



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

MESSAGE FROM BECKY

Hello District 3 Residents,

March has arrived and with it a few more bright and sunny days that certainly makes us feel a bit more hopeful that spring may be around the corner. The amount of freezing and thawing that we are experiencing is causing a lot of potholes and difficult road conditions. I hope you take the time to read the article below to understand the approach that HRM is taking to resolve this issue and what you can do to help.

I also want to take this time to share my thoughts on the importance of community partnerships with your elected representatives. I have had the pleasure of working with many local organizations over the course of my career in public service. I have found them to be productive, satisfying, and most certainly rewarding for all involved. When someone has an idea, it is often challenging to get from idea, to goal, to reality. That's where your local representative can possibly help. What's most important to remember here, is that ideas can transform our lives and our communities.

Elected representatives are not the keepers or makers of all the good ideas. Some groups that I am currently working with are Abenaki Aquatic Club, Seaside Elementary School, Portland Estates Hills Residents Association, and Eastern Passage and Area Business Association just to name a few. The main reason I am writing about this today is to encourage you to reach out to me, or another person in your network to share your idea. This is also the case with policy ideas. If you think that there should be change, I want to hear about it.

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.



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PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SESSION: LAND-BASED TESTING FACILITY AT HARTLEN POINT

On **March 3rd at 6:00pm (AST)** the Department of National Defence (DND) will host a **public engagement session** with the Eastern Passage community and surrounding areas about the construction of the Canadian Surface Combatant LBTF at Hartlen Point. DND experts will be on-hand to discuss the status of the project and answer your questions. Virtual attendance is encouraged.

Join in person:

Hartlen Point Golf Club (Clubhouse building)
2400 Shore Road, Eastern Passage

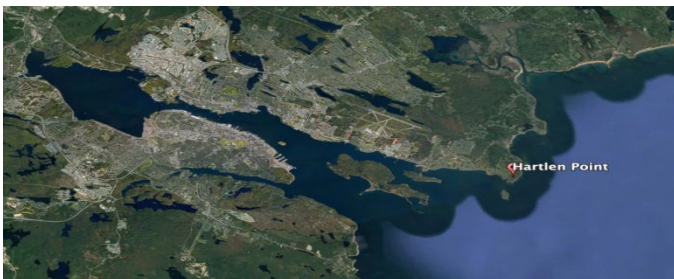
Registration required for those planning to attend in-person.

Please email CFBHalifaxPublicAffairs@forces.gc.ca to confirm your attendance.

This event will adhere to all relevant COVID-19 health and safety regulations. Proof of full COVID-19 vaccination will be required for in-person attendees. Mask's mandatory.

Join online via Microsoft Teams (no account required):

[Click here to join the meeting](#) (will be available 30 minutes prior to the start of the event). For more information, click [here](#).



APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR DISTRICT BOUNDARY RESIDENT REVIEW PANEL POSITIONS

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 now can apply to join the Boundary Resident Review Panel. The Panel will serve as a key component for the [2022 District Boundary Review process](#).

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 [here](#). Residents may also contact the Office of the Municipal Clerk by phone at 902-490-4210 or by email at serve@halifax.ca. 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.



MARCH IS FRANCOPHONIE MONTH

Celebrate Francophonie Month with me in March! What is Canada – or even Nova Scotia – without our Francophone culture? It would be a very different-looking Canada, missing out on the rich, celebrated culture and diversity the French language and Francophone people contribute to our national identity. Bilingualism, and speaking French, are also fundamental parts of our Canadian values.

[Nova Scotia's own Acadian history](#) is very complex. Despite many great difficulties over the years, including the tragic deportation in the 1700s, Acadian people returned and established strong communities with a very vibrant culture that remains an integral part of Nova Scotia's diversity to this day.

Our Francophone culture also connects us with the world in terms of international relations. Did you know that Canada is a part of an organization called "[La Francophonie](#)", a group of 88 states, member governments, and observers – including 300 million Francophones – that share French as a common language and common value system in many ways.

