



COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY
 DISTRICT 9 ONLINE NEWS
 HALIFAX WEST ARMDALE

WELCOME FEBRUARY!



February is the shortest month of the year yet full of events encouraging us to reflect on the importance of family, heritage and love for one another. In February, we celebrate African Heritage, Valentine’s Day and Family Heritage Day. As I

welcome this month, I think of the phrase: *“We are who we are because they were who they were.”* May we each take some time this month to reflect on our shared heritage and learn a new appreciation for our unique families and heritage. Also, watch for Shubenacadie Sam and her forecast on whether or not we will have six more weeks of winter!

Keep reading for the latest updates on municipal programs and services including important dates for applying to the HRM Community Grants Program, ice safety, solid waste collection schedules and much more!

If you have questions about a municipal program or service, contact me at Shawn.Cleary@halifax.ca or call 902.579.6746.

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FEBRUARY MEETINGS

Regional Council, Budget Committee, Halifax & West Community Council and Regional Centre Community Council meetings will be held virtually on the following dates:

Regional Council:

Tuesday, February 8th at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, February 15th at 10:00 a.m. (if required)

Budget Committee:

Wednesday, February 2nd at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, February 4th at 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, February 9th at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, February 11th at 9:30 a.m. (if required)

Wednesday, February 16th at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, February 18th at 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, February 23rd at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, February 25th at 9:30 a.m. (if required)

Halifax & West Community Council:

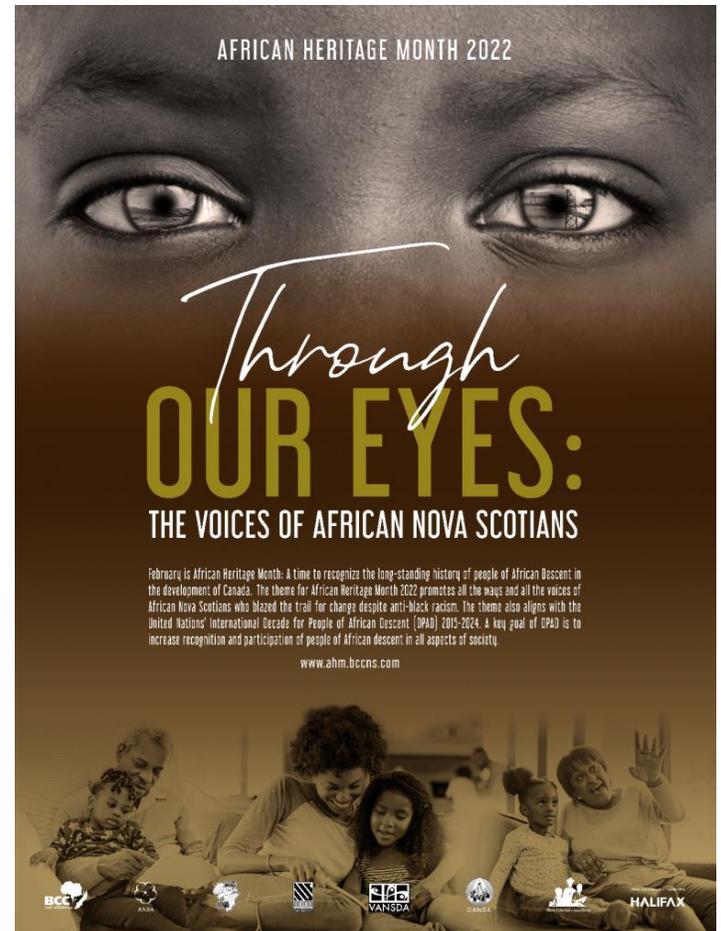
Wednesday, February 22nd at 6:00 p.m.

Regional Centre Community Council:

Wednesday, February 23rd at 6:00 p.m.

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

AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH



February is African Heritage month and this year's theme, *Through Our Eyes: The Voices of African Nova Scotians*, recognizes the long-standing history of people of African descent in the development of Canada. This theme explores and examines the effects of anti-Black racism and the voice of African Nova Scotians who blazed the trail for change.

Nova Scotia has over 50 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a long, deep, and complex history dating back over 200 years. African Heritage Month provides us with another opportunity to celebrate our culture, legacy,



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achievements, and contributions of our people – past and present.

