



## COUNCILLOR TONY MANCINI

### DISTRICT 6 ONLINE NEWS

HARBOURVIEW - BURNSIDE - DARTMOUTH EAST

## Together We Can Build Safe, Healthy, Active Communities

### WELCOME FEBRUARY

February is African Heritage Month. I hope you and your family will take a chance to commemorate the many contributions of our African Nova Scotian residents to our province and municipality. This year's theme is Through Our Eyes: The Voices of African Nova Scotians, recognizing the legacies of people of African descent through first voice, lived realities, and experiences.

February is the month of love. On the 14<sup>th</sup> we celebrate Valentine's Day. Let's take the opportunity to show those around you how much you appreciate and care for them.

We also celebrate Heritage Day on February 21<sup>st</sup>. This year, Nova Scotia will be honoring the Landscape of Grand Pré World Heritage Site.

National Pink Shirt Day is on Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Let's wear pink and stand up to bullying together! More than ever, anti-bullying efforts are needed both online and off.

As you can see, there's so much to celebrate this month in our beautiful province and municipality. Let's keep this in mind as we enjoy our Nova Scotia winter.

I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate all HRM staff on your contributions in the Municipality being named as a top employer in 2022.

Also, don't forget to keep an eye on our [website](#) for updates on snow clearing and the Winter Parking Ban.

### BIENVENUE AU MOIS DE FEVRIER

Février est le Mois du patrimoine africain. J'espère que vous et votre famille prendrez l'occasion de commémorer les nombreuses contributions de nos résidents afro-néo-écossais à notre province et à notre municipalité. Le thème de cette année est : Par nos yeux : La voix des Néo-Écossais africains, reconnaissant l'héritage des personnes de descendance africaine par leur voix, leurs réalités et leurs expériences vécues.



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Février est le mois de l'amour. Le 14 février, nous célébrons la Saint-Valentin. Profitons de l'occasion pour montrer à ceux qui vous entourent combien vous appréciez et vous souciez d'eux.

Nous célébrons également la Journée du patrimoine le 21 février. Cette année, la Nouvelle-Écosse honorera le site du patrimoine mondial du Paysage de Grand-Pré.

La Journée nationale du chandail rose a lieu le 23 février. Portons du rose et opposons-nous à l'intimidation ensemble! Plus que jamais, des efforts de lutte contre l'intimidation sont nécessaires en ligne et hors ligne.

Comme vous pouvez le voir, il y a tellement de choses à célébrer ce mois-ci dans notre belle province et municipalité. Gardons cela à l'esprit pendant que nous profitons de notre hiver en Nouvelle-Écosse.

Je souhaiterais profiter de l'occasion pour féliciter tout le personnel de la Municipalité régionale d'Halifax (MRH) pour vos contributions dans la Municipalité, qui a été désignée comme employeur de premier plan en 2022.

Aussi, n'oubliez pas de consulter notre [site Web pour connaître les mises à jour sur le déneigement et l'interdiction de stationner en hiver!](#)

### AFRICAN HERITAGE MONTH



I invite you to recognize and celebrate Canada's Black History Month and Nova Scotia's African Heritage Month with me.

The first Black History Month in Nova Scotia was observed in 1988 and later renamed African Heritage Month in 1996, provincially. For decades, contributions of Black Canadians have been acknowledged informally, but Nova Scotia has been a leader in terms of promoting and recognizing Black Nova Scotians and African heritage. Nova Scotia has a rich and complex history with over 50 historic African Nova Scotian communities that date back over 200 years.

This year's African Heritage Month provincial theme is "Through Our Eyes: The Voices of African Nova Scotians." It recognizes the long-standing history of people of African Descent in the development of Canada. This African Heritage Month theme explores and examines the affects of anti-black racism and the voices of African Nova Scotians who blazed the trail for change.

This year's theme is intended to align with the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent (DPAD) 2015-2024. DPAD aims to celebrate the important contributions of people of African descent worldwide, advance social justice and inclusion policies, eradicate racism and intolerance, promote human rights, and assist in creating better, more prosperous communities, according to the United Nations.

