



COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY
DISTRICT 9 ONLINE NEWS
HALIFAX WEST ARMDALE

WELCOME APRIL!



Regional Council will be finalizing the 2022/23 municipal budget on Tuesday, April 12th. My colleagues and I have been diligent in our fiscal responsibility

to bring you a balanced budget with the least impact on you, the taxpayer. Staff originally proposed a 5.9% increase in the average tax bill; however, with careful consideration, Council was able to reduce that to 4.6%. It may reduce further if the province and federal government provide increased assistance. Please [follow along](#) as we discuss the 2022/23 final budget report.

Important updates this month include: Regional Plan Phase 3 review, Living Wage update, Volunteer Recruitment for municipal boards/committees and much more!

Community Drop-in Sessions will be held the first Thursday of the month at the Chocolate Lake Community Centre at 14 Purcells Cove Road. See you on April 7th if you have a question regarding a municipal program/service.

Contact me at:
Shawn.Cleary@halifax.ca - 902.579.6746.

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APRIL MEETING DATES

Regional Council, Halifax & West Community Council and Regional Centre Community Council meetings will be held on:

Regional Council:

Tuesday, April 5th at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, April 26th at 10:00 a.m. (If required)

Budget Committee:

Tuesday, April 12th at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, April 26th at 10:00 a.m. (If required)

Halifax & West Community Council:

Tuesday, April 19th at 6:00 p.m.

Regional Centre Community Council:

Wednesday, April 27th at 6:00 p.m.

Please confirm dates and times on our [municipal website](#) as they are subject to change.

DID YOU KNOW...

That April is:

[Sikh Heritage Month](#)

[Genocide Remembrance, Condemnation and Prevention Month](#)

April 1st is [April Fool's Day/Poisson d'avril](#)

April 2nd is [World Autism Awareness Day](#)

April 2nd [Ramadan](#) starts April 2nd

April 7th is [World Health Day](#)

April 9th is the:

[Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge](#)

April 11th is [World Parkinson's Day](#)

April 15th is [Good Friday](#)

April 17th is [Easter](#) Sunday

April 17th is [World Hemophilia Day](#)

April 21st is [Administrative Professionals' Day](#)

April 28th is the [National Day of Mourning](#) (commemorates workers who have been killed, injured or suffered illness due to workplace related hazards and incidents).

SPRING COMMUNITY DROP-IN SESSIONS



Now that COVID restrictions have been lifted, I am pleased to offer Community Drop-In sessions the first Thursday of the month for April, May and June from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. If you have a question regarding a municipal program or service, please drop-in for a chat with me at the Chocolate Lake Community Centre, 14 Purcells Cove Road.

Upcoming sessions will be on:

Thursday, April 7th

Thursday, May 5th

Thursday, June 2nd



PARKS & RECREATION FEE CHANGES – APRIL 1st



What does the Parks and Recreation Fee Structure Review include?

The [Fee Structure Review](#) was a comprehensive examination of user fees in facilities, recreation centers, arenas (ice and dry floor), parks, sports fields (natural and all-weather turf), sports courts, ball diamonds, tracks, and pools, which are municipal owned and operated, as well as the arenas operated by Nustadia Recreation Inc. (RBC 4-pad, Bedford 4-pad and LeBrun Arena) on behalf of municipality.

The fee review provided updated fees for rentals, registered programs, memberships, drop ins and vouchers.

What was the purpose of the Fee Structure Review?

The purpose is to create a standardized recreation user fee structure that is based on the cost of providing a service with an appropriate subsidy. This promotes participation, increases transparency and consistency, while being fair and equitable for all users.

What were the reasons for the Fee Structure Review?

- Recreation Fees have been frozen since 2011
- There are currently fee inequalities and inconsistencies
- Some current fees don't reflect costs
- No baseline from which subsidies are established

Current fees may be undercutting not for profit organizations

What will the implementation of this new Fee Structure allow Parks and Recreation to establish?

- Consistent principles and criteria to base the administration of the fees
- Fees that are more consistent, transparent, and equitable.
- A model that provides a costing baseline to effectively apply subsidies
- Fees that don't compete or undercut not for profit organizations
- Fees which are more aligned with the marketplace

How does the municipality fund its delivery of Parks and Recreation programs and services?

The municipality funds its service delivery through the general tax base and user charges, therefore, this new Fee Structure is aimed at balancing the costs to deliver the service, the



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fiscal responsibility to the taxpayer, as well as ensuring affordability to the end user.

Do the changes to the fees pertain to Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) facilities and/or other partner facilities?

