



**COUNCILLOR PATTY CUTTELL**  
DISTRICT 11 ONLINE NEWS  
SPRYFIELD - SAMBRO LOOP - PROSPECT ROAD

**DEAR RESIDENTS,**

Generally, March is an exciting time of year with coming of Spring. Sunday, March 20th marks the spring equinox, resulting in increasing daylight hours and warming temperatures. Daylight Saving Time happens on Sunday, March 13th when we all turn the clocks forward one hour from 2am to 3am.

While this is usually a time for celebration, events in Ukraine are deeply troubling and raise concern about Russia's disregard for democracy and use of aggressive, brutal force. As a democratic nation we value an open, informed and participatory society, where we elect representatives to form governing bodies - with fair and transparent rules.

This invasion by Russia is almost unbelievable. Unimaginable. And is a strike against all of us who respect democracy and a nation's sovereignty. My heartfelt thoughts go out to those with connections and relations in Ukraine.

The Canadian Red Cross has launched the Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal to respond to those affected by ongoing conflict in the country. Canadians wishing to donate to the Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal can do so online at [www.redcross.ca](http://www.redcross.ca) or by calling 1-800-418-1111.

In the meantime, I remained focused on my job at City Hall on your behalf. There is always a lot going on with work at Council advancing strategic initiatives, in the District assisting residents with issues, and with staff and local organizations making community projects happen. I am always interested in feedback and hearing your thoughts on what is important, so please connect if you have something to share.

**CONTACT ME**

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**STAY CONNECTED ON SOCIAL**

 Patty Cuttell, Councillor District 11 Spryfield - Sambro Loop - Prospect Rd

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**CONTACT MY OFFICE**

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*Please contact Stephanie to sign up for my e-newsletter.*



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## CONTACT 311

Call 311 or email [ContactUs@311.halifax.ca](mailto:ContactUs@311.halifax.ca) for concerns such as illegally parked cars, fireworks or graffiti, to apply for licenses or building permits, to request information about garbage collection and transit schedules, and to report dangerous dogs or other animal concerns.

## COMMUNITY BULLETINS

### **SS Atlantic 150 years later: Remembering and Reconnecting**

Help design a fantastic summer of events for 2023! In 1873 the *SS Atlantic* wrecked off Lower Prospect. The *SS Atlantic* Society sees this 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the worst shipwreck in Nova Scotian history as a catalyst for reconnection and community collaboration. Stay tuned to our [Facebook](#) and [Webpage](#) for more information and ways to get involved. Please take a moment to complete the [SSA One-Minute Survey](#).

### **SS Atlantic Centre Expecting to Hire for summer 2022**

Interested in local history? Comfortable speaking with people? Looking for summer employment? Please send a current resume [here](#).

### **Spryfield Farmers Market Seeking New Board Members**

The Spryfield Farmers Market is actively recruiting for new board members for the 2022 season, including a treasurer, secretary, and board member at large. I love this little market that could and enjoyed working with board members last year to support their efforts in bringing this weekly market to the community. Anyone who is interested in joining the Board or has any questions can send a message to [spryfieldmarketgeneral@gmail.com](mailto:spryfieldmarketgeneral@gmail.com). And all are welcome to join the AGM on Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> ([check out the event page on Facebook for details](#)).

### **Chebucto Connections: “No Event Fundraising Event”**

Chebucto Connections invites you to their [No Event Fundraising Event](#), to be "held" on March 25th. Tickets are only \$35 and you will receive a \$25 tax receipt. Sales are open now. This is an incredible local organization doing import work to support people in our community.

The money raised at this annual event will support the Community Support & Outreach Program and our fantastic team as they work with the residents of the Spryfield and Sambro Loop area.

Did you know that we support over 400 people every two weeks with fresh produce, bread and eggs? Did you know that up to 9 new households call for food support every two weeks? And that a growing waiting list of almost 30 households are looking for food security? You can be a part of helping your friends, family and neighbours so get involved today.

You can learn more and purchase tickets by visiting [their website](#).

