



WELCOME JANUARY!

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A new year is upon us as we continue to live with COVID-19 and its variants, Delta and Omicron. The good news is that the overwhelming majority of Haligonians are doing our part to ensure we are protected, and protecting others by masking, social distancing, handwashing, sanitizing, and getting vaccinated. I know many of us are having a tough time but I found encouragement in a Henry Ford quote recently: *“When it feels like everything is against you, remember that when an airplane takes off, it takes off against the wind, not with it.”* While it seems our takeoff has been bumpy, we are airborne. Soon, we’ll be flying to a better future. Our job is to make sure that the future is more fair, more sustainable, and brighter for everyone.

Keep reading for the latest updates on municipal programs and services, especially Halifax Transit service updates and the opening of the HRM Community Grant Program.

Questions about a municipal program or service? Contact me at Shawn.Cleary@halifax.ca or call 902.579.6746.

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JANUARY MEETINGS

Regional Council, Budget Committee, Halifax & West Community Council and Regional Centre



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Community Council meetings will be held virtually on the following dates:

Regional Council:

Tuesday, January 11th at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, January 25th at 10:00 a.m.

Budget Committee:

Friday, January 28th at 9:30 a.m.

Halifax & West Community Council:

Wednesday, January 18th at 6:00 p.m.

Regional Centre Community Council:

Wednesday, January 26th at 6:00 p.m. (if required)

Please check our [website](#) to confirm dates and times as the meeting schedule is subject to change.

DID YOU KNOW....

January 4th is World Braille Day.

Proclaimed by the United Nations in 2019, World Braille Day is an internationally celebrated day to raise awareness of the importance of braille as a means of communication. Braille started as a military code developed in 1819 by the French army as a tool for communicating at night. Louis Braille learned the code and improved it, leading to the modern version of braille used today.

January 25th is Robbie Burns Night

Burn's Night commemorates the birthday and life of one of Scotland's national poets, Robert Burns. Robert Burns was born 25 January 1759 in Alloway, Scotland. He found major success at 27 with poems that focused on aspects of farm life, regional experience, traditional culture, class culture, and

religious practice. This holiday is recognized by the Scottish Parliament as a key cultural event.

January 27th is International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust

Holocaust Memorial Day commemorates the millions of Jews and minority groups killed during the 1930s and 1940s. An estimated 11 million lives lost. January 27, the remembrance date, is the date that Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest and most infamous Nazi extermination camp in Poland, was liberated in 1945.

SPEED LIMIT REDUCTIONS FOR WEST END HALIFAX



Speed limits will be reduced from 50 km/h to 40 km/h in the residential streets bound by Bayers Road, Windsor Street, Chebucto Road and Connaught Avenue in the west end of Halifax.

The impacted streets are:

- Young Street, from Connaught to Windsor streets
- Cork Street



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- Liverpool Street
- London Street
- Edinburgh Street
- Berlin Street
- Vienna Street
- Summit Street
- Seaforth Street
- Swain Street
- Deacon Street
- Windcrest Terrace
- Willow Street, from Windsor Street to Oxford School
- Dublin Street
- Connolly Street, from Bayers to Chebucto roads

All streets with reduced speeds are inside the highlighted area of the above map.

Crews began work in mid-December on this initiative which reflects Council's focus on making communities safer by reducing speeding in residential neighbourhoods and is part of the [municipality's road safety actions](#) to move toward zero fatalities and injuries for people using any mode of transportation.

The Province of Nova Scotia legislates speed limits on public roadways – via the *Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act* (MVA) which provides for a default speed limit of 50 km/h. The MVA allows for the municipality to request posted speed limits below 50 km/h if accompanied by necessary documentation including current operating speeds and roadway characteristics.

The speed limit reduction in these areas is being implemented following provincial approval based

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on available data and an assessment of roadway characteristics that meet their qualifications. Municipal staff continue to assess other neighbourhoods for possible speed reduction implementation in the future. Once identified, applications to the province will be submitted for consideration.

ICE SAFETY



The municipality's ice thickness testing program has not begun for the 2021/22 winter season as it is not yet safe for staff to be on the ice. Each year the municipality [provides weekly reports on ice thickness testing](#) undertaken on more than 70 lakes throughout the region. This testing will resume when conditions allow.