As we continue to work together to stop anti-black racism and acknowledge the aims of DPAD, let's take time to honour the legacy of Black people across our country as we also look forward to the continued leadership, achievements and milestones yet to come from Black Canadians and Black and African Nova Scotians.

As we commemorate Black History Month and African Heritage Month, please take time to learn more about



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the vast accomplishments and rich history of Black Canadians and Black Nova Scotians.

Learn more about African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia: <http://www.ahm.bccnsw.com/wp/home/>

Learn more about Black History Month in Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/black-history-month.html>

### NOVA SCOTIA HERITAGE DAY HONOURS GRAND PRÉ WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Nova Scotia Heritage Day is on February 21, 2022. Each year the province honours a different person or event for this holiday, falling on the third Monday in February. The [2022 Nova Scotia Heritage Day Honouree is “The Landscape of Grand Pré World Heritage Site.”](#)

As we enjoy this holiday in Nova Scotia, it is important to take time to reflect on the historical significance of Grand-Pré. Located along the shores of the Nova Scotia’s Minas Basin (Annapolis Valley area), Grand-Pré was a large, vibrant community of Acadian farmers.

Unfortunately things changed in 1744 when the English and French once declared war, and the English ultimately expelled more than 10,000 Acadians from their communities from 1755 until 1762. To this day, the site remains a significant place of memory for the Acadian diaspora as a centre of Acadian settlement from 1682 to 1755 and then the tragic Deportation of the Acadians.

On June 30th, 2012, the Landscape of Grand-Pré became Canada’s 16th World Heritage Site, listed by UNESCO and 2022 will mark its 10th year anniversary. As we enjoy this holiday in Nova Scotia, please take time to reflect on the historical significance of Grand-Pré:

<https://heritageday.novascotia.ca/content/education-resources-heritage-day>

### PINK SHIRT DAY – TAKE A STAND AGAINST BULLYING



#NationalPinkShirtDay is on Wednesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> – Let’s wear pink and stand up to bullying together! More than ever, anti-bullying efforts are needed both online and off.

Did you know that Pink Shirt was inspired by an act of kindness here in Nova Scotia? It’s now a movement celebrated worldwide!

While we should all take a firm stance against bullying 365 days a year, this national day focuses on the need to speak up. Be kind to one another. Talk to someone if you’re being bullied or you witness something. Let’s lift each other up and support one another.

Parents: Halifax Regional Police suggests having a conversation with your child about bullying. Listening provides reassurance that being the victim of bullying is not a child’s fault.

For more tips and great resources from HRP to deal with bullying, visit: <http://bit.ly/HRPTipsBullying>



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### MODULAR HOUSING UPDATE



Municipal updates are issued on a weekly basis to keep us all informed about the status of the emergency accommodations that the municipality is helping to provide for unhoused individuals. There will be two modular housing unit sites: Church Street (downtown Dartmouth) and Cogswell Street (Centennial Pool parking lot in Halifax).

Exact timing for occupancy at both the emergency accommodations sites is dependent upon the Province of Nova Scotia, which is responsible for determining placement of individuals and providing wrap-around services onsite through a service provider.

At the Dartmouth modular site, occupancy was approved for the four modular bedroom units (total capacity 24 persons) on January 13; the provincial service provider (Out of the Cold) facilitated placement of individuals on January 16. Most individuals who have been accommodated at the Gray Arena have moved to the Dartmouth modular site. Alternate accommodations have been provided by the province to those individuals at the arena who did not relocate to the modular units.

With the Dartmouth site now occupied, the design and construction team has shifted focus to completing the **Halifax modular unit site**. Nine units will be installed on a portion of the Centennial Pool parking lot accessed from Cogswell Street. This site will be able to accommodate 38 individuals. It is anticipated the civil site work for the modular units will begin the week of February 7.

#### Crisis Accommodations Funding

- The municipality has provided some of the crisis accommodation funding approved by Regional Council to a coalition of 11 community service providers for hotel stays to support those experiencing homelessness. In conjunction with service providers, the municipality is also directly covering the cost of hotels rooms for some individuals.

- Between September and the first week of January, 109 people accessed hotel rooms via this funding, for a total of 2,496 nights.

