



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

MESSAGE FROM BECKY

Hello District 3 Residents,

Its 2022 and all is “sort of” well... it is unusual for me to speak like this as I am usually very positive. What I can say, is that I hope you were all able to share some family time in the safety of your bubble and create memories that will lift you up as we approach another year in a pandemic situation. And of course, HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope you have a wonderful, safe, and happy 2022.

We will all be pushing through our challenges and our celebrations in new ways. I hope you all can embrace the necessary measures to continue to deal with this new version of COVID-19. Yes, it is challenging but I have faith that we will come through it stronger and wiser. Know that you are not alone. Among other things, this pandemic has brought us together in humanity and kindness to each other. We can all get grumpy and frustrated, but when the chips are down, I am seeing people reach out to one another, supporting, and lifting each other up.

I do look forward to seeing you again soon, in a safe and productive environment, where we can find solutions, and share ideas of what will make you and your families lives better. It's been just over a year since I became your Municipal Councillor. I am honored to be in this role and will continue to work hard for you and our municipality. Know that I care about all our communities and I am only a phone call or an email away, and when possible and safe, may be the next knock on your door just to say hello.

For now, keep strong, be kind and reach out if you need me.

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.



OUTDOOR COMMUNITY RINK GRANTS AVAILABLE



The Outdoor Community Rink Grant Program is now available for interested organizations wishing to obtain permission to build and operate a community rink on Municipal property. The Municipality will support up to 5 organizations with insurance costs for approved community rinks on Municipal Property (please note that community rinks not on municipal property are excluded from the program).

To apply for this season, please complete the [Outdoor Community Rink Program Form](#).

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.

To learn more and apply please visit our [website](#).

ICE SAFETY

The municipality’s ice thickness testing program has not begun for the 2022 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.

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.

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JUST FOOD ACTION PLAN SURVEY

JustFOOD
Action Plan for the Halifax Region



Fill out the
Action Survey
at justfoodhalifax.ca



Allan Carrington
District 3 2021 Volunteer Award Recipient

NEVER MISS A COLLECTION DAY

HRM's solid waste collection schedule will not be mailed out this year.

To get a calendar, you can use the free Halifax Recycles app, call 311 to have a schedule mailed to you, visit your local library, or customer service centre, or print a copy [here](#).

You can also visit our [website](#) and enter your address to get a custom calendar.

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.



New playground and basketball court at Laura Drive Park!



Gloria Mannette
District 3 2021 Volunteer Award Recipient



WINTER STORMS IN HRM



Winter weather brings some extra challenges to us all. Here are some reminders and tips that may help you, and those who are working hard to clear our streets to keep us safe. For more information on service standards, winter parking, and winter’s impacts across our municipality, visit our [website](#).

WHEN WILL MY STREET OR SIDEWALK GET CLEARED?

HRM has service standards for streets, sidewalks, and bus stops. The timing varies depending on the priority level. Wondering what priority level your street or sidewalk are? Use HRM’s interactive maps for [sidewalks](#) and [streets](#).

A reminder: HRM’s timelines start when the weather ends. Please check service timelines before calling 311.

Of course, some roads are taken care of by the province, depending on where you live. You can check out this information [here](#).

OVERNIGHT WINTER PARKING BAN

Help make it easier for plows to continue clearing snow by moving your vehicle off the street.

As per the provincial Motor Vehicle Act, the municipality is only able to call the parking ban from December 15-March 31 each year. However, as per section 139 of the MVA, a vehicle impacting clearing can be ticked/towed at any time of day, any day of the year.

This winter season, the municipality is implementing two zones for the overnight parking ban (see map):

- Zone 1 – Central refers to Halifax Peninsula and downtown Dartmouth within Highway 111 (the Circumferential Highway)
- Zone 2 – Non-Central is a designated area outside of Zone 1 – Central.

With the introduction of the two zones, parking bans may be in effect municipal wide or just in one zone. Residents will be able to determine what zone they’re in by searching their address using the interactive map available [here](#).