Residents are asked to take safety precautions for themselves and their families by avoiding any recreation activities on frozen lakes and ponds, including walking, ice fishing, snowmobiling, and skating until ice thickness testing resumes.



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The [Canadian Red Cross](#) recommends that ice be at least 15 centimeters thick for individual skating, and at least 20 centimeters thick for group skating.

Extreme caution is advised in areas where streams flow into and out of lakes. It is also important to note that ice conditions may vary over the entire surface of lakes and are subject to change with weather conditions.

HALIFAX TRANSIT SERVICE DISRUPTIONS

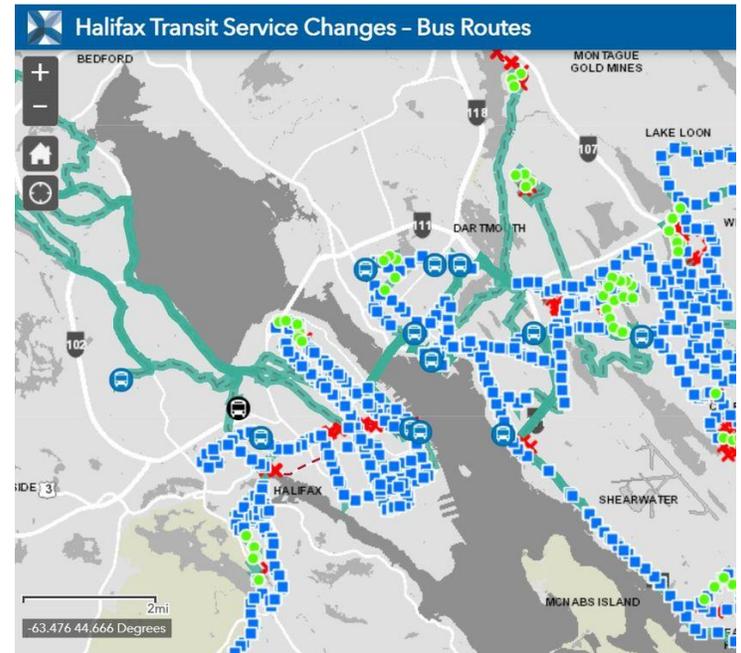


These [service disruptions](#) are being implemented due to resourcing

challenges resulting from mounting positive COVID-19 cases amongst Halifax Transit staff, employee exposures, provincially mandated self-isolation and testing requirements, and general absenteeism.

We have been working diligently to minimize service loss and to provide as much notice as possible to passengers. Due to fluidity in the number of Operators available for work, this has been an ever-changing situation for passengers. Based on current staffing levels, Halifax Transit is pre-emptively cancelling a number of trips starting Thursday December 30.

HALIFAX TRANSIT INTERACTIVE ROUTE MAP



Explore the interactive transit service changes map to view new or discontinued routes and bus stops in your area: Halifax.ca/servicechanges.

SHORT TERM RENTAL (AIRBNB) PUBLIC SURVEY

The public survey on Short-Term Rentals is open until January 31, 2022. [Take Survey](#)

Short-Term Rentals (STRs) are temporary overnight accommodations rented out for a few nights or weeks at a time. In recent years, the prevalence and popularity of STRs has grown through online platforms like Airbnb, VRBO and HomeAway. While STRs provide a unique form of a tourist accommodation and can have benefits for the local



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economy, their recent popularity raises concerns about their impact on residential neighborhoods and the availability of properties for long-term rental.

On September 30, 2020 Regional Council directed staff to:

- Amend the Regional Plan and all applicable secondary municipality planning strategies and land use by-laws to establish consistent regional wide policies, definitions, and regulations for STRs in residential areas; and
- Develop STR registration requirements

This direction was in response to the September 2020 staff report, which provided a jurisdictional review of STR legislation throughout Canada and the USA, along with the results of the 2019 survey. The September 2020 staff report recommended that, in developing STR regulations, staff should consider the following:

- Require all STRs to register with the Municipality. This would include STRs that are located within the host's primary residence and STRs located in the hosts secondary residence (cottage) or income property(ies);
- Within residential zones/neighbourhoods, only permit STRs in the host's primary residences;
- Within neighbourhoods where hotels or other types of tourist accommodations are already permitted, allow commercial STRs; and
- Consider modified provisions for STRs in rural areas.