<https://moisfrancohfx.ca/>



CÉLÉBREZ LE MOIS DE LA FRANCOPHONIE

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.

[L'histoire acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse](#) 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 Francophonie](#)", 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.

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MARCH 8TH IS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



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 the 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. Together, we have so much to celebrate!

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 gender-balanced 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.

STEP UP TO LEADERSHIP

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.

To learn more or register, visit our [website](#).

Registration closes on March 18, 2022.

When: Wednesdays, March 23 to May 18, 2022

Time: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Where: Fairbanks Centre at 54 Locks Road, Shubie Park, Dartmouth

Register at any municipal recreation centre or online at www.halifax.ca/myrec using the course code 00051338. For more information, please contact Darren Hirtle, Community Developer at 902-225-5806 or hirtled@halifax.ca.



FREE HELP WITH YOUR INCOME TAXES



Have Your Taxes Done for Free at the Library!

Halifax Public Libraries has shared that registration for free tax clinics with the Library opens on March 1. You can register for 2022 tax clinics by calling your local library branch or by visiting in-person.

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 to register [here](#).

BAKER DRIVE/BASSWOOD RUN INTERSECTION CHANGES

I have heard many concerns raised about turning left on to Basswood Run from Baker Drive. I too, have experienced this when doing site visits, or visiting my son in this area.

I am pleased to share that the infrastructure has been installed at this location to add a flashing left turn signal. The programming is complete and now operational.

Thanks to all the residents who took the time to reach out to me and to traffic staff who listened and took action.

RCMP Road Safety Stats

January 2022 Summary
Dartmouth South-Eastern Passage - District 3

- 313 calls for service in Jan. 2022
Up 40% from Jan. 2021
- 9 Summary Offence Tickets (vs. 6 in Jan. 2021)
 - 1 aggressive driving, 1 speeding, 1 cell phone, 6 other MVA (i.e. unregistered vehicle, driving without insurance, etc.)
- 131 Proactive Assignments (vs. 50 in Jan. 2021)
- 24 Cellphone/Impaired/Seatbelt/Speeding checkpoints
- 55 Traffic Stops (vs. 31 in Jan. 2021)
- 1 Impaired Driving Charge (same as in Jan. 2021)
- 1 Impaired Suspension (same as in Jan. 2021)
- 12 Motor Vehicle Accidents (vs. 4 in Jan. 2021)
 - Of these, one resulted in injuries

Please Drive Safely!

Impaired Driving Statistics

From Halifax Regional Police

- In December 2021, 41 drivers were charged with impaired-related offences.
- 36 were alcohol-related, 5 were drug-related.
- 7 of these drivers - who provided breath samples - were at least twice the legal limit.
- Police received 16 calls in December from citizens who suspected impaired drivers.

If you see a potential impaired driver:
Call 911 immediately. Give the call taker your location, 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.



CONSIDER STARTING A COMMUNITY GARDEN THIS SUMMER



Thinking of starting a community garden? Many community gardens in Halifax are operated by residents on land owned by the municipal government.

Applications for spring 2022 are due by March 30.

To review HRM's application form and handbook, visit our [website](#).

You'll also find a full list of existing community gardens if you're thinking of joining one. Let's get growing!



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





POTHOLES—REPORTING & REPAIRING

Another freeze-thaw cycle = more potholes! This is a challenging year for potholes due to the freeze and thaw cycle we've been experiencing. I get many questions and concerns from residents as we move from winter into spring, as new potholes appear, and existing ones may get bigger.

HRM crews monitor for potholes on our roads year-round, but it's also important for residents important to report potholes so that crews are aware of them and can work on getting them fixed.

Q: How do I report potholes?

A: On municipal roads, **please call 311** or email contactus@311.halifax.ca. You can also fill out this online form [here](#).

However, even within the municipality the province is responsible for 100-series highways (and ramps/overpasses associated with these highways). On provincially owned roads, please contact the TIR Operations Contact Centre (OCC): tir-occ@novascotia.ca or call 1-844-696-7737

Q: What if my vehicle is damaged by a pothole?

