ST PATRICK'S

COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD DISTRICT 12 ONLINE NEWS TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

WELCOME MARCH!



This month we celebrate International Women's Day, daylight saving time starts, students enjoy spring break, we get to wear a little of the green

and hope for the "luck of the Irish" at least for one day, and we welcome spring! This is also the time that my colleagues and I on Regional Council finalize the 2022/23 operating and capital municipal budget. I welcome your input as we commence the final weeks of budget discussion. Keep reading for information on how to register to speak during a Budget Committee meeting.

With the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, we will be returning to IN PERSON Regional Council meetings on March 22nd. It will be wonderful to be surrounded by my colleagues in the same room as we do our duties on your behalf.

To discuss municipal programs or services, you can reach me at **902.240.7926** or email <u>lona.Stoddard@halifax.ca</u>.

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MARCH 2022



HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL, AND HALIFAX & WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meetings of Halifax Regional Council, and Halifax & West Community Council will take place virtually on the following dates:

Regional Council:

Tuesday, March 1st at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 22nd at 10:00 a.m.

Budget Committee:

Wednesday, March 2nd at 9:30 a.m. Friday, March 4th at 9:30 a.m. (Contingency date)

Wednesday, March 23rd at 9:30 a.m. Friday, March 25th at 9:30 a.m. (Contingency date)

Halifax & West Community Council: Wednesday, March 8th at 6:00 p.m.

Please confirm meeting dates and times on our <u>website</u> as they are subject to change.

HALIFAX & WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES

At the February 22nd meeting of the Halifax & West Community Council (HWCC), consideration was given to the following:

Case 20226: Land Use By-law amendment to reduce parking requirements for community centres in Timberlea, Lakeside, Beechville

Public hearing held and closed. HWCC approved the amendment to create new parking requirements specifically for recreation facilities and community centres, which would require 1 space per 500 square feet (46.5 m2) of gross floor area. This is an 80% reduction over the existing standard for general institutional uses. Under existing parking standards, the proposed MARCH 2022 recreation centre would need 307 spaces. The proposed parking standards would require 62 parking spaces.

For more information on the Halifax & West Community Council or to view the full meeting agenda or video, click <u>here</u>.

CÉLÉBREZ LE MOIS DE LA FRANCOPHONIE



Célébrez le Mois de la Francophonie avec moi en mars ! Que serait le Canada - ou même la Nouvelle-Écosse - sans notre culture francophone ? Ce serait un Canada bien différent, sans la culture et la diversité riches et célébrées que la langue française et les francophones apportent à notre identité nationale. Le bilinguisme et le fait de parler français sont également des éléments fondamentaux de nos valeurs canadiennes.

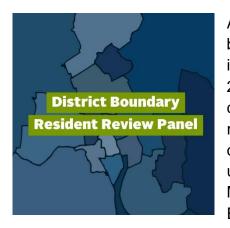
<u>L'histoire acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse</u> est très complexe. Malgré de grandes difficultés au fil des ans, y compris la déportation tragique dans les années 1700, les Acadiens sont revenus et ont établi des communautés solides avec une culture très vivante qui continue de



faire partie intégrante de la diversité de la Nouvelle-Écosse aujourd'hui.

Notre culture francophone nous relie également au monde en termes de relations internationales. Saviez-vous que le Canada fait partie d'une organisation appelée "La <u>Francophonie</u>", un ensemble de 88 États et gouvernements membres et observateurs – y compris 300 millions de francophones - qui partagent le français comme langue commune et un système de valeurs communes à bien des égards. <u>https://moisfrancohfx.ca/</u>

DISTRICT BOUNDARY RESIDENT REVIEW PANEL



A district boundary review is required in 2022; changes coming from this review will not come into effect until the 2024 Municipal Election.

However, residents can apply now to join the Boundary Resident Review Panel. The Panel will serve as a key component for the <u>2022</u> <u>District Boundary Review process</u>.

The 2022 District Boundary Review process includes:

✓ Phase 1, which will determine the size of Council and its governance structure; and,

✓ Phase 2, which will set specific district boundaries.

The District Boundary Resident Review Panel, supported by municipal staff, will begin their work in Phase 2. The Panel will consider how to draw boundaries of municipal districts, based on the recommendations from Phase 1.

Information on the role, including an application, can be found at <u>halifax.ca/serve</u>. Residents may also contact the Office of the Municipal Clerk by phone at 902-490-4210 or by email at <u>serve@halifax.ca</u>. It is recommended that applicants have professional expertise in the field of urban planning, municipal governance, public policy and/or political science.