#### Other Updates

During cold weather events, the municipality has been continuing to support Nova Scotia's Department of Community Service to address homelessness by providing access to municipal facilities as emergency shelters such as the George Dixon Centre in Halifax. There are also community-run warming centres located at St. Matthew's Church (Barrington Street) and the Sackville Area Warming Centre (located at Gateway Community Church).

The Province announced it will be working with HRM and the Government of Canada to create 65 additional supportive housing options. The former Travelodge hotel in Dartmouth is being converted to supportive housing units for people who are chronically unhoused. This is in addition to both modular housing sites that the municipality has already funded (Dartmouth and Halifax). Learn more:

<https://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20220127001>



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Read a full summary of ongoing efforts by the municipality to help our homeless population: <https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/helping-address-homelessness/recent-ongoing-efforts>

*If you see an individual in need of shelter during extreme weather and they have requested help, please call 311 or 211 to connect them with service providers and ensure help is on the way. But if their life is in danger, please call 911.*



individual skating, and at least 20 centimeters thick for group skating.

Parks staff will continue to monitor, test and update the ice thickness table as conditions permit. Be sure to check the updates for your local lake here before heading out: <https://www.halifax.ca/parks-recreation/programs-activities/skating/ice-thickness>.

*Please note that only measurements over 15cm will be posted, and not all of the lakes have been tested.*

## SNOW CLEARING IN HRM

With each weather event, crews are responsible for approximately 3,844 lane kilometres of streets. Stretched end to end, that's the same distance as driving from Halifax to Winnipeg. Crews also clear about 1,000 kilometres of sidewalks, six kilometers of protected bike lanes/local street bikeways, 11 kilometers of multi-use pathways and approximately 2,300 bus across the Halifax region.

We can't control Mother Nature or what this winter has in store, but if we work together we can all be better prepared for whatever the season may bring. For more information on our municipality's Winter Operations program, and tips to help you prepare for inclement weather, please visit [www.halifax.ca/snow](http://www.halifax.ca/snow).

Remember that when the snow's coming down, slow down. It's critical to slow down and modify your speed based on the current weather conditions. I urge residents to practice safe commuting during the winter months, especially during inclement weather and around crosswalks and intersections.

Please reduce your speed and always scan for pedestrians and other vulnerable road users. [#headsuphalifax](http://halifax.ca/roadsafety)

## OUTDOOR ICE SAFETY



HRM Parks staff have now started ice testing on various lakes across the municipality. Most of the

lakes are now ice covered, however some lakes have not formed ice to the recommended thickness of 15 cm required for safe use. The Canadian Red Cross recommends that ice be at least 15 centimeters thick for



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## SENIOR SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM

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.

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/>

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

## HEATING ASSISTANCE FUNDING

### HARP Fund

Help with home heating costs is available for Nova Scotians living on low incomes who pay for their own heat. Applications for the Heating Assistance Rebate Program (HARP) are open until March 31, 2022. The program provides a rebate of up to \$200. To qualify for the program, your household income must be \$29,000 or less if you live alone or \$44,000 or less if you live with kids, dependents, or other adults.

Applications are available at <http://www.novascotia.ca/heatinghelp> and through Access Nova Scotia, Community Services and MLA offices.



## PROPERTY TAX REBATE FOR SENIORS

### Provincial Seniors Property Tax Rebate Program Property Tax Rebate for Seniors

The Provincial Property Tax Rebate for Seniors helps seniors with the cost of municipal residential property taxes. Applicants must be receiving the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS). Rebates are 50% of what you paid on last year's property taxes, up to a maximum of \$800. Applications are accepted each year from July 1 to December 31.

For more information please visit: <https://beta.novascotia.ca/apply-property-tax-rebate-property-tax-rebate-seniors>

## 2022/2023 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.

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 – that can aid with project in the following categories: Arts and Crafts, Diversity and Inclusion, Environment, Emergency Assistance & Neighbourhood Safety, History, Housing, Leisure, and Recreation.