- No, the new fees only apply to municipally owned and operated facilities as well as the facilities operated by Nustadia Recreation (RBC 4-pad, Bedford 4-pad and LeBrun Arena) on behalf of the municipality.
- User Fees for Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) and partner facilities such as Canada Games Center, Zatzman Sportsplex, Eastern Shore Arena etc. are set by the respective facility.
- The relationship with partner facilities is governed by management agreements with each facility.
- Some partner facilities may adopt municipal rates but are not required to do so.
- Under the HRCE Service Exchange Agreement, HRCE sets fees for school rentals annually.

Why are Parks and Recreation required to have an Administrative Order (AO) and By-law for fees?

[Administrative Order - Respecting Recreation User Charges](#)

This Administrative Order (AO) provides direction for staff to develop user charges, classify facilities and services, as well as providing direction for the fees to be maintained / updated moving forward. The AO

also formalizes the Affordable Access Program and sets a process for this program and other discounts.

[By-law U-106, Respecting the Amendment of By-law U-100, the User Charges](#)

The proposed amendments set out in By-law U-106 expands by-law U-100 by adding two new schedules: one for recreation services (registered programs, memberships, drop ins, and vouchers) and one for Recreation facilities (rentals). In adopting these new schedules, Regional Council has set the fees for these services as well as all applicable discounts. Any changes to fees will require Council approval to amend the schedules in the by-law.

What are the highlights of the Fee Structure Review / By-law and the Administrative Order?

- All new rates will be effective April 1, 2022.
- All rates listed do not include HST.
- There are no additional fees for lighting or electrical in parks, fields etc.
- Subsidization of facility rental user charges will only be considered for youth and community users.

What are the benefits to the public?

New User Categories: User categories are based on the age group or type of organization.

- **Youth**, meaning a person up to and including 18 years
- **Adult**, meaning a person 19 years to 59 years



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- **Senior**, meaning a person 60 years or older
- **Community**, meaning a non-profit co-op, society, or a Canadian registered charity
- **Corporate**, meaning a user who is renting on behalf of a for profit business

Consistent subsidization for fee categories:

For example, the fee structure will ensure that all youth programs across the municipality will receive the same subsidy.

Reduced risk of unexpected fee increases:

The municipality's costs to provide recreation services increases each year by 2% per year due to inflation. This increase will reduce the impact of unexpected, and potentially significant, fee increases that might be challenging for users to absorb and will also provide predictability to the users.

Predictable five-year review cycle: There will be a requirement to undertake an updated analysis of all recreation fees on a five-year cycle. This will help ensure that the user charges continue to be appropriate to the services and relative costs.

More inclusive and affordable programming, including:

Affordable Access Program: The municipality will be better able to provide recreation to all residents regardless of their income. The Affordable Access program is a subsidy program that offers 50% or 100% discounts to recreation programs for families and individuals who are in financial need. This

program eliminates financial barriers for families and individuals to participate in recreation programs. *Note: Discounts do not apply to drop-ins, vouchers, facility rentals, birthday parties, private swimming lessons or programs operated by third-party service providers.*

Senior discount: Subsidy program for residents 60 years of age and older will receive a 25% discount for registered recreation programs.

Student discount: Subsidy program for students currently enrolled in high school or a post-secondary institution with a valid student identification will receive a 25% discount on membership fees.

Employee discount – Full time permanent and term employees of the municipality and members of their immediate family living in the same household will receive a 25% discount on registered recreation programs and memberships. Part time, seasonal, temporary, casual employees during the course of their employment will receive a 25% discount for registered recreation programs and memberships. Municipal employees must call a Recreation Centre, go in person to a Recreation Centre or email myREC@halifax.ca to have the discount applied.

Volunteer discount: Volunteer fire fighters and Halifax Regional Police volunteers will receive a 25% discount for registered recreation programs and memberships.



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Overall standardization, consistency, and transparency in application of fees across the municipality. No user charge for Parks that are rented for public events that are open to the public, non-exclusive and free of charge.

Why are corporate fees higher than other categories?

Under the *HRM Charter*, the municipality is not permitted to provide financial support to a business. Corporate rates reflect full cost recovery. Full cost recovery also applies to adult prime rates for ice and all-weather field rentals.