### **Long Lake Provincial Park Association seeking Volunteers and Board Members**

The Long Lake Provincial Park Association is looking for a few community-minded volunteers to serve on its board of directors.

The purpose of the board is to manage the park's resources and amenities, so that they are usable for visitors during its months of operation and beyond. Responsibilities of board members include event planning, fundraising, and managing projects related to trail/park improvement and maintenance.

For more information or to reach out to the Association, visit <https://longlakepark.ca/>, or find them on Facebook at @LLPPA.

MARCH 2022

HALIFAX



# COUNCILLOR PATTY CUTTELL

SPRYFIELD - SAMBRO LOOP - PROSPECT ROAD

## HRM NOTICES

### March Break in HRM

Looking for fun things to do over March Break? Halifax Public Libraries have plenty of activities planned from March 12-20. Check out their What's On Calendar for free events and activities for the whole family to enjoy—at-home and in-person! Visit their website to explore and register: <https://bit.ly/3vntwGg>

Halifax Rec also has an awesome lineup of March Break programs at the Power House Youth Centre! Most workshops are free, but space is limited so be sure to register to save your spot. Visit [www.halifax.ca/powerhouse](http://www.halifax.ca/powerhouse) for a full list of events and registration info.

### Affordable access transit pass program

The Affordable Access Transit Pass Program (AATP) (formerly the Low Income Transit Pass) offers a 50% discount on the regular price of Halifax Transit monthly adult transit passes to residents in financial need. The AATP is open to anyone in Halifax Regional Municipality living with low income, and is part of Halifax's Affordable Access Program (AAP).

If you need help with the cost of a monthly transit pass, we encourage you to apply for this discounted program. For more information, please visit the [Affordable Access Program page](#) or call 311 for details.

### Seasonal Employment with HRM Recreation

There are lots of great summer job opportunities with the Halifax Regional Municipality! REC jobs offer a rewarding and fun experience, the opportunity to gain valuable career skills, and an environment that promotes health, wellness, and physical activity.

These jobs give you an opportunity to work in areas of interest – with children, at beach and

pools and in sports, recreation, and inclusion. Check out the current postings -- <https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/employment/seasonal-youth-employment-recreation>

## DISTRICT 11 NEWS

### 40km speed limits coming to Governor's Brook

I'm very excited to announce that HRM's application to reduce speed limits to 40km in the Governor's Brook area has been approved. This is the first application in District 11 to be approved for speed limit reductions. Work has started on making these changes and residents can expect new speed signage to be installed sometime this spring.

Speeding and pedestrian safety issues exist throughout District 11. HRM is only able to request speed reductions and put in traffic calming on HRM owned streets. Even within HRM, HRM does not have the authority to set speed limits below 50km without provincial approval.

Additional applications for speed reductions have been made to the province, including one for Thornhill Park which I hope will be approved this next fiscal year. I continue to work on traffic calming initiatives such as speed bumps, curb extensions, and crosswalk tables, throughout the Spryfield, Purcell's Cove Road and Herring Cove areas.

Recently the Leiblin Park Traffic Calming Committee made an excellent presentation to Regional Council Committee of the Whole (Budget) requesting action be taken to address speeding issues on Leiblin Drive. Thank you to everyone who submitted correspondence. Leiblin Drive is currently being assessed for traffic calming and I am advocating for action here too.



# COUNCILLOR PATTY CUTTELL

SPRYFIELD - SAMBRO LOOP - PROSPECT ROAD

## Land Use By-law Amendment for R-2 Zone Side Setbacks Approved

At the February 22 Halifax and West Community Council, amendments to the R-2 Zone in the Mainland South Secondary Plan Area (Spryfield) were approved to reduce side yard setbacks and building separation distance requirements.

There was a lot of discussion and debate within the community about these changes. Thank you to everyone who took the time to share your thoughts and concerns. The most common concerns were:

- 1) The amendments would lead to an increase in density and increase the number of houses a developer could build on R2 zoned lands - especially Clifton Heights, benefitting the developers;
- 2) These amendments would impact the livability of the area and character of the neighbourhoods;
- 3) There would be an Increased risk of fire;
- 4) There were be a loss of privacy.

