



## COUNCILLOR TONY MANCINI

DISTRICT 6 ONLINE NEWS

HARBOURVIEW - BURNSIDE - DARTMOUTH EAST

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

#### WELCOME MARCH

It's March and Spring is finally approaching. Soon, we'll see the sun shining, leaves on the tree and flowers blooming. A new beginning, just as every year before. A perfect time to get out and enjoy springtime activities.

This month we celebrate Mois de la Francophonie, a time to commemorate the French language and diverse Francophone cultures in our region and across the world.

Spring also signifies the timing that HRM begins the hiring process for seasonal employment with our Parks and Recreation programs. There are many opportunities to work in an environment that promotes health and wellness, all while gaining on the job experience. More information is available at:

<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/employment/seasonal-youth-employment-recreation>

#### BIENVENUE AU MOIS DE MARS

Nous sommes en mars et le printemps approche.

Bientôt, nous verrons le soleil briller, des feuilles sur les arbres ainsi que des fleurs fleurir. Un nouveau départ, comme à chaque année. Un moment idéal pour sortir et profiter des activités du printemps.

Ce mois-ci, nous célébrons le Mois de la Francophonie, un moment pour commémorer la langue française et les diverses cultures francophones de notre région et du monde.

Le printemps indique également le moment où la MRH entame le processus d'embauche saisonnier dans le cadre de nos programmes Parcs et loisirs. Il y a de nombreuses occasions de travailler dans un environnement qui favorise la santé et le bien-être, tout en gagnant de l'expérience professionnelle. [Pour en savoir plus, consultez : https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/employment/seasonal-youth-employment-recreation.](https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/employment/seasonal-youth-employment-recreation)





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### SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

Last week, I had the honour of attending a rally in support of the Ukraine, where their flag was erected to show solidarity. As a Municipality, we are shocked and saddened by the unprovoked attack on the country and its citizens.

Nova Scotia will be contributing through a financial donation and the public is welcome to do so as well through the Canadian Red Cross: website at <https://www.redcross.ca/> or call toll free 1-800-418-1111.



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.



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### CELEBRATE FRANCOPHOINE 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

### CELEBREZ LE MOIS LA FRANCOPHONI

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.



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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.

recreation, and inclusion. Plus, most jobs offer free evenings and weekends!

Check out the current postings --

<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/employment/seasonal-youth-employment-recreation>

### BEAZLEY FIELD UPGRADES

Beazley Ballfield will be getting new LED lighting. Paved areas will be installed under the bleachers and along the sides and in front of the bleachers for accessibility. Expected timeframe of completion is mid-June.



Post-secondary students studying in a healthcare field, who identify as African Nova Scotian/Black; Indigenous; Racialized; Immigrant; 2SLGBTQIA+; living with a physical, mental health or learning challenge; or have intersectionality of these identities, are invited to apply.

For more information and to apply, visit:

[Apply.QE2Foundation.ca](https://Apply.QE2Foundation.ca)

**Application deadline: March 21, 2022**

The QEII Foundation Diversity in Health Care Bursary program supports students pursuing a career in health care, with a goal of a diverse and inclusive workforce that reflects Nova Scotian communities.



### SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT WITH HRM RECREATION

There are lots of great summer job opportunities with the Halifax Regional Municipality! REC jobs offer a rewarding experience and offer a fun culture, 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,



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## 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 be 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.

## NEW HALIFAX TRANSIT ROUTES

Halifax Transit has announced new transit routes in Burnside and Dartmouth Crossing. One of the new routes will travel on Cutler Avenue by IKEA and Kent. These routes will be in place November 2022.

HALIFAX TRANSIT

### ANNUAL SERVICE PLAN – SERVICE CHANGES

#### Burnside/Dartmouth Crossing

- Route 51 A/B Windmill – Will provide service between Bridge Terminal and BIO/Oceanbreeze Estates, and the future Wrights Cove Terminal
- Route 56 Dartmouth Crossing – Will be extended via Wright Avenue to the provide service to the future Wrights Cove Terminal
- Route 72 Portland Hills – Will have several routing adjustments to provide service to Commodore Drive in Burnside and newer development in Dartmouth Crossing north of Wright Avenue



Existing Burnside/Dartmouth Crossing service



Proposed Burnside/Dartmouth Crossing service

## HALIFACT: ACTING ON CLIMATE TOGETHER

HalifACT: Acting on Climate Together is the Municipality’s long-term climate action plan to reduce emissions and help communities adapt to a changing climate. As part of Council’s approval of HalifACT, staff was directed to prioritize efforts in seven critical core areas, one being to develop a municipal electric vehicle strategy that would guide a low carbon transportation transition.

Through a competitive process, Dunsky Energy Consulting was hired in spring 2020 to develop an electric vehicle strategy to position Halifax as an EV-ready municipality.