Shelly Bhardwaj
District 3 2021 Volunteer Award Recipient



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2022-23 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

Halifax Regional Municipality's Community Grants Program is now accepting applications for the 2022-2023 program. The deadline for applying is March 31, 2022.

Application forms and program guidebooks will be available on our [website](#) as well as from:

- [HRM Customer Service Centres](#)
- Contacting [311](#)
- Or by e-mail - Nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca

For further information, please call 902.490.7310.

The Program provides annual cash grants to registered non-profit organizations and charities located throughout the Halifax region. There are two types of grants: a project grant of up to \$5,000 and a capital grant of up to \$25,000. The grants can aid specific types of projects in numerous categories, from Arts and Crafts, Diversity and Inclusion, Recreation and more.



Doug Pickrem
District 3 2021 Volunteer Award Recipient

Winter Driving? Be #WinterWise!

Plan ahead
Check weather and road conditions before heading out.

Slow down
Roads are unpredictable when they're slippery so it's best to drive at a slower speed. Accelerate and stop gradually to maintain traction and avoid spinning your wheels.

Keep your distance
It takes longer to stop on a slippery road. Keep plenty of distance between you and other vehicles.

Be prepared
Consider investing in winter tires and assemble a winter emergency kit. For more information visit the Canadian Red Cross website.

Stay calm and focused
Remaining calm and focused will allow you to respond better to unexpected challenges on wintry roads.

For information on road conditions this winter, visit 511.novascotia.ca and follow us on Facebook at Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Nova Scotia and Twitter @RCMPNS for #WinterWise tips.



Teresa Trider
District 3 2021 Volunteer Award Recipient



SENIORS CARE GRANT

As of December 1, the Province of Nova Scotia has a new grant program available to help our seniors. 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](#) or by paper. Paper applications are available at MLA offices as well as Access Nova Scotia Offices.

Applicants have until May 31, 2022, to apply for the grant. For more information, please visit their [website](#) or call 1.800.670.4357.



BUILDING A BETTER HALIFAX – LEARN MORE AND SHARE YOUR IDEAS



Everyone has a role to play in building a better Halifax.

The Halifax Partnership, Halifax's public-private economic development organization, and Halifax Regional Municipality are leading the development of Halifax's economic growth plan for 2022-27.

This involves bringing together businesses, partners, residents, and communities throughout Halifax to share ideas, insights, and actions to build a more inclusive, sustainable, resilient, and prosperous Halifax over the next five years.

Learn more about the next five-year economic growth plan and how you can help make Halifax better.

You can share your ideas with the Halifax Partnership and HRM [here](#).



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EMERA OVAL IS OPEN

The Emera Oval is now open for the winter season, weather permitting.

The maximum capacity will be 230 participants, per skate time. Access will be provided on a first-come-first-serve basis until the maximum capacity has been reached.

Residents must show [full proof of COVID-19 vaccination](#) and government issued photo identification, practice physical distancing, as well as wear a mask at all times including on the ice and in the Oval Pavilion.

Equipment rentals, including skates and helmets, will not be available at this time, therefore, residents will be required to bring their own equipment. CSA-approved multi-impact hockey helmets are mandatory for children 12 years of age and under however, all skaters are encouraged to wear a helmet, for their own safety.

The Emera Oval is the largest artificial ice surface east of Quebec – approximately 55,000 square feet of ice, or the same as three NHL hockey rinks. The ice surface will be open for free daily public skates throughout the winter.

Residents are encouraged to check the website or hotline prior to heading out, as weather and ice conditions can result in closures or delays. View the latest information and schedule [here](#).

Residents can also call the Information Line at 902-490-2347 or follow Parks & Recreation on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

UPCOMING REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

There are two Regional Council meetings scheduled for January, which I look forward to participating in. These are in addition to several specific committee meetings. Check out the full schedule of upcoming meetings [here](#), and I invite you to [join us virtually](#)! Agendas and reports are available by noon on Fridays prior to the meeting date.

