



Together We Can Build Safe, Healthy, Active Communities

WELCOME APRIL

April has arrived! Regional Council will be approving the final operating and capital budgets on April 12th after an extensive process of reviewing each department's budget proposals, working to keep the tax increase around 4.6% while maintaining the services we need and investing in our future with the HalifACT climate change strategy.

I want to especially wish Ramadan Mubarak to our Muslim residents who will be celebrating Ramadan this month! It is comforting to know that many Muslims will be able to gather this year and pray together at mosques during Ramadan without pandemic restrictions.

We have started to get a glimpse of Spring weather and I'm looking forward to seeing more of you out and about in beautiful district 6 as things continue to heat up. Stay safe!



ACCUEILLONS LE MOIS D'AVRIL

Avril est arrivé!

Le Conseil régional approuvera les budgets de fonctionnement et d'immobilisations définitifs le 12 avril, après un processus exhaustif d'examen des propositions budgétaires de chaque service, en s'efforçant de maintenir l'augmentation d'impôt d'environ 4,6 % tout en maintenant les services dont nous avons besoin et en investissant dans l'avenir dans la stratégie HalifACT sur le changement climatique.

Je souhaite tout particulièrement « Ramadan Mubarak » à nos résidents musulmans qui célébreront le Ramadan ce mois-ci! Il est réconfortant de savoir que de nombreux musulmans pourront se réunir cette année et prier ensemble dans les mosquées pendant le Ramadan sans restrictions pandémiques.

Nous avons commencé à avoir un aperçu des conditions météorologiques printanières et j'ai hâte de voir plus d'entre vous sortir et se déplacer dans le beau district 6, alors que le temps continue de se réchauffer.

Restez en sécurité!



COUNCILLOR TONY MANCINI

HARBOURVIEW - BURNSIDE - DARTMOUTH EAST

RAMADAN 2022: A HOLY MONTH OF GRATITUDE!



The month-long observance of Ramadan began on April 1st.

I wish a meaningful holy month to all Muslims in the Halifax Regional Municipality, and around the world. In practicing the self-restraint and gratitude that Ramadan involves, adult Muslims fast from dawn until dusk and exhibit goodwill through acts of kindness and charity.

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Muslim calendar and begins and ends with the appearance of the crescent moon. Ramadan is expected to last from April 1st to May 1st in 2022.

Ramadan Mubarak – Blessed Ramadan!

SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT WITH HRM RECREATION

There are lots of great summer job opportunities with the Halifax Regional Municipality! Jobs with HRM Recreation offer a rewarding experience, 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 beaches and pools and in sports, recreation, and inclusion. Plus, most jobs offer free evenings and weekends!

Check out the current postings [here](#).

BUDGET UPDATE

This month, Council expects to approve the 2022/23 capital and operational municipal budget.

If approved, residents can expect a 4.6% average property tax increase for residential and commercial properties, which includes a 1.6% general tax increase and a 3.0% Climate Action Tax. This would include an increase which works out to \$94 for the average home.

The Climate Action Tax will fund important initiatives supporting the HalifACT Climate Action Plan and the Integrated Mobility plan including electric vehicles, net-zero buildings and multi-modal transit corridors.

To find out more about this year’s budget, including the proposed capital plan, frequently asked questions and each department’s proposed budget, see our [website](#).

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AVERAGING PROGRAM

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

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 5% 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. You can find out more [here](#).

SPRING PROGRAM REGISTRATION

There’s still time to register for Halifax Recreation Spring programs. Visit our [website](#) to log in and find programs for yourself or your family. If you need help or have any questions, Rec staff are happy to assist you, or troubleshoot any registration issue. Just call 902-490-6666 to connect with a staff member.



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HARBOURVIEW - BURNSIDE - DARTMOUTH EAST

PROVINCIAL HOUSING TASK FORCE ANNOUNCE SPECIAL PLANNING AREAS

The Provincial Housing Task Force has announced nine special planning areas and committed to invest \$2.3 million to enable the municipality to conduct critical environmental, land use suitability, transportation and infrastructure studies needed to inform future planning and development decisions.