In 2016, the transport sector contributed to 20% of overall community emissions, with light duty cars and trucks making up 90% of the total. While HalifACT first recommends a transition to public transit or active transportation, it also recommends that the Municipality take significant action to accelerate the transition to EVs.

HRM’s public charging infrastructure plan strategy recommends public charging roll out in two phases:

#### Phase 1: 2021-2025

Increase geographical coverage across HRM in urban, suburban, and rural areas.

DCFC Ports (fast charging stations): 16 / Level 2 Ports: 336

#### Phase 2: 2026-2030

Fill remaining gaps and add charging capacity where needed as EV adoption grows.

DCFC Ports (fast charging stations): 52 / Level 2 Ports: 650

Based on existing charging locations, average daily driving distance and density, Dunsky recommended certain areas for EV charging (see map).



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These locations are general and will be refined, based on a number of factors like electrical capacity, interest from the owners, viability, etc. It's typically most convenient to have fast charging stations in public areas such as grocery stores, etc. However, as these locations would be on private land, they require developing partnerships with businesses. This part of the strategy is a work in progress.

Until these partnerships are determined, the municipality will begin installing chargers at municipally owned sites.

HRM plans to go forward with the design, procurement and install of charging stations over the next two years in Hubbards (J.D. Shatford Memorial Public Library), Upper Tantallon (St. Margaret's Centre), Halifax (Keshen Goodman Public Library), Lower Sackville (Sackville Sports Stadium, Sackville Public Library), Dartmouth (Zatzman Sportsplex, Kiwanis Grahams Grove Park, RBC Centre in Burnside), Cole Harbour (Cole Harbour Place), Musquodoboit (Musquodoboit Harbour Public Library), Middle Musquodoboit (Fire Station 38), and Sheet Harbour (New Sheet Harbour Recreation Centre).

The municipality will soon hire a consultant to scope and design the charging for these sites. Pending budget approval, installation will begin. Procurement and installation will be done through a public Request for Proposal, so the charging manufacturer and installer is not yet known.

### **POTHOLES: REPORTING AND REPAIRING:**

Road operations crews identify, log, and address potholes all year. They also rely heavily on residents to report any problematic potholes they see, so they can be logged into the system for repair. HRM's crews monitor and repair more than 1,700 km of roadways. More than 5,200 potholes are repaired throughout the municipality each year.

The time to fix a pothole can range anywhere from 7 business days to 30 business days depending on the pothole and if it is considered a priority. Crews aim to repair priority potholes on main arterial and major collector roads within 7 business days.

#### **How do I report potholes?**

On municipal roads, please call 311 or email [contactus@311.halifax.ca](mailto:contactus@311.halifax.ca). You can also fill out this online form at [www.halifax.ca/potholes](http://www.halifax.ca/potholes)

However, even within the municipality the province is responsible for highways, many rural roads, and highway on-ramps. On provincially-owned roads, please the Department of Public Works (DPW). Their email is [dpw-occ@novascotia.ca](mailto:dpw-occ@novascotia.ca) or call 511.

Not sure who maintains your road? Search your address on the interactive map: <https://arcg.is/09fvOT0>

#### **What if my vehicle is damaged by a pothole?**

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 DPW.

#### **Are potholes repaired at this time of year?**

During the winter months, road operations crews have access to a mobile hot asphalt unit that can repair potholes. Crews also use a cold patch product that can be applied year-round for areas that require immediate attention. Larger hot asphalt plants typically open in late April or early May.

Please visit [www.halifax.ca/potholes](http://www.halifax.ca/potholes) for more information.



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## 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.



## REGIONAL COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

March 1, 2022

### PHOTO ENFORCEMENT REGIONAL STUDY

Regional Council approved a motion to direct the CAO to develop a program of photo enforcement in anticipation of the eventual proclamation of the Traffic Safety Act and in accordance with the recommendations set out in the January 2022 consulting report prepared by Stewart Solutions Inc.

### HALIFAX PORT AUTHORITY FISH PASSAGE PROJECT

Regional Council agreed on consent to direct the CAO to include work to the Hawthorne Street culvert in the Capital Budget for 2024/25 and facilitate the Halifax Port Authority’s project to construct fish passage around the Banook Lock at no net cost to the Municipality.

### 2020/21 SUPPLEMENTARY EDUCATION FUNDING

Regional Council approved a motion to direct the Chief Administrative Officer to reduce the 2021/22 payment to Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) for Supplementary Education funding by \$205,601 and instead allocate that amount to the Emergency Housing Fund as a contingency to purchase, install and maintain modular units at two sites and to address suitable temporary housing to address needs of unhoused residents. The amount of \$205,601 was a surplus amount, unused by HRCE.



