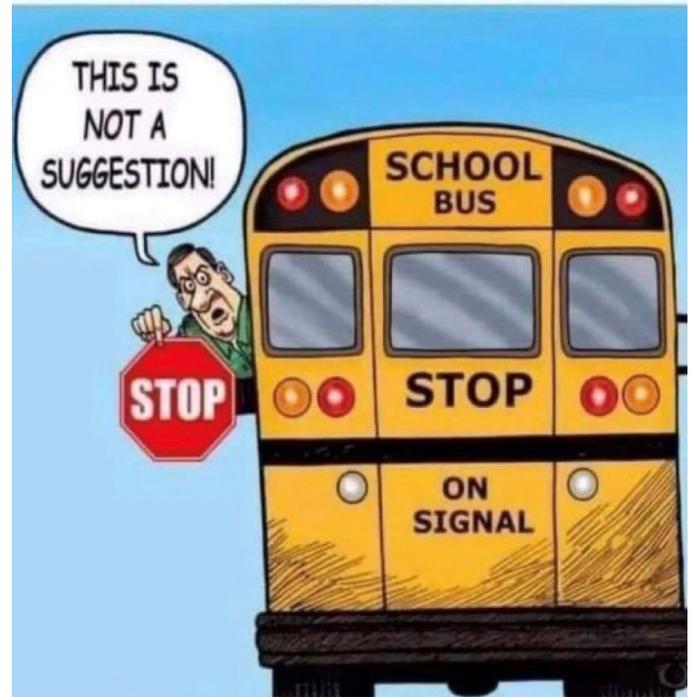


UPCOMING REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

There are two Regional Council meetings scheduled for December:

- Tuesday, December 7 at 10am
- Tuesday, December 14 at 10am

We have now resumed in-person Regional Council meetings – it’s great to be there in Council Chambers with my colleagues. Meetings are also broadcast live on Eastlink Community TV and [online](#).



RCMP Road Safety Stats
October 2021 - District 3
Dartmouth South-Eastern Passage

378 calls for service in October
Up 68.75% vs. Oct, 2020

22 Summary Offence Tickets (vs. 17 in Oct, 2020)
• 7 aggressive driving, 1 cellphone, 11 other MVA (i.e. no registration, backing up when unsafe, etc.), 1 stunting, 2 speeding

155 Proactive Assignments (vs. 33 in Oct, 2020)

44 Cellphone/impaired/Seatbelt/Speeding checkpoints

65 Traffic Stops (vs. 37 in Oct, 2020)

3 Impaired Driving Charges (vs. 2 in Oct, 2020),
0 Impaired Suspensions (same as Oct, 2020)

6 Motor Vehicle Accidents (same as Oct, 2020)
• Of these, 2 resulted in injuries and 1 resulted in a fatality

PLEASE DRIVE SAFELY

COMMUNITY GRANTS

HRM’s Community Grams Program offers funding for community projects led by registered, non-profit organizations and charities throughout the Halifax region. There are project grants of up to \$5,000 and capital grants of up to \$25,000.

While you cannot apply yet for 2022, you can contact the Grants office for general inquiries at this time: NonProfitGrants@halifax.ca. Applications will be accepted starting in January and up until March 31, 2022.

A wide variety of projects are eligible for the grants such as publishing maps or guidebooks, creating interpretive panels, buying safety equipment, or renovating a building for community use.



COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEDULE AND AGENDA

The Harbour East – Marine Drive Community Council normally meets on the first Thursday of each month, at 6:00 p.m. in the HEMDCC Meeting Space, Main Floor Alderney Gate, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth. Please be advised that the Community Council meeting taking place on December 2nd will be held in-person, at the Mic Mac Amateur Aquatic Club, 192 Prince Albert Road, Dartmouth. Meeting dates, time and location are subject to change. You can find agendas, report, and minutes [online](#).

CONTACT

Should you wish to discuss municipal services or programs, please contact me at **becky.kent@halifax.ca** or **902-478-5368**. For routine municipal matters, please call our Citizen Contact Centre at 311. To reach my office, please call Emily Smith at **902-490-7177**.

To sign up for my monthly E-Newsletter, please e-mail Emily at smithem@halifax.ca. For information on all things municipal, please visit our [website](#).