Applications are due by Monday, March 7, 2022.

BUDGET 2022/23



It's Budget season once again. Currently, each of the municipality's business units are presenting their proposed business plan and budget to Regional Council. We are also listening to members of the public who wish to provide input on a variety of topics.

Regional Council will debate budget changes and refer them for final decision on Wednesday,



March 23rd. Full approval of the budget will be on Tuesday, April 12th. **March schedule of Business Unit presentations** (subject to change):

Wednesday, March 2nd

- Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency
- Halifax Public Libraries

Wednesday, March 23rd

 Recommendation Report and Presentation: Budget Adjustment List (BAL - aka the "Parking Lot") review

Tuesday, April 12th

• Full review of final budget

You can speak directly to Regional Council about budget priorities. During each meeting, time will be set aside for the public to provide insight and comments. **To be added to the speakers list for virtual meetings, residents are required to pre-register no later than 4:30 p.m. the business day prior to the meeting.**

Registration information will be included on the meeting agenda page for each meeting.

For any questions about registration, residents may contact the Clerk's Office at 902-490-4210 or clerks@halifax.ca.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY – MARCH 8th



On March 8th, we celebrate women around the world. Canada's theme for International Women's Day (IWD) 2022 is

Women Inspiring Women.

This important day celebrates all women and girls who inspire us by demonstrating leadership in the choices they make in their day-to-day lives to contribute to the social, economic, cultural, and political spheres.

This day is also to raise awareness of the progress made towards achieving gender equality and the work yet to be done. We all have role to play in forging a more genderbalanced world. I am very proud to be a part HRM's first Regional Council with gender parity—which is equal representation of elected Councillors who identify as women and men.

Did you know?

→ The beginnings of IWD can be traced back to the early twentieth century, emerging from the activities of labour movements in North America and Europe, reflecting the growing voices for women's equal participation in society.

→ The United Nations officially recognized 1975 as International Women's Year and began celebrating March 8 as International Women's Day from there on #IWD2022.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS – MARCH 13th



Turn your clocks ahead one hour at 2:00 a.m. Sunday, March 13th as Daylight Saving Time begins!

PROPERTY TAX REBATE FOR SENIORS



The 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.

The program is open for applications from July 1st to December 31st. Applications may be obtained from Access Nova Scotia or local MLA offices closer to the program opening of July 1st.

Senior's must meet the following criteria to qualify for the rebate:

- municipal residential property taxes are paid in full
- lived at the property as your primary residence in 2021
- receive or are eligible to receive the <u>Guaranteed Income</u> <u>Supplement</u> (GIS) or the <u>Allowance</u> from Service Canada

If you are not currently receiving the GIS or Allowance, check with <u>Service Canada</u> to see if you are eligible.

SENIORS CARE GRANT



The provincial department of Service Nova Scotia & Internal Services is offering a new grant program on behalf of the Department

of Seniors and Long-term Care. 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 at <u>www.novascotia.ca/seniorscaregrant</u> or by paper applications available at MLA offices and Access Nova Scotia Offices.

Applicants have until May 31, 2022, to apply for the grant. For more information please visit www.novascotia.ca/seniorscaregrant or call 1.800.670.4357.



COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

MARCH BREAK – MARCH 14TH TO 18TH



Please be more attentive when driving during the week that students will be out and about during the March break from school.

Check out the <u>Halifax</u> <u>Public Libraries</u> or the <u>HRM Parks &</u>

<u>Recreation website</u> for activities to keep you entertained during March Break!

THE HEAT FUND



The Home Energy Assistance Top-up (HEAT) Fund supports Nova Scotians in need with home heating cost during the winter months. The deadline for all 2021 applications has been extended indefinitely for a maximum of \$400 for individuals and families. You can download an application here:

https://salvationarmy.ca/maritime/home/program s/heat/

HALIFAX TRANSIT SERVICE DISRUPTIONS



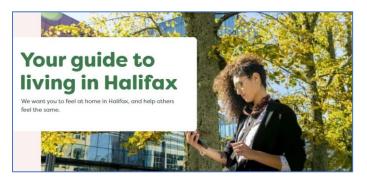
Click <u>here</u> for updates on Halifax Transit service disruptions.

Halifax Transit has switched to an automated method for delivering service alerts. To facilitate this new functionality, a new Halifax Transit Twitter account has been created.