SPEED LIMIT CHANGES – COWIE HILL

I am pleased to announce that speed limits will be reduced from 50 km/h to 40 km/h on Hadley Crescent and in the residential streets bound by Cowie Hill Road, Herring Cove Road and Old Sambro Road (area inside red border on map shown below).

All streets with reduced speeds are inside the highlighted area of the above map. The impacted streets within the boundary are:

- Ridge Valley Road
- Limerick Road
- Margate Drive
- Brighton Avenue
- Bromley Road
- Cavendish Road
- Highfield Street
- Shepherd Road
- Drummond Road
- Abbey Road
- Darjeeling Drive
- Punch Bowl Drive
- Grenoble Court
- Mont Street
- Hillary Street
- Mayor Avenue
- Layton Road
- Trelyn Road
- Penny Avenue



Historical Black Settlements in Nova Scotia - Virtual Museum of Canada

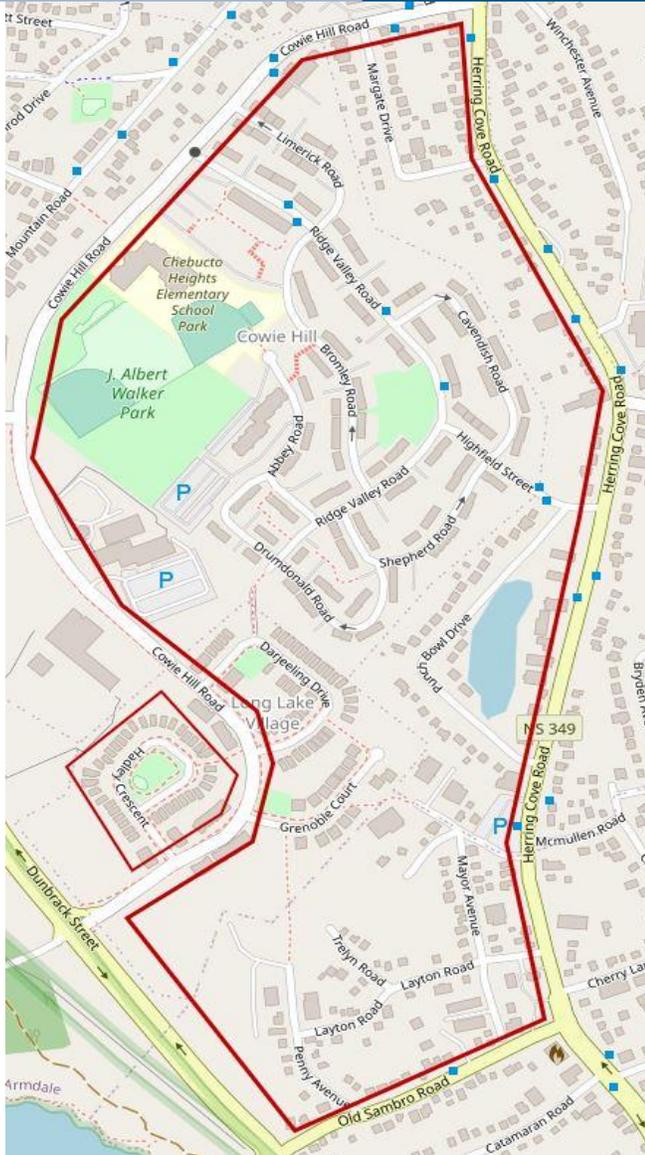
This is the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent (DPAD) 2015-2024. The goal of DPAD is to strengthen global cooperation in support of people of African descent, increase awareness, and the passage towards a presence in all aspects of society.





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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 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.

FREE ONLINE VIRTUAL ARTS CLASSES

Crews began work the week of January 5th on this initiative, which reflects Council’s focus on making communities safer by reducing speeding in residential neighbourhoods. This project 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* February 2022



FREE ONLINE VIRTUAL FINE ARTS CLASSES STARTING FEBRUARY 1st!
(Late registrants welcome)

Halifax Regional Arts is very excited to announce new Fine Arts HRCE-Wide Virtual Programming for Students starting in February!