A: The driver should first call 311 to determine who is responsible for the stretch of road the pothole is located on. If the damage occurred due to a pothole on a municipal road, begin a claim process with a 311 agent. If you determine it occurred on a provincial road, please contact TIR.

Q: How long will it take to repair potholes?

A: The time to fix a pothole can range anywhere from 7 business days to 30 days depending on the pothole and if it is considered a priority. Crews aim to repair priority potholes on main arterial roads within 7 business days. However, weather can hamper these efforts - due to recent weather, crews were unable to fill potholes for nearly 10 days recently, off and on.

Q: What constitutes a priority pothole?

A: The municipality considers a pothole of 8 cm or greater in depth to be a P1 (Priority 1), and a pothole of 7.9 cm or less in depth to be a P2 (Priority 2).

- P1 classified potholes have a service standard of seven business days on arterial and major collector roads, 14 business days on minor collector roads and 30 business days on local roads.

- P2 classified potholes have a 12-month service standard on all street classifications.

Q: How are potholes repaired at different times of year?

A: HRM has two strategies for repairing potholes:

- **Cold patch:** a quick and low-cost strategy, where a pre-mix of asphalt is placed in the potholes and compacted. These relatively quick repairs are generally performed during winter months and are mainly a as a temporary hold until proper repairs can be scheduled.

- **Hot mix repair:** Pavement around the pothole is saw-cut and then filled with hot-mix asphalt. This type of repair generally addresses the underlying problems; however, the initial cost is higher, and the repair process is more involved. Plants typically don't open until May for hot asphalt.



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Q: How many potholes does HRM repair?

A: To provide some perspective - municipal transportation crews have repaired more than 600 potholes across the municipality since November.

There are approximately 384 on HRM's rolling repair list. It's important to note these numbers are constantly changing, as crews log and repair potholes each day.



2022-23 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](#).

UPCOMING REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS



There are two Regional Council meetings scheduled for March:

- Tuesday, March 1 (10am)
- Tuesday, March 22 (10am)

Visit our [website](#) to see a full list of upcoming meetings including Standing Committees and Community Councils.

Please be advised that Regional Council will return to in-person meetings beginning on March 22nd. I encourage you to view the meetings virtually or attend in-person once we can do so. Agendas and links to watch the meeting are provided on the webpage I referenced above – I hope you can join us!

BOOK HALIFAX RECREATION PROGRAMS AND MORE: www.Halifax.ca/myREC

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

Need assistance? Call 902-490-6666





FIREWORKS: PLEASE CONSIDER THEIR IMPACT ON YOUR NEIGHBOURS

As beautiful as they are, fireworks have an impact on our neighbors and their pets, the environment, and wildlife.

-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 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**.

Please consider how the fun of fireworks may be a traumatic experience for others.

Learn more about the hazards and the safe use of fireworks in HRM on our [website](#).





MUNICIPALITY TO DEVELOP RURAL ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

The municipality will create a Rural Active Transportation Program that focuses on rural community centre sidewalks and incorporates a prioritization framework, funding strategy, ten-year target and operational and maintenance approach.

This Program will build on the existing rural active transportation network, consisting of a network of multi-use pathways built and maintained by community associations. It will provide a more consistent approach in maintaining walking and bicycling infrastructure in rural parts of the municipality.

The Program will focus on three elements:

1. Outlining a prioritization and planning approach for **sidewalks in rural centres**, as well as recommendations on area rate funding mechanism to help pay for construction and maintenance.
2. Identifying options to pursue for **longer “spine” connections between rural centres** if opportunities for project integration arise or Council-specific direction is provided.
3. Continuing support for **community-led, multi-use pathway construction**, operation, and maintenance in rural areas through the municipality’s [Active Transportation Grant Program](#).

Following the Program’s development, necessary amendments will be made to the [Active Transportation Priorities Plan](#).

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 March 3rd has been cancelled due to a light agenda. The next meeting of Community Council will take place on April 7th. 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](#).