ROCKING STONE AND KIDSTON LAKE PARK – MUNICIPAL HERITAGE STATUS

Regional Council agreed to set a date for a heritage hearing to consider the inclusion of the Rocking Stone site in Kidston Lake Park in the Registry of Heritage Property for the Halifax Regional Municipality as a municipal heritage area under the Heritage Property Act. Read the full report here:

[CASE H00523 - REQUEST TO INCLUDE THE ROCKING STONE AND KIDSTON LAKE PARK, HALIFAX IN THE REGISTRY OF HERITAGE PROPERTY FOR THE HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY](#)

COMMERCIAL ASSESSMENT AVERAGING PROGRAM

Regional Council will develop a **Commercial Assessment Averaging Program** to reduce the impact on property owners (and their tenants) of unexpected spikes in commercial assessment.

Under this initiative, tax bills will be phased-in using a three-year rolling assessment average. The program will be targeted towards properties with assessment growth of more than five percent above the municipal average. The program is intended to support the principles of increasing stability and improving predictability for commercial property owners and **will be in effect April 1, 2023.**

VOLUNTEER AND BE PART OF THE PROCESS



The Halifax Regional Municipality is seeking applications for volunteers to serve on a variety of municipal boards, committees, and commissions. **Applications are available at halifax.ca/serve and will be accepted until Tuesday, April 12, 2022, at 11:59 p.m.**



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Municipal boards, committees, and commissions consist of councillors, residents, and industry representatives. These groups provide recommendations to Regional Council, community council, or standing committees, and serve as an important part of the decision-making process.

The municipality is seeking board, committee and commission members that are reflective and inclusive of residents from the Halifax Regional Municipality. Meeting schedules and formats will vary between committees, please consult halifax.ca/serve for details on each committee.

The following committees, boards and commissions are seeking new members:

- Board of Police Commissioners
- Community Liaison Committee
- Community Monitoring Committee
- Grants Committee
- Halifax Harbour Bridges Board of Commissioners
- Halifax Regional Library Board
- Heritage Advisory Committee
- Metropolitan Regional Housing Authority
- North West Planning Advisory Committee
- Regional Watersheds Advisory Board
- Shubenacadie Canal Commission
- Western Common Advisory Committee
- Women's Advisory Committee

We encourage applications from African Nova Scotians, racially visible persons, women,

persons with disabilities, Indigenous persons, and persons of the 2SLGBTQ+ community. Applicants are encouraged to self-identify.

For more information or to apply, click [here](#). For questions about the Public Appointment Policy, application process, concerns about computer or internet access or to request another accommodation to the recruitment process, please contact serve@halifax.ca or call 902-490-4210.

HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE DRIVING STATISTICS

Impaired Driving Statistics

From Halifax Regional Police

- In **February 2022**, 12 drivers were charged with impaired-related offences.
- 11 were alcohol-related, 1 was drug-related.
- 5 of these drivers - who provided breath samples - were at least twice the legal limit.
- Police received 2 calls in February 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.



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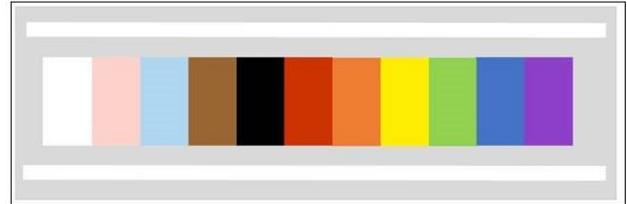
OLDER WISER LABOURFORCE - 45+

Do you know anyone 45 years of age and older who could use some help seeking employment?

The OWL Program, hosted by Job Junction, is a 6-week program designed exclusively to assist mature workers 45+ in their journey to go back to the workforce. They offer free support, skill building, and so much more in a workshop-style setting, with the possibility of virtual attendance. Check out the program details at <https://www.jobjunction.ca/owl-workshop>

If you have any questions, contact Omercan Duna today at omercan.duna@jobjunction.ca or at 902-407-3692.

RAINBOW CROSSWALK PAINTING PROGRAM



The Halifax Regional Municipality has fully funded the repainting of the following three signalized intersections:

- Spring Garden Road and Queen Street
- Gottingen and Cornwallis streets
- Alderney Drive and Ochterloney Street

Councillors and Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) funded the painting of the additional crosswalks throughout HRM.

Crosswalks you may notice around District 9 and neighbouring communities are:

- Quinpool Road at Harvard Street
- Quinpool Road at Vernon Street
- Quinpool Road at Oxford Street
- Quinpool Road at Connaught Avenue

Diverse ideas and inclusive actions create stronger communities. This fun and creative approach to sharing the municipality's Pride as a community is just one way the municipality celebrates and supports Halifax Pride.

The municipality recognizes that many residents and business owners have a desire to express support for Halifax Pride 2022 through street art, however, **sidewalk painting is not permitted for residents**. Some materials, especially when applied to sidewalks, can become slippery in wet weather. It is in the best

THE OWL PROGRAM

OLDER WISER LABOURFORCE

Workshops • Career Exploration • Work Readiness

The **OWL Program** is a 5-week employment readiness program designed specifically to assist the mature worker in their journey to return to work.