The new account, <u>@hfxtransitalert</u>, is fully automated and linked to the CAD/AVL solution in use at Halifax Transit (the same system that powers our <u>GTFS real-time feed</u>).



NEW TO HALIFAX?



A new website has launched to assist newcomers as they settle into life in the municipality. <u>New in Halifax</u> 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 <u>www.Halifax.ca</u>, 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 <u>Halifax Immigration</u> <u>Partnership</u> (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.

SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

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 <u>here</u>.

You can also visit

<u>http://halifax.ca/whatgoeswhere</u> and enter your address to get a custom calendar.

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PARKS AND RECREATION FEE CHANGES



On April 1, 2022 the Parks and Recreation Fee structure will be changing. These changes will affect all recreation services, programs, rentals, drop ins, voucher and memberships fees.

This does not mean prices are going up across the board; as a result of the fee structure changes that were approved by Regional Council, some fees are increasing in cost while others are staying the same or decreasing. The updated fee structure will reflect the actual cost of providing recreation services to residents.

For more information, explore a list of FAQs at: <u>www.halifax.ca/parks-rec-fee-changes</u>.

STEP UP TO LEADERSHIP - FREE COURSES



HRM's Spring 2022 Step Up to Leadership sessions are now open for registration.

The municipality's Neighbourhood & Volunteer Services team offers a **free**, **nine-session course** that covers a wide range of topics to help you develop leadership skills and build strong communities.

Registration closes on March 18th.

Courses will take place on Wednesdays March 23rd to May 18th 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Fairbanks Centre, 54 Locks Road, Shubie Park, Dartmouth

Register at any municipal recreation centre or online at <u>www.halifax.ca/myrec</u> using the course code 00051338.

For more information, please contact **Darren Hirtle, Community Developer at 902-225-5806** or <u>hirtled@halifax.ca</u>.

HAVE YOUR TAXES DONE FOR FREE



Have Your Taxes Done for Free at the Library! 8

Registration for free tax clinics with Halifax Public Libraries opens on March 1st. Register by calling your local library branch or visiting inperson. This year, tax clinics will be held via telephone with a volunteer from CRA's Community Volunteer Income Tax Program. You may be eligible for help at a free tax clinic if you have a modest income and a simple tax situation.

Learn more about whether you're eligible, and register here: <u>https://bit.ly/33oT1el</u>.



COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

ONLINE ARENA RENTALS



*Participating arenas include the Sackville Sports Stadium, LeBrun Arena, St. Margaret's Centre, Zatzman Sportsplex, RBC Centre and HRM 4-Pad.

Residents are now able to rent spaces in arena facilities through online booking. Participating arenas include the Sackville Sports Stadium, LeBrun Arena, St. Margaret's Centre, Zatzman Sportsplex, RBC Centre and HRM 4-Pad.

Learn more/book here: https://bit.ly/3hdnP5G



YOUTH LIVE – EMPLOYMENT



Looking **ween** for work experience?

Struggling to find <u>meani</u>ngful employment?

If you're between 16 and 24 years old you may be eligible to participate in the Youth Live Program. • 24 weeks of paid work experience • Treer aning • Monday-Friday work schedule weekends off Apply by April 1, 2022! Visit halifax.ca/youthlive for application details.

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Do you need work experience? Struggling to find meaningful employment? If you're between 16 and 24 you may be eligible to participate in the **Youth Live Program**.

The Youth Live Program offers 24 weeks of paid job and life skill building for youth with employment barriers. While in this supportive environment, program participants gain handson work experience and participate in job readiness workshops to improve your employability skills.

Apply by April 1, 2022 for our spring session.

For more information or to apply:

- → Call 902.490.5589 or text 902.579.5446
- → Send an e-mail to <u>vlrecruit@halifax.ca</u>
- → Message Youth Live through
- Facebook: facebook.com/hfxyouthlive
- → Learn more: <u>www.halifax.ca/youthlive</u>



COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD

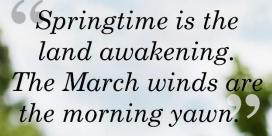


I currently serve on the following boards and committees along with Regional Council and the Halifax & West Community Council:

- Appeals Standing Committee
- Transportation Standing Committee, Vice-Chair
- Heritage Advisory Committee
- Community Monitoring Committee
- Women's Advisory Committee

INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY!!! May all women be free to dream, express, create, and live their deepest heart's desires.....

Amethyst Wyldfyre



- LEWIS GRIZZARD