Should you have any questions regarding the content of the survey or wish to further discuss potential STR regulation, please contact Jamy-Ellen Klenavic at klenavj@halifax.ca.

hfxALERT EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS



hfxALERT is the new mass notification system for the municipality, keeping residents informed about emergencies and operations

updates. Residents who sign up for hfxALERT will receive urgent and non-urgent notifications from Halifax Regional Police, Halifax Fire & Emergency's Emergency Management Division, as well as municipal winter parking ban notices.

[Click here to sign up for notifications](#)
[Click here to download the mobile app](#)
[Click here to view the tutorial video](#)

ADDRESSING 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



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expanded to help address both [affordable housing](#) and homelessness.

Although the province of Nova Scotia has the mandate to provide public housing and programs for people with low to moderate incomes and maintain and build affordable housing, the municipality recognizes the urgent and serious challenges being faced by those experiencing homelessness. Treating people with dignity, while working to find ways to best support them within our capacity and scope as a municipality, is a top priority.

Residents with questions related to provincial supports and services for those experiencing homelessness can call 211 for more information.

Halifax Regional Municipality also has an important role to play – and is committed to applying resources to support efforts aimed at helping to address homelessness in the Halifax region. For more information on addressing homelessness in HRM, visit:

<http://halifax.ca/addressinghomelessness>.

OUTDOOR COMMUNITY RINK PROGRAM



build and operate a community rink on Municipal

The municipality has initiated an [Outdoor Community Rink Program](#) for interested organizations wishing to obtain permission to

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property. The Municipality will support up to **5 organizations** with insurance costs for approved community rinks on Municipal Property. **Community rinks not on Municipal property are excluded from the program.**

To apply for this season, please complete the [Outdoor Community Rink Program](#). You can also request an application and submit to **Darren Hirtle** at hirtled@halifax.ca.

Deadline for submission for the 2022 season is 4pm on January 6, 2022.

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.

HRM COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

HRM's Community Grants 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.

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Registration for the 2022 program begins in January and ends March 31st, 2022. Presently, our Grants Program staff are available to assist you with general inquiries at: NonProfitGrants@halifax.ca.

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.

How are the results used? The results of the survey guide strategic priority planning, and associated business planning and budgeting decisions. The survey results provide Regional Council and administration with valuable insight into what matters most to residents.

How can I access the results? The results are summarized here: <https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/document/s/city-hall/regional-council/211123rcio5.pdf>.

Summaries and graphs highlight feedback from residents on key issues ranging from quality of life, climate change response, the top issues that residents feel the municipality should invest in more over the next five years, and much more (these summaries begin on page 8 of the document).

What did residents say? Respondents were asked to name up to three issues facing the Halifax region over the next five years in which they feel the Municipality should invest greater resources. Compared to 2018, there were considerable increases in mentions related to two themes – housing (e.g., affordable housing, more housing, poverty/homelessness) and the environment (e.g., climate change, environment, renewable energy). In general, respondents seemed to be less focused on transportation-related themes, such as road conditions, transit, and transportation and traffic.

Get in touch with me anytime – I am listening! Outside of the Resident Survey, as your municipal representative I always hope to hear any sort of feedback from residents. Sharing your views with me on the work I am doing as your Councillor, and

2021 RESIDENT SURVEY RESULTS



What is the survey? The 2021 Resident Survey is the 10th survey HRM has conducted since

amalgamation in 1996. It's one of many public engagement tools the municipality uses to gather information from our diverse communities; it acts as a gauge of the satisfaction of residents and taxpayers with the services provided by their municipal government.

Who participates? HRM's civic address database was used to randomly select 20,000 single-family and multi-unit residential households across the municipality to receive an invitation to participate. To ensure fair and equitable representation, the distribution of invitations was based on the population in each district

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the job the municipality is doing overall is important to help make our community even better for everyone. Please get in touch with me at any time (Shawn.Cleary@halifax.ca) or you can also contact 311 with any questions or feedback on municipal services.

WINTER DRIVING TIPS



With winter weather arriving potentially any day, Halifax Regional Police is sharing some winter safety tips to help road users be winter ready.

Vehicle maintenance

- Plan ahead to ensure your vehicle is roadworthy. Check your safety inspection sticker and the tread on your tires. Keep a snowbrush or ice scraper in your vehicle and consider topping up your vehicle with extra windshield washer fluid. It's also a good idea to have a shovel and/or a bag of salt or sand in your vehicle in case you get stuck.