After reading through the proposal and staff report in detail and meeting with HRM planners, all of the concerns are addressed.

Most importantly, the changes to side yard setback and building separation WILL NOT result in any more houses being built on R2 lands *than is already allowed*. The minimum lot area, lot frontage per unit, front yard setback, rear yard setback and building height all remain the same, as does the maximum lot coverage, meaning no extra lots can be created because of the changes to side yard setbacks.

	Current Requirements	Proposed Requirements
Min. lot area per unit	2,500 square feet	2,500 square feet
Min. lot frontage per unit	25 feet	25 feet
Max. lot coverage	35%	35%
Min. front yard setback	20 feet	20 feet
Min. rear yard setback	8 feet	8 feet
<b>Min. side yard setback</b>	<b>8 feet</b>	<b>4 feet</b>
<b>Min. building separation</b>	<b>12 feet</b>	<b>8 feet</b>
Max. building height	35 feet	35 feet

If 100 lots and homes were allowed under the old rules, only 100 lots and homes will be allowed under the new rules. What will change is the shape of homes that can be built. The changes allow for more flexibility in building form.

I know some people were disappointed with my vote to approve these changes, but given all the information, including information on NS Building Codes as they related to fire prevention, the changes are minor and do not create more lots beyond what is already allowed, which was the most important consideration for me.

If you have any questions, please give me a call or send an email. The staff report, staff presentation and applicant presentation are all available on-line here:

[February 22, 2022 Halifax and West Community Council](#)



## Spryfield's Rocking Stone finally gets Heritage Designation

Kidston Lake Park in Spryfield is home to the "Rocking Stone", a large glacial boulder which has been a well-known geological curiosity since the 18th Century. The municipally-owned property was designated a "Historic Site" under section 425 of the former Halifax City Charter by Halifax City Council on August 12, 1971. This section of the former city charter was replaced by the Heritage Property Act in 1981, and as such, the property currently has no official heritage designation.

Since it was Halifax City Council's objective to recognize the social and geological history of this site, I was happy to make a Motion which Council approved in November 2021 that the Rocking Stone be re-evaluated and considered for designation under the Heritage Property Act. In February the Heritage Advisory Committee reviewed the evaluation and gave it a thumbs up to proceed to the next step for heritage designation.

The Rocking Stone and Kidston Lake Park are a really important part of Spryfield's history and legacy. Getting heritage designation will help ensure the park and rock are protected, recognized and celebrated moving forward. I want to thank HRM staff for bringing this to my attention to correct an oversight from 40 years ago.

## Prospect Road Community Centre ROC Board hosts a public meeting

On March 2 the [Resource Opportunities Committee \(ROC\) Board of Directors held a virtual public meeting](#) to provide an update to residents about the ROC Board and operations at the Prospect Road Community Centre (PRCC).

This meeting was a follow-up to November 2021 community meeting held at New Life Community Church were approximately 75 community

members gathered to discuss questions and concerns about the PRCC. The ROC created a [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) document](#) which is available on-line, and answers many of the questions asked at the November meeting.

The March 2 virtual meeting was attended by about 25 people, including the new Board members of the ROC, HRM Parks and Recreation staff, and HRM's new Parks and Recreation Director Maggie MacDonald. With COVID restrictions lifting, the PRCC plans to reintroduce programming in stages over the next number of months.

The ROC is looking to hold an in-person AGM at the PRCC in June 2022 (date to be determined) and continues work on its strategic plan. There will be an opportunity at the AGM for area residents to approve the new BOD.