Fill out an application here: [https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/business/grants/GrantsApplicationForm2022-23\\_Fillable.pdf](https://www.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/business/grants/GrantsApplicationForm2022-23_Fillable.pdf)

Application forms and program guidebooks are available by:



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- Visiting a Customer Service Centre: [www.halifax.ca/home/311#ContactCentres](http://www.halifax.ca/home/311#ContactCentres)
  - Alderney Gate, 40 Alderney Drive, - Dartmouth, 1st floor
  - Bayers Road, 7071 Bayers Road, 2nd floor
- Contacting 311 - <https://www.halifax.ca/home/311>
- E-mailing [Nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca](mailto:Nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca)

For further information, please call 902.490.7310 or visit <https://www.halifax.ca/business/doing-business-halifax/community-non-profit-resources/community-grants>.

## 2022-2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET PROCESS



It's Budget season once again. Each of the municipality's business units will present their proposed business plan and budget to Regional Council – that's happening now. We are also listening to members of the public who wish to provide input on a variety of topics.

Then, Regional Council will debate budget changes and refer them for final decision on Wednesday, March 23. Full approval of the budget will be on Tuesday, April 12.

View the proposed schedule, learn about the budget process, and find out how you can participate here: [www.halifax.ca/budget](http://www.halifax.ca/budget)

Staff have suggested a 5.6% increase in taxes. Please note: This is only a starting point and it's unlikely that this number will be what's recommended, going forward.

5.6% is not in addition to the assessment increase. The way HRM budgets works is; we look at the average out of pocket cost (the tax bill), which is made up of the combined impact of assessment and tax rate.

In most of the budget cycles I have witnessed, although Council suggested increases from 1.0% – 4.0% (it has varied by year), the actual tax rate decreased in most cases because the funds HRM required, were more than met by increasing assessments.

## FIREWORKS – PLEASE CONSIDER THE IMPACT ON YOUR NEIGHBOURS

As beautiful as they are, fireworks have an impact on our neighbors and their pets, the environment, and wildlife. Fireworks can have an impact on our community in many ways:

### -Mental Health-

Noise from fireworks can have a long-lasting negative impact on people who suffer from mental health disorders, such as but not limited to:

- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Misophonia (when people experience strong discomfort, annoyance or disgust when they hear particular triggers)

### -Wildlife-

The shock of fireworks can cause wildlife to flee, ending up in unexpected areas or roadways, flying into buildings and other obstacles and even abandoning nests, leaving young vulnerable to predators.

### -Pets-

Fireworks can be beautiful to us but are *terrifying* to them! Many animals have sensitive hearing and



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associate loud noises with danger. Whenever possible, please notify your neighbours when you plan to use consumer fireworks. Keep pets inside and comforted. If outside, have your pets securely on lead/leash. When scared, pets are known to run off and get lost in the night if not secured.

### **-Environment-**

Fireworks cause an abundance of litter that can scatter for kilometers, polluting neighborhoods, waterways and green spaces.

### **-Safe use of Fireworks-**

If you must use fireworks, you must abide by burning and noise by-laws, which means fireworks may only be used during certain days and times. Fireworks are only permitted on New Year’s Eve, Canada Day, Natal Day, and on recognized religious holidays. Consumer fireworks do not require a permit on your own property.

### **-Questions & Concerns-**

For general, non-urgent questions or concerns regarding the use of fireworks in our municipality, please contact **311**. If you witness illegal fireworks use, **please call 911**.

## NEW SIDEWALK ASSESSMENT TOOL

Each new sidewalk request is processed using the “new sidewalk assessment tool” in order to estimate its pedestrian potential. There are specific criteria that feed into this assessment score including proximity to schools, daycares, seniors’ centres, parks, recreation centres, transit, commercial areas, employment opportunities, and high-density residential areas.

The tool also looks at the classification of roads, if the request fills a gap in the sidewalk network, and other safety related factors (e.g. sight lines, road width). This assessment score helps HRM to prioritize which sidewalk projects to build each year to have the maximum impact on residents. There are over 650 requests for new sidewalks on our list, and we can typically build 5-10

projects each year based on the available sidewalk budget.

The best opportunity to have sidewalk installed would be when it can be integrated with road recapitalization work (e.g. repaving). This is not guaranteed and would be subject to budget availability and project prioritization that year.

## HALIFAX RECREATION: GET ACTIVE – REGISTER TODAY FOR MYREC

**BOOK HALIFAX RECREATION PROGRAMS AND MORE:**  
[www.Halifax.ca/myREC](http://www.Halifax.ca/myREC)

Search and register for activities for youth, adults and seniors, year-round.