Driving safely for the road conditions

- Stay up to date with the weather conditions.
- Visibility is key. Before you hit the road, clear all snow from the roof, hood, license plate, windows, mirrors, lights, turn signals and cameras of your vehicle. Scrape/defrost your windshield if necessary.
- Be mindful that winter conditions create challenges for pedestrians who may need to walk in the roadway to avoid snow-covered or icy sidewalks.

- Never drive distracted. Keep your hands on the wheel and your eyes on the road. Watch for other road users, pedestrians and cyclists.
- Adjust your speed to the conditions. Leave extra space between you and the vehicle in front of you so that you can safely slow down and/or stop. Remember not to accelerate or brake too quickly when the roads are slippery.

Parking

- **Think before you park on the street.** When and where you park in the winter can have a big impact on clearing streets and sidewalks, which, in turn, can affect road safety. In Nova Scotia, vehicles can be towed at any time during the day or night on any day of the year if they are interfering with snow clearing operations, as per Section 139 of the Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act. In addition, the municipal overnight winter parking ban is in effect every year from Dec. 15 to March 31. It will be enforced only during declared weather events and ongoing clearing operations. When enforced, the parking ban is in effect from 1 a.m. until 6 a.m. [throughout the Regional Centre of the municipality](#). To learn more, visit: <https://www.halifax.ca/transportation/cycling-walking/service-updates/parking-ban>

To help make a responsible parking choice, ask yourself:

- Is the overnight parking ban currently being enforced?
- Is your vehicle causing a safety issue?



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- 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

COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY

SHAWN CLEARY, MBA
COUNCILLOR
 DISTRICT 9
 Halifax West Armdale
 Shawn.Cleary@halifax.ca



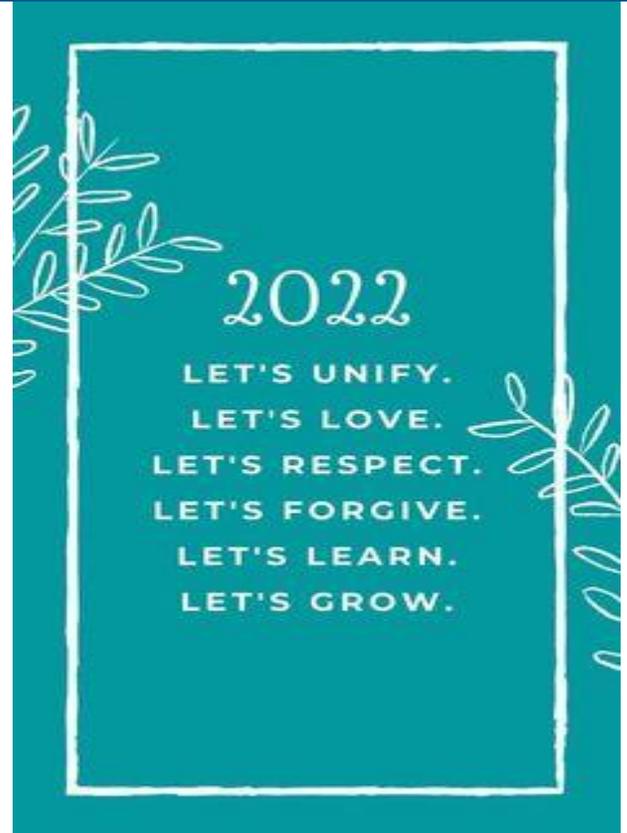
Halifax Regional Municipality
 PO Box 1749
 Halifax, Nova Scotia
 Canada B3J 3A5

902.579.6746
 Shawncleary.ca
 halifax.ca 311

facebook.com/shawnclearyhalifax | twitter.com/shawncleary
 Chris Newson, Council Constituency Coordinator: 902.490.1562 | Chris.Newson@halifax.ca

In addition to being a member of Halifax Regional Council, I am also a member of:

- Halifax and West Community Council;
- Regional Centre Community Council;
- Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee;
- Halifax Chain Of Lake Trail Association (COLTA).



Dear Self,

This is going to be your year. So dust off your sh*tkickers & let's get started.

all my love,
 Me