I want to thank members of the ROC Board for their work over the past few months. This is a volunteer run Board oversees the Facility Lease Agreement of the PRCC, which is owned by HRM. There are several municipally owned facilities that are run by community boards throughout HRM. I look forward to working with the ROC Board, PRCC staff, and HRM staff to ensure the Centre is supported in meeting the needs of area residents. The current ROC Directors are:

- Nicole Slaunwhite (Chair)
- Sara Allain (Vice-Chair)- Filling a Board Vacancy since December 2021.
- Marley MacDonald (Secretary)- Filling a board vacancy since January 2022.
- Brad Knight (Treasurer)
- Derek Minney - Filling a Board Vacancy since December 2021.

If you have questions about the Board or are interested in joining, contact Marley MacDonald at [Levins.marley@gmail.com](mailto:Levins.marley@gmail.com)



# COUNCILLOR PATTY CUTTELL

SPRYFIELD - SAMBRO LOOP - PROSPECT ROAD

The Prospect Road Recreation Association (PRRA) is a separate organization that manages the local area rate to support community recreation projects and events. The [area rate for 2021-2022](#) was \$98,500. The PRRA held a meeting in December to approve applications for 2021-2022 funding. Information on when the AGM will be held has not been released yet. For more information on the PRRA please the [visit Prospect Communities website](#).

## Active Planning Applications in District 11

I have updated my HRM Councillor Page with a list of [Active Planning Applications in District 11](#). I get many questions from residents looking for information on development in the District. **Not all active applications are listed.** Applications not listed may include certain Land Use By-Law amendments or Variance applications. There is a map on the HRM website that is updated 12 times each year on the third Monday of every month (except holidays) showing most Active Planning Applications.

If you have a question about something that may not be listed on the map, please contact me or Stephanie, my Councillor Coordinator, and we will be pleased to look into it for you.

## RCMP Stats for Prospect Road

Efforts continue to address issues related to road safety in the Prospect Communities. Each month the RCMP shares statistics on Summary Offences in the area. The stats for February 2022 are:

**109 calls recorded** (including self-generated) in February 2022, up 37.9% over the same period in 2021.

**11 SOTs were issued** up from the 5 issued during the same period in 2021:

- 2 Aggressive Driving
- 6 Speeding

- 3 Other MVA e.g. No Registration, Expired Permit, etc.

**27 Proactive Assignments** in February 2022, up from the 16 reported during the same period in 2021:

- **18 Cell Phone / Impaired / Seatbelt / Speeding Checkpoints / Radar Enforcement**
- **16 Traffic Stops** in February 2022, up from the 13 conducted in February 2021
- **0 Impaired Driving Charges**, down from the 1 reported in February 2021
- **0 Impaired Suspensions**, the same number reported in February 2021

**1 Motor Vehicle Accident** in February 2022, down from the 5 reported during the same period in 2021 (1 Non-Injury, 0 Injury).

If you wish to report a road safety incident, please call 911 for emergencies or the Police non-emergency at **(902) 490-5020**. For issues with road maintenance **please call 311**.

## CITY HALL REPORT

### Sambro and Hatchet lake/Brookside Identified as Candidate Communities in the Rural Active Transportation Program

Pedestrian safety in our suburban and rural communities is a topic that comes up regularly in discussions and emails from residents. It is especially challenging in rural areas where residents are forced to walk along busy highways and main roads, often without paved shoulders or adequate street lighting.

In February, Council approved the creation of a Rural Active Transportation Program that focusses on rural community centre sidewalks. Of all the Canadian municipalities with a population of over 250,000, Halifax Regional Municipality



# COUNCILLOR PATTY CUTTELL

SPRYFIELD - SAMBRO LOOP - PROSPECT ROAD

(HRM) has the largest proportion of rural residents, estimated at 19.8% of the total population as of 2016.

One difference between rural and urban HRM is the lack of an active transportation (AT) program and funding mechanism for HRM-delivered sidewalks. This is due to historic approaches to planning, transportation infrastructure development and taxation. There has been some progress in building rural AT facilities, particularly community-led trail projects, but not “main street” pedestrian infrastructure. This has resulted in continued calls for safer, more accessible and connected walking and bicycling infrastructure in rural HRM.