Need assistance? Call 902-490-6666



You can register for municipal recreation programs, classes and much more online: Visit <https://www.halifax.ca/myREC>.

From here, you can search for programs and register for **programming** (swimming programs, yoga classes, etc.) or **drop-ins/classes** (one-off activities such as lane swims, fitness centre drop-ins or open skates, etc.).

If you need help or have any questions, Rec staff are happy to assist you, or troubleshoot any registration issue. Just call 902-490-6666 to connect with a staff member.



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Be sure to follow Halifax Parks & Recreation for updates – you can also connect with them online if you have questions:

- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/hfxrec/>
- Twitter - <https://twitter.com/hfxrec>

### HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE RELEASE IMPAIRED DRIVING STATS FOR DECEMBER

Halifax Regional Police charged 41 drivers with impaired related offences during the month of December.

Of the 41 drivers, 25 were charged with impaired operation of a conveyance by alcohol, five were charged with impaired operation of a conveyance by drug and 11 drivers were issued a driving suspension for operating a conveyance while having consumed alcohol. Of the drivers who provided breath samples, officers were able to detect a wide range of blood alcohol concentrations (90 to 240 mg %) with seven drivers being at least twice the legal limit. Seven of the drivers refused to provide a breath sample and were charged with the offence of refusal.

Police received sixteen calls throughout the month of December from citizens who suspected impaired drivers. We thank citizens for calling in suspected impaired drivers and encourage citizens to call 911 immediately if you suspect someone is driving impaired.

Here are some signs of an impaired driver:

- Driving unreasonably fast, slow or at an inconsistent speed
- Drifting in and out of lanes
- Tailgating and changing lanes frequently
- Making exceptionally wide turns
- Changing lanes or passing without sufficient clearance
- Overshooting or stopping well before stop signs or stop lights
- Disregarding signals and lights
- Approaching signals or leaving intersections too quickly or slowly

- Driving without headlights, failing to lower high beams or leaving turn signals on
- Driving with windows open in cold or inclement weather

If you see a potential impaired driver, call 911 immediately and give the call taker your location along with a description of the vehicle, including the license plate number, colour, make and model, the direction of travel for the vehicle and a description of the driver.

### WINTER BIKE WEEK – HELD VIRTUALLY!

Winter Bike Week is February 7<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Celebrate Winter Bike Week by learning how the Halifax Regional Municipality is creating a convenient, comfortable and connected cycling network. Active Transportation Planning staff will provide updates about upcoming bikeway projects and how they are connected to the Municipalities' goal to provide safer and more connected mobility options.

Thursday, February 10, 2022

7:00 PM-8:00 PM

The webinar is free and staff will also be available for questions after the presentation. Join the session here: <https://cyclehalifax.ca/civi/event/info/?reset=1&id=261>

### MUNICIPALITY - A TOP EMPLOYER

I'm proud to share that the municipality has been selected as one of [Atlantic Canada's Top Employers of 2022](#).

The Top Employer awards recognize employers that lead their industries in offering exceptional places to work and progressive HR programs and policies. A huge thank you to our dedicated team members for making this possible. It's your contributions that make a difference, both in our workplaces and in the lives of over 460,000 people in the Halifax region.



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Bundling fresh produce that was delivered to over 200 families in Dartmouth.



Spirit and I enjoying an early morning walk in Shubie Park.

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HRM employee Pat Ferguson, volunteer Todd Miller and I unloading produce.



WFMHFX: Sean Dewitt

Reckitt, the Maker of Lysol, donates over \$300,000 in Lysol Wipes through the Dartmouth General Hospital Foundation for front-line staff. I was able to connect DGHF to HRP and Halifax Fire so those departments could receive Lysol Wipes.

- Currently serving on:**
- Harbour East Marine Drive Community Council
  - Regional Centre Community Council
  - Environment and Sustainability Committee
  - Transportation Standing Committee
  - Special Events Advisory Committee
  - Shubenacadie Canal Commission
  - SAC for Prince Andrew High School
  - Greater Burnside Business Association
  - Alderney Landing Board of Directors
  - Halifax Public Library Board of Directors