Programs include Voice Acting (Grades 8-12), Comic Book Workshop (Grades 5-8), Spoken Word Poetry (Grades 9-12) and Playwriting 101 (Grades 9-12) and a full virtual theatrical production with *The Studio at Shakespeare By the Sea* for Grades 9-12. All programs are free. For more information please visit:
<https://sites.google.com/gnspes.ca/hrfinearts/2022-virtual-programming>

Halifax Regional Arts is the supplementary funded Fine Arts school that provides support and enhancement across the HRCE for music, dance, drama and visual art. We graciously acknowledge the support of HRM Taxpayers and Halifax City Council in providing the support that makes so many amazing arts experiences possible for our students. #ThanksToYouHalifax

Hold your Smart Phone over this image in Camera Setting for the link:





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DID YOU KNOW....

February 2nd is Groundhog Day



Shubenacadie Sam may be Nova Scotia's most famous groundhog. People head to the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park to watch Sam come out to see if she will see her shadow. Sam is said to be the most accurate in

predicting if spring is coming early or late. The park has a [SamCam](#) for people to watch online.

February 15th is National Flag of Canada Day



Flag Day is to commemorate the inauguration of the flag of Canada that took place on February 15th, 1965.

ICE SAFETY



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.

OVERNIGHT WINTER PARKING BAN

Given current public health directives, residents are reminded that even if isolating, they are responsible to make arrangements to move their vehicle off municipal streets in advance of the storm.

The overnight winter parking ban is in effect from 1:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. December 15th, 2021 to March 31st, 2022 in both **Zone 1 – Central** and **Zone 2 - Non-Central**.

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

The change to two zones will improve service delivery by leveraging overnight winter parking



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bans that can accommodate more targeted snow removal. Residents are able to determine what zone they're in by searching their address using the interactive tool available [here](#).

Overnight winter parking bans are communicated via [public service announcements](#),

[hfxALERT](#), [halifax.ca](#) and [@hfxgov](#) on Twitter.

Residents who are signed up for [hfxALERT](#) will continue to receive notifications for all overnight winter parking ban scenarios.

Note: Regardless of the status of an overnight winter parking ban, or whether you have received a notification, **vehicles can be towed, day or night, at any time of year, if they are interfering with snow-clearing operations, as per Section 139 of the [Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act](#).**

WINTER STORM PREPAREDNESS TIPS

With the potential for power outages, residents are encouraged to visit [halifax.ca](#) for a full list of preparedness and emergency kit tips. Residents with wells are encouraged to fill water jugs and bathtubs, as a loss of power will prevent access to well water that relies on electric pumps.

Emergency food and water should be on hand for all family members, including pets. All personal vehicles should be filled with fuel and cell phones should be charged. Many households are now solely reliant on cell phones, so battery chargers are recommended. Flashlights should also be equipped with new batteries.

Special items, such as prescription medication, infant formula, equipment for people with disabilities, and medication for pets or service animals, should be gathered before the storm.

Cash should also be on hand in the event of a power outage, as bank machines may be non-operational.

Safety

Residents are reminded to **never** operate a generator, BBQ or any other fuel filled item inside a home or garage.

Residents are also urged to stay away from the coastline during any severe weather event due to dangers associated with potential storm surge(s).

Stay informed

Residents are urged to sign-up for [hfxALERT](#), the municipality's mass notification system.

Subscribers will receive alerts by phone, email or text. Sign up at [halifax.ca/hfxalert](#).

Residents can also call [311](#) for updated information on municipal services, or to report issues such as flooding, downed trees or blocked roadways. For emergencies, residents should call 911.

Residents are encouraged to visit [halifax.ca/snow](#) or follow [@hfxgov on Twitter](#) for updates and information during a weather event.



RCMP REMIND RESIDENTS OF INTERSECTION SAFETY

Nova Scotia RCMP is reminding drivers and pedestrians about intersection-safety this winter. Winter weather can seriously impact road conditions which can make it challenging to stop quickly.