The development of the Rural Active Transportation Program will consider types of active transit networks and facilities, funding mechanisms, land ownership and jurisdictional responsibility, and a decision-making framework. The program will focus on a list of fourteen Rural Candidate Communities, which were chosen based on a set of criteria. Included in that list are both Sambro and Hatchet Lake/Brookside.

The creation of this program has only just been approved. There is still a lot of work to be done. [The full report is available on-line.](#) Please continue to look for more updates as this project progresses.

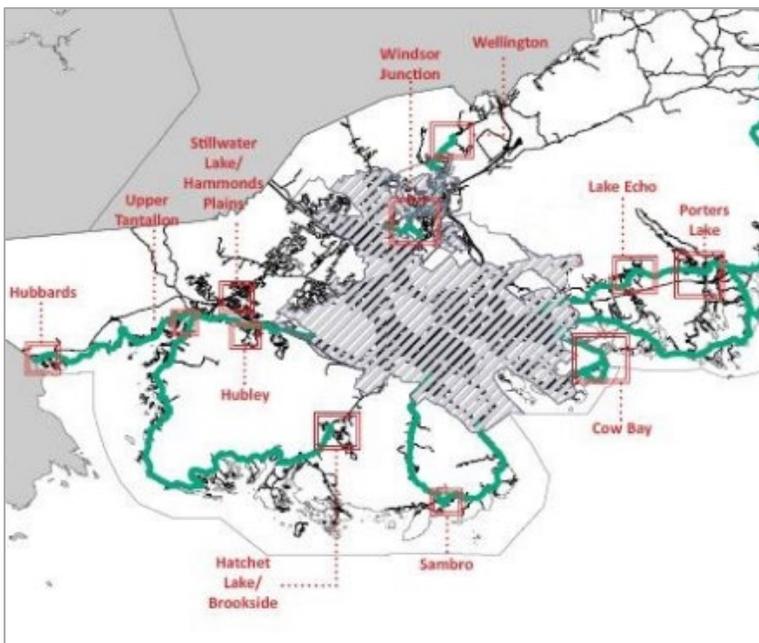
## HOW ARE YOUR PROPERTY TAXES CALCULATED?

Property taxes take into account a) the assessed value of your property, and b) the tax rate which is applied to the assessed value.

*Property assessments* are determined by Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC), an independent, not-for-profit organization responsible for assessing all property in Nova Scotia as mandated under the [Nova Scotia Assessment Act](#).

For homeowners, your Property Assessment Notice is mailed in January and shows your property’s assessed value, your capped assessment (if eligible) and your taxable assessed value (used to calculate your property taxes). For more information on how your property is assessed please contact [PVSC](#). **Tax rates** are determined by Regional Council, based on decisions made through the budget process, and taking into account increases in assessments and other sources of revenue.

The rate is determined by dividing the total money required by HRM to deliver business plan by the total taxable assessment. There is a general rate for urban, suburban, and rural areas, as well as other area rates. When considering a “rate increase” of 4.6%, that refers to the increase a property owner would be expected to pay over what they paid last year (i.e., if you paid \$1,000 in taxes last year, a 4.6% increase would mean you pay \$1,046 this year). [More information about tax rates is available on Halifax.ca](#)





# COUNCILLOR PATTY CUTTELL

SPRYFIELD - SAMBRO LOOP - PROSPECT ROAD

## PROPERTY TAXES IN HRM

*How are they determined?*

Taxes are set by Regional Council based on decisions made through the annual budget process.

This process started in November. The final Budget and tax rates for the year are set in April.



In January, Regional Council voted to **reduce** the proposed "average tax bill" increase from 5.9% **down to 4.6%**.

Your **Assessed Property Value** is sent from an independent, not-for-profit called Property Valuation Services Corporation (PVSC) in January each year.