- Tuesday, January 11th at 10am
- Tuesday, January 25th at 10am

RCMP Road Safety Stats
November Summary - District 3
Eastern Passage

- 371 calls for service in November 2021**
Up 85.5% from November 2020
- 16 Summary Offence Tickets (vs. 3 in Nov. 2020)**
 - 1 aggressive driving, 3 no insurance, 9 other MVA (i.e. no registration, driving while disqualified, etc.), 3 speeding
- 183 Proactive Assignments (vs. 36 in Nov. 2020)**
- 28 Cellphone/impaired/Seatbelt/Speeding checkpoints**
- 62 Traffic Stops (vs. 26 in Nov. 2020)**
- 0 Impaired Driving Charges (vs. 2 in Nov. 2020)**
- 0 Impaired Suspensions (vs. 1 in Nov. 2020)**
- 8 Motor Vehicle Accidents (vs. 4 in Nov. 2020)**
 - Of these, 1 resulted in injuries

Please Drive Safely!



WARMING CENTRES

There are community-run warming centres located at St. Matthew’s Church (Barrington Street) and the Sackville Area Warming Centre (located at Gateway Community Church).

These centres provide a warm space during the day when extreme weather events are occurring (very cold temperatures and/or severe winter storms).

After spending the day inside, individuals would be offered help to find a bed in a shelter for the nighttime. At times, some other local churches and organizations may have pop-up warming centres in other areas of the municipality during extreme weather events.

What can I do if someone is in need during an extreme weather event?

- If you see an individual in need of shelter during extreme weather, please call 211 to connect them with service providers and ensure help is on the way. But if their life is in danger, please call 911.
- Out of the Cold Community Association says that individuals can also call their shelter anytime to access support and referrals to other community services. Out of the Cold Shelter Support Line: 902-830-4821.

Halifax Regional Municipality’s Efforts to Address Homelessness

- While the province is responsible to lead addressing homelessness in all of Nova Scotia’s municipalities, the Halifax

Regional Municipality is committed to applying resources to support efforts aimed at helping to address homelessness in the Halifax region.

- This includes allocating \$3.2 million dollars towards the purchase, installation and maintenance of modular units, at two sites, to accommodate unhoused individuals in our region (Alderney Drive in Dartmouth, and the Centennial Pool parking area in Halifax), along with \$500,000 already approved by Regional Council for emergency accommodations. Through the Rapid Housing Initiative, the municipality is also working with both levels of government to provide accommodations for up to 70 additional individuals in early 2022.
- Learn more about the municipality’s role, and current efforts to help address homelessness visit our [website](#).





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NEW IN HALIFAX WEBSITE SUPPORTS NEWCOMERS IN OUR REGION



A new website has launched to assist newcomers as they settle into life in the municipality.

[New in Halifax](#) provides important information and resources for new residents. The website was designed as a dedicated, user-friendly experience tailored to the needs of newcomers in our communities.

Previously, the municipality provided a variety of information for newcomers on Halifax.ca, including details on assistance for refugees, transportation, education, health and safety, employment, income and taxes, and much more. *New in Halifax* is now the centralized hub for this type of information, so it's all readily available in one place.

The website is part of the [Halifax Immigration Partnership](#) (HIP) initiative, which was established in 2013 by the community partners including the Halifax Regional Municipality and is funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). HIP works with partners from many different sectors to ensure that Halifax is a welcoming place for all newcomers to live and thrive, a place in which all belong and can call home.

Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPs) strengthen the community's ability to welcome newcomers into a place that values and embraces diversity. Today, there are more than 70 LIPs across the country.

New in Halifax will offer the ability for service providers in the HIP network to share information, resources and best practices with each other to further expand offerings to newcomers in Canada.

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 on January 13th will be taking place virtually. 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](#).