You might be an ideal candidate if you are:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45+ • Ready to be employed • Genuinely seeking employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willing to work in a dynamic group setting • Having difficulty finding work and/or obtaining interviews • Returning to your career or wanting to shift to a new one
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WORKSHOP CONTENT

<p>Job Search:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tailor your Resume • Career Planning • Transferable skills inventory • Exploring the Hidden Job Market • Sharpening your Interview skills • Cover Letter creation <p>Career Development Brag Book:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create your own brag book • Set your employment goals • Recognize your body of work • Tell your story 	<p>Life Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid- CPR "C" w AED • WHMIS • Telephone Skills • Multigenerational workforce • Personality Dimensions • Predictive Index <p>Computer Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer boot camp • Polishing your Zoom personality • MS Office skills (Word, Excel)
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For more information, contact:
902-407-3692 OR OWL@JobJunction.ca



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interest of public safety that material, other than chalk sticks, is not applied on the right-of-way by residents. Crews will remove artwork on sidewalks that violate municipal By-laws [S-300](#) and [S-801](#). The cooperation and consideration of residents and business owners is appreciated.

\$15 MINIMUM WAGE | LIVING WAGE



Regional Council has requested a staff report on the possible financial impact of implementing a \$15 minimum wage

for all municipal employees. This wage increase could apply to all employees, including those working in public libraries and multi-district facilities – regardless of employment status.

The report is expected to inform the 2023-24 budget process, with an aim for implementation beginning no later than April 1st, 2023. In addition, municipal staff will provide a report on the possible financial impact of implementing a living wage for all municipal employees.

For more information, click here:

<https://bit.ly/3qXzevJ>

ASSET NAMING FOR FUTURE MUNICIPAL ASSETS

Regional Council has approved 18 asset naming applications received between June 1st and October 31st, 2021. The municipality's

Commemorative Naming allows any person or group to apply for a commemorative name for HRM assets, particularly streets, parks or buildings.

The municipality received 16 commemorative names, one asset renaming request to rename Big Hubley Like Drive Park Bike Park to Kai Matthews Bike Park and one commemorative name placement request for the Jumpstart Playground at the George Dixon Centre Park, 2502 Brunswick St.

Click here for more information and to view the full list of approved names:

<https://bit.ly/3tNBxDr>.

REGIONAL PLAN REVIEW – PHASE 3

Residents are invited to participate in a review of Phase 3 of the Regional Plan that's open for one month until **Monday, April 18th**.

The Regional Plan sets out a common vision, as well as principles and long-range, region-wide planning policies outlining where, when, and how future growth and development should take place between now and 2031.

There are several development requests being considered for Phase 3 of the Regional Plan. If you have comments or questions about them, let HRM know!

To learn more about where development requests are being considered for Phase 3, please visit:



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- Regional Plan Review's Shape Your City web page:
<https://www.shapeyourcityhalifax.ca/regional-plan>
- Requests for Site Specific Amendments to the Regional Plan map:
<https://bit.ly/36U94cd>
- Phase 3 Site Specific Requests table:
<https://bit.ly/3ieAl5k>

Please submit any feedback or questions by email to: (regionalplan@halifax.ca) or phone 902.233.2501. For site-specific applications, please reference the case number.



Meeting with The Honourable Zack Churchill, MLA, to discuss affordable housing, community development and social justice.

IN THE COMMUNITY



Badger takes his role of "honorary employee" very seriously as he stands on guard at City Hall.

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I am a member of Halifax Regional Council, Halifax & West Community Council, Regional Centre Community Council and the following boards & committees:

- Audit & Finance Standing Committee
- Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee
- Community Design Advisory Committee
- Halifax Chain of Lakes Trails Association
- Investment Policy Advisory Committee



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HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY'S LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Land Acknowledgement

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.

Halifax is committed to strengthening its relationship with Indigenous communities and honouring the significant contributions of Indigenous peoples. Another way the municipality has demonstrated this is by formalizing the official Land Acknowledgement:

"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."

Historically, a Land Acknowledgment is a traditional practice shared amongst Indigenous groups to recognize the Indigenous land and territory they are visiting. Making a respectful Land Acknowledgement now, remains a way to express gratitude and respect to Indigenous peoples for being stewards of the land we live and work on. It is an important step in reconciliation.

In Nova Scotia, we are all Treaty People; with that comes roles and responsibilities.