The amount you pay for property taxes =



**ASSESSED PROPERTY VALUE**

**X**

**TAX RATE APPLIED TO ASSESSED VALUE**

- The **average** municipal property tax bill in 2022/23 is \$2,144, an increase of \$94 or 4.6% over the previous year.
- How much each property pays will depend on the final tax rates to be set in April and their assessment.
- The municipal property tax rates are expected to **decline** from those used in 2021.
- Property taxes pay for critical services that keep our municipality functioning and make HRM a great place to live. Services range from recreation programming to waste management, emergency services and more.

conducted in 2014 and [the resulting district boundaries](#) are currently in effect.

On December 14, 2021, Halifax Regional Council approved that the 2022 District Boundary Review be conducted in two Phases:

- Phase 1 to determine the size of Council and its governance structure
- Phase 2 to set specific district boundaries

Public consultation will be conducted as a part of the process, so please stay tuned for more information. For more information on the review, the process, and opportunities to participate visit the [District Boundary Review webpage](#).

## HRM Continues to Support Affordable Housing Developments

The Affordable Housing Grant Program (AHGP) was created as a means of allocating monies collected through the Regional Centre's incentive or bonus zoning program to fund affordable housing projects located within the Regional Centre. As of January 2022, there is \$3,565,089 available in the density bonus reserve. Prioritizing projects is based on access to additional funding, the provision of deeply affordable units and enhanced accessibility or energy efficiency features, and for the 2021/22 program, projects that are likely to start construction within the next 12 months. **A total of \$400,000 was allocated for the 2021/22 Affordable Housing Grant Program:**

- **\$200,000** - available to projects only within the Regional Centre, as funds were allocated from the Regional Centre's Incentive or Bonus Zoning program.
- **\$200,000** - available to projects anywhere within the Municipality, as funds were allocated from Planning and Development's operating budget.

## District Boundary Review

The Municipal Government Act (MGA) requires that all municipalities in Nova Scotia conduct a review of the number and boundaries of polling districts in the municipality on a regular basis. The final decision on municipal polling districts and boundaries is made by the [Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board \(NSUARB\)](#) and is binding on the municipality. The most recent review was

MARCH 2022



# COUNCILLOR PATTY CUTTELL

SPRYFIELD - SAMBRO LOOP - PROSPECT ROAD

A total of 3 submissions, with a total funding request of \$815,245, were submitted to the Municipality and included applications for Affirmative Ventures for their project at 139 Main Street, Dartmouth; Welcome Housing/YWCA for their project at 2672-2678 Belle Aire Terrace, Halifax; and Compass NS for their project at 2092-2126 Maitland Street, Halifax.

All the projects have received funding, which will provide 85 units of deeply affordable housing supporting individuals with mental health challenges, young mothers, and vulnerable populations.

As your Councillor I continue to advocate for and support affordable housing in all forms. The additional \$200,000 for projects anywhere with the municipality was a result of a Motion I made at Council in May 2021. With the Regional Plan Review we are hoping the incentive and bonus zoning program will be expanded throughout the municipality to provide a stable funding source for affordable housing everywhere. I would like to see more applications for deeply affordable housing development here in Spryfield, and to support those application as they come forward. More information on the AHGP Program, and other [affordable housing initiatives at HRM is available on the Halifax website.](#)

## Halifax's New 5 Year Inclusive Economic Strategy

In February [Halifax Partnership](#) presented a new [Inclusive Economic Strategy 2022-27](#). This plan is something I believe we can be proud of. Too often economic measures only look at the bottom line, not the social and environmental implications. Since being elected, Regional Council has been consistently saying we need to be inclusive, we need to be address climate change, we need to address socio-economic barriers, and we need be working on community economic development in *all parts* of HRM -

MARCH 2022

urban, suburban, and rural. Looking ahead, Halifax will continue to see a tremendous amount of growth. Projections show a population of 650,000 by 2037. Our choice is to let change happen to us or try to direct that change in way that protects what matters while creating opportunities to do things better. Below are a few paragraphs from the staff report related to this new economic strategy. I'm interested in hearing your thoughts about this strategy and the direction it is proposing. I think it is something to be excited about and shows how business units across the municipality are aligning in a strategic way.