It's important to stay focused and alert when approaching an intersection so that you can see what is around you and prevent a collision. Being aware of your surroundings, changing lights and road conditions, can help keep you and others safe. Here are some tips to keep in mind:

Drivers

- Drivers should take extra care to scan for pedestrians when it's dark as it can be difficult to see;
- Window tint to the left and right of the driver is illegal as it reduces a driver's ability to see pedestrians at intersections and cross walks;
- Always drive to the road conditions. Leave lots of space between you and the car in front of you;
- Ensure that your vehicle is free of any obstructions, for example snow and ice;
- Make a full stop at red lights and stop signs, even when turning right, and yield to oncoming traffic when turning left;
- Use your signal when making turns. Ensure it is safe to turn left before doing so;
- Drivers must yield to pedestrians at intersections, **even when there is no marked crosswalk;**

- When pedestrians are crossing, wait until they are safely across before proceeding ahead;
- Drive defensively. Even if you have the right of way, be aware of your surroundings when proceeding through an intersection.

Pedestrians

- Pedestrians and motorists should make eye contact before pedestrians cross in front of vehicles;
- Check traffic before crossing and only proceed when it is safe to do so;
- Always use crosswalks and pedestrian-activated signals when they are available;
- Wear reflective or brightly-coloured clothing if you're walking at night to be more visible;
- Don't be a distracted pedestrian. Remove headphones; put away cell phones, or other electronic devices when crossing the street.

"Drivers and pedestrians have a shared responsibility at intersections and cross walks for safety, if everyone pays attention, we can reduce serious injury or fatal collisions." says Sgt. Mike Carter, Unit Commander, RCMP Southwest Traffic Services.

Nova Scotia RCMP would also like to remind motorists to **buckle up**, it could save your life. Did you know that not wearing a seatbelt is one of the four causal factors of serious and fatal motor vehicle collisions in Nova Scotia?



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EMERA OVAL



Early morning on the Emera Oval – come on down and enjoy skating in the fresh air! 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 at halifax.ca/skateHRM.

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

HALIFAX TRANSIT SERVICE DISRUPTIONS



Halifax Transit [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 pre-emptively cancelled a number of trips starting Thursday, December 30th.



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PROPERTY TAX REBATE PROGRAM FOR SENIORS

PROPERTY TAX — REBATE FOR SENIORS —

The province of Nova Scotia's [Property Tax Rebate for Seniors](#) helps low-income seniors with the cost of municipal residential property taxes. Rebates are 50% of what you paid on last year's property taxes, up to a maximum of \$800.

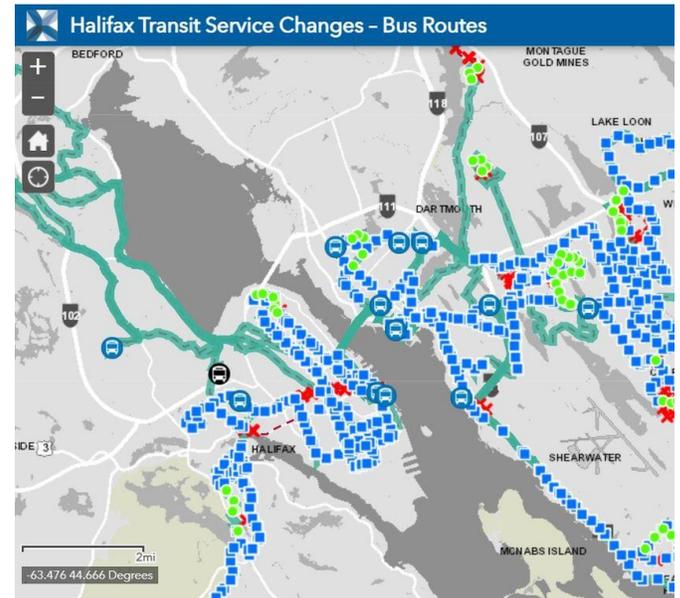
To qualify for the rebate, you need to meet all of the following criteria:

- your municipal residential property taxes are paid in full
- you lived at the property as your primary residence
- you receive or are eligible to receive the [Guaranteed Income Supplement](#) (GIS) or the [Allowance](#) from Service Canada

If you are not already receiving the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) or the Allowance, you can check with [Service Canada](#) to see if you are eligible.

Applications for the rebate program are accepted from July 1st, 2022 to December 31st, 2022.

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.

ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS



Room in modular unit.

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.

Although the province of Nova Scotia has the mandate to provide public housing and programs



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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>.

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.

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.

NEW TO HALIFAX?



Your guide to living in Halifax

We want you to feel at home in Halifax, and help others feel the same.

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



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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.