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### PRIVATE ON DEMAND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION

Regional Council has awarded Seniors Transit Inc. with a three-year contract to provide Private On Demand Accessible Transportation Services. The contract will have a maximum life-cycle cost of \$1,805,013 (net HST included) with funding from the Halifax Transit 2022/23 proposed operating budget. The objective of this service is to provide an on-demand transportation service for passengers who are unable to utilize a conventional taxi that is comparable to the experience of passengers accessing conventional taxi services. This requires that vehicles are available, clients are able to book a trip on demand, vehicles are dispatched in a comparable timeframe as conventional taxis, and passengers are charged the same rates.

### TRUE NORTH CRESCENT – RAPID HOUSING

Regional Council approved a motion to authorize the CAO to negotiate an agreement with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and the Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia (AHANS) for the development and use of 80 True North Crescent, Dartmouth for affordable housing.

This also authorizes the CAO to amend the agreements between the Municipality and AHANS for the sale, development and use of 64, 67, 80, and 91 True North Crescent to facilitate and support the development of affordable housing on the lands.

### FORGIVING SIDEWALK CAFÉ FEES

Regional Council approved a motion to forgive sidewalk café fees for 2022. The Municipality wishes to provide support to assist restaurant and café proprietors with economic recovery from COVID-19 by providing relief of the sidewalk café fee.

### HRM AFFORDABLE HOUSING GRANT

Regional Council has allocated a \$415,245 increase in the total funding allocated to the 2021/22 Affordable Housing Grant Program in support of an affordable

housing project at 2095-2219 Maitland Street in Halifax. Compass NS, a registered non-profit focused on developing co-operative housing throughout Nova Scotia, will develop the project and will provide 56 new affordable housing units.

### RAPID HOUSING INITIATIVE

Regional Council approved a motion to authorize the CAO to negotiate and execute Contribution Agreements with Housing NS and the third party non-profit recipients of the Rapid Housing Initiative, to receive and distribute Provincial capital and operational funding to support the affordable housing developments funded through the Rapid Housing Initiative Cities Stream.

### HOTEL ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

Regional Council has signed a non-binding memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Hotel Association of Nova Scotia to provide Discover Halifax with \$250,000 per year for the next three years.

Discover Halifax takes on a leadership role in the attraction and selling of events on behalf of the municipality. Beginning in fiscal 2022/2023, funds will be used to enhance tourism marketing and event leadership services through destination development programs.

### IN PERSON REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS RESUME

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

The Government of NS has indicated that requirements for masking and social distancing will be removed as of March 21, 2022. While masks may be worn during



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meetings, they will not be required.

Also, no proof of vaccination is required from members of the public upon entrance to a meeting.

Check the agenda on [www.halifax.ca/city-hall/](http://www.halifax.ca/city-hall/) for each meeting, once available, to confirm whether a meeting will be virtual or in-person. For public hearings, public advertisements will include whether the hearing is virtual or in-person.

### APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR DISTRICT BOUNDARY RESIDENT REVIEW PANEL POSITIONS

A municipal district boundary review is required in 2022; changes coming from this review will not come into effect until the 2024 Municipal Election. The Municipal Government Act 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 and is binding on the municipality.

**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.

Public consultation will be conducted as a part of the process. The District Boundary Resident Review Panel will be heavily involved with this. A public recruitment process is open until March 7<sup>th</sup> to seek qualified candidates for this panel.

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

### SENIORS CARE GRANT

The Seniors Care Grant is an annual grant program offered by the Province to reimburse costs of up to \$500.00 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.

To be eligible for this grant:

- ✓ You are 65 years of age or over
  - ✓ You have an annual household net income of \$37,500.00 or less
  - ✓ You are living independently in your home (not living with a caregiver other than a spouse or partner)
  - ✓ The property title or lease agreement must be in your name or include your name
- You have paid for household services from 1 January 2021 to 30 November 2022

The deadline to apply is by 31 May 2022.

Apply online if you have an email address:

<https://beta.novascotia.ca/apply-help-household-costs-seniors-care-grant>

You can also use the Seniors Care Grant Application Form if you're unable to apply online. This form can be printed from here:

<https://beta.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/documents/2-2750/seniors-care-grant-application-form-en.pdf>



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### OFF AND ON LEASH RULES FOR PETS

You must keep your dog leashed and under control in all Halifax parks unless otherwise specifically permitted.

There are designated off-leash areas in certain municipal parks and sports fields that you can use for off-leash activities provided that rules are followed. Remember these areas are shared by all residents. Find your closest off-leash park here:

<https://www.halifax.ca/parks-recreation/parks-trails-gardens/parks-outdoor-spaces/leash-dog-parks>

There have been trespassing and noise complaints from property owners near some off-leash parks. Do not allow your pets to leave the off-leash area. It is essential that you only allow dogs with effective recall skills to be off-leash in this area.

### SPIRIT AT THE DARTMOUTH ICE FESTIVAL



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#### 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**