"Halifax has undergone a great deal of change since the 2016-21 economic strategy was developed. Halifax has experienced record population growth, more young people are staying, immigration is increasing, start-ups and scaleups are energizing innovation, and Halifax's skyline has been transformed.

Even during the uncertainty of a global pandemic, and despite the accompanying economic challenges, the Municipality has entered a period of growing prosperity. Beyond the economic challenges of the pandemic, there are other challenges facing HRM. For example, more people in Halifax means an increased demand for housing, which has led to very tight markets and rising costs for both home ownership and rental accommodations.

As confirmed by surveys of both residents and businesses conducted in early 2021, addressing growing pains like the rising cost of housing is a critical issue for Halifax now and in the coming years. Key municipal responsibilities like transit and transportation networks are tightly intertwined with housing issues. Managing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as economic and population growth increase, and simultaneously capitalizing on business opportunities created by policies and activities focused on minimizing and mitigating climate change are also key issues to be addressed.



# COUNCILLOR PATTY CUTTELL

SPRYFIELD - SAMBRO LOOP - PROSPECT ROAD

As Halifax enjoyed great success overall in recent years, some residents and communities have not shared in this increased prosperity.

This new strategy includes greater attention to the distribution of gains, the condition of those at the lower end of the income and wealth spectrum, and the population's overall wellbeing, beyond commonly cited economic metrics like GDP.

## The HRM Heritage Property Program

The HRM Heritage Property Program celebrates and protects the rich social and architectural history of the region through the designation of properties under the *Heritage Property Act*. Currently, there are over 500 properties registered under this program which are eligible for grants of up to \$15,000 for residential properties and \$25,000 for commercial properties to undertake exterior maintenance and repairs.

The program is a great way to recognize the history and architecture of our communities by ensuring that historic houses, churches and other properties are protected long into the future, while providing support to their owners.

The HRM Heritage Property Program is available to all Heritage Property owners throughout HRM. For more information on the HRM heritage property program, please call 902.497.7655, or visit the website at <https://www.halifax.ca/home-property/heritage-properties>

10

## Economic Strategy Framework



Moving into the next five years, formulating an overarching economic strategy requires careful consideration of the issues facing Halifax and new opportunities to drive inclusive economic growth and prosperity for all.

The vision of the Inclusive Economic Strategy is, "A prosperous, growing Halifax that puts the wellbeing of people and planet first."

It is supported by a quantitative vision of growing Halifax's GDP to \$32 Billion and its population to 650,000 by 2037."

## EVENTS

**1 March → 31 March 2022**

- Francophonie Month – See <https://moisfrancohfx.ca/>
- National Nutrition Month
- Brain Injury Awareness Month
- Fraud Prevention Month

**8 March 2022**

International Women's Day



# COUNCILLOR PATTY CUTTELL

SPRYFIELD - SAMBRO LOOP - PROSPECT ROAD

## 14 March 2022

Commonwealth Day

## 14-18 March 2022

March Break for Students

## 17 March 2022

St. Patrick's Day

## 20 March 2022

International Francophonie Day

Nowruz (Persian New Year)

First Day of Spring

## 21 March 2022

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

## 26 March 2022

Purple Day for Epilepsy

## 31 March 2022

International Transgender Day of Visibility

You can still view Regional Council and many other meetings virtually via [www.halifax.ca/city-hall/](http://www.halifax.ca/city-hall/)

I hope this means we will also be able to have more community meetings and events in-person. It has been a challenging time for everyone, including for many of our local community organizations.

It will be great to be out in the community again and I hope to see many of you soon! I am planning a series of town hall meetings in the coming months. Please look for updates in future e-newsletters and social media posts.

Stay safe and be well.



## COUNCILLOR LIFE

### A return to in-person meetings

Since being elected I have been mostly working from home and doing virtual meetings. With COVID restrictions lifting Halifax Regional Council and some other meetings are soon resuming in-person, starting with the March 22nd regional council meeting.

It was very exciting to join my colleagues at our first in-person regional council meeting on October 19th and I am looking forward to being face-to-face once again.