NEVER MISS ANOTHER 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 <http://halifax.ca/whatgoeswhere> and enter your address to get a custom calendar.

ILLEGAL DUMPING & ANTI-LITTER CAMPAIGN



We have launched an illegal dumping and anti-litter campaign to raise awareness of disposal options, explore social and environmental impacts and help residents understand

the consequences of illegal dumping. The campaign's call to action is **"Be responsible for your waste"**.

The campaign, in alignment with the municipality's commitment to reduce illegal dumping and litter, encourages residents to [report illegal dumping](#). Municipal staff are enforcing enhanced measures related to illegal dumping and litter. Penalties range from \$500-\$10,000 for illegal dumping, and \$200-\$10,000 for litter violations. Common examples of illegal dumping and litter include: [furniture](#), [appliances](#), [used tires](#), and [general waste](#).

The municipality has a number of resources available to help residents determine what goes



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where through its [website](#) and the [Halifax Recycles app](#). The municipality also offers free presentations and workshops to schools, universities, businesses and community groups, and hosts a [household special waste depot](#) to accept chemical waste generated in your home.

For more information visit halifax.ca/recycle.

INDEPENDENT LIVING NOVA SCOTIA - WINTER PROGRAMS



Independent Living Nova Scotia Winter Program Offering

We are recruiting participants for 2 pre-employment programs:

Gaining Access to Meaningful Employment (GAME)

- ✓ Youth with disabilities ages 18-24
- ✓ Who live in the Halifax area
- Participants build life & employability skills as well as community connections through workshops & activities
- 2 month program starting **February 2022**
- To apply: <https://ilns.ca/game/>
- Questions? Email game@ilns.ca

In Motion and Momentum Plus (IM&M+)

- ✓ Persons with disabilities ages 18 or older
- ✓ Who live in the Halifax area
- Participants harness their potential to create the life they want to live through workshops, experiences & opportunities that help them take charge
- 10 week program starting **March 2022**
- To apply: <https://bit.ly/3fDrml>
- Questions? Email inmotionandmomentum@ilns.ca

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT – VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Recruiting Company Program Volunteer Mentors

Contact Us Today!



Opportunity Brief



As a mentor, you are passionate about youth development and youth empowerment. You want to combine your skills and energy into a meaningful volunteer role with clear and direct impact.



The Company Program commitment includes: Weekly meetings for 15 weeks, Feb 1 through May 18, 6:30pm-9:00pm, Tuesdays or Wednesdays. Weekly prep: 30 minutes.



As a mentor, you will inspire entrepreneurial thinking, share your expertise, enhance your own skills as a mentor and facilitator, and help foster positive relationships with youth and the business community!



Your role as a mentor and advisor is to provide guidance, foster group engagement, keep it fun, and help our youth develop self-confidence and self-belief. They are our future leaders and entrepreneurs!



JA Nova Scotia is recruiting volunteer mentors for our Company Program. We are looking for mentors who are dedicated to youth development, have the time, energy and expertise to give and are willing to share personal stories, knowledge and resources.

This year, all JA Companies will be guided by the Global Goals established by the United Nations. Youth will develop initiatives that link to one of the goals!



Student Outcomes for Company Program:
Improved employability and workforce readiness
Enhanced critical-thinking and personal accountability
A developing entrepreneurial mindset
Increased leadership capacity and confidence

CONTACT US: (902) 454-4564 www.janovascotia.ca info@janovascotia.ca

FAMILY HERITAGE DAY – FEBRUARY 21ST



Introduced in 2015, the Family Heritage Day holiday will honour a different person or event each year, chosen by Nova

Scotian school children.



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Family Heritage Day in 2022 will honour the Landscape of Grand Pré World Heritage Site to mark the 10th anniversary of the location becoming a UNESCO World Heritage site. We celebrate the rich heritage of this landscape which features a traditional agricultural settlement still in use today and an iconic place of memory for the Acadian diaspora.



As the holiday is a provincial holiday, federal employees may not have the day off. Canada Post will be operating and banks and restaurants are allowed to open. Supermarkets, malls and banks will be closed, along with schools and public libraries. Public transport will operate on a different schedule to a normal Monday.

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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;
- Audit and Finance Standing Committee
- Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee;
- Halifax Chain Of Lake Trail Association (COLTA).



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!