The special planning areas will allow Housing Minister John Lohr to assume authority for approving development agreements, amending or repealing land-use bylaws or municipal planning strategies in that area. These projects are still subject to all required federal, provincial and municipal permits, environmental and regulatory requirements and there are conditions and targets in place. The special planning areas include: the former Penhorn Mall area, Southdale/Mount Hope, Bedford West, Port Wallace, Indigo Shores Morris Lake expansion, Dartmouth Crossing and Sandy Lake. The province estimates that a total of 22,600 more units will be possible through development of these areas.

The Task Force are also initiating a third-party review of the municipal and provincial planning process that will identify barriers to housing development. For more information on this announcement, see the release [here](#).

UTILITY SERVICES CORRIDOR



Surveyors have been out on Waverley Rd. where a new utility corridor (water & sewer) will be going. The new corridor will travel down Waverley Rd, Jaybe

Dr, John Brenton Dr, through the parking lot passed the campground, down the hill past the beach, over the Shubie Canal (see pic of new bridge) and cross the 111 highway to Dartmouth Crossing. This project will provide increased water pressure and sewage collection capacity and distribution to the sewage treatment plant while taking future developments into consideration so the new system won't have to be increased for decades to come.

PROPOSED PAVING PROJECTS 2022/23

Staff are still finalizing the list of paving projects for our area, but the following projects are expected to be completed in the 2022/23 paving seasons:

Street Recapitalization

- Anderson St – Clifford to Ellenvale (Integrated Traffic Calming/Halifax Water Integration)
- Ilsley Ave – Ronald Smith to Cul De Sac
- Ronald Smith Ave – Burnside to Ilsley
- Trinity Ave – Windmill to Cul De Sac

Asphalt Overlay

- Ridgecrest Dr – Highway 7 to Mount Edward (Integrated Traffic Calming)
- Shubie Dr – Finlay to Cul De Sac

Micro Surfacing

- John Savage Ave – Akerley to Commodore
- Wright Ave – Burnside to 100m E of Williams

New Sidewalk

- Anderson St - Clifford to Ellenvale
- Trinity Ave – Nadia (S) to End

Bridges

- BR4 Barry's Run Pedestrian Bridge (Replacement)

TRAFFIC CALMING

Staff are proposing to complete six streets in District 6 with traffic calming like speed humps, raised crosswalks, curb extensions, lane narrowing or raised median islands.

Most of the projects are planned in the Montebello area including Montebello Drive, Micmac Drive, Bonita Drive and Rossi Drive. They will also be planning to provide calming on Alfred Street between Yorkshire and Courtney and Yorkshire between Springhill and Alfred around Harbour View Elementary School.

For more information on our traffic calming program, see our [website](#).



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MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE AND LIVING WAGE FOR HRM EMPLOYEES

Regional Council has directed municipal staff to prepare a report on the possible financial impact of implementing a \$15 minimum wage for all municipal employees. This wage increase would 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 1, 2023. In addition, municipal staff will provide a report on the possible financial impact of implementing a living wage for all municipal employees.

COVID-19 PHASE 3 MUNICIPAL RESPONSE

The Halifax Regional Municipality is advising residents of the following updates to municipal services, as the province has now entered [phase 3](#) of the Province of Nova Scotia’s reopening plan.

Masks and physical distancing

Effective March 21, the municipality’s Mandatory Mask Policy was lifted, however, wearing a mask indoors and while using Halifax Transit services is recommended.

Halifax Transit

The polycarbonate shields that were previously installed behind operators on conventional buses and Access-a-Buses will remain in place. Regular sanitization of high-traffic areas and will continue. Those who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms are reminded not to use any transit service until their health returns to normal.

Proof of vaccination

A reminder that phase 1 of the provincial reopening plan (in effect Monday, Feb. 28), no longer requires residents to show proof of full vaccination to participate in non-essential, discretionary events and activities. This includes recreation programming and visiting recreation and fitness centres.

For the latest information on impacts on municipal services as a result of COVID-19, visit our [website](#).

ILLEGAL DUMPING

The municipality has made significant investments to curb illegal dumping.

Since November we have had a full-time staff member devoted to investigating illegal dumping complaints. We have completed over 100 investigations and fines have been issued to people found to be participating in illegal dumping.

If you see illegally dumped trash, please contact 311 to have the issue investigated and resolved.

A SEAT AT THE TABLE
 Volunteer to serve on a municipal board, committee, or commission.
 Apply by April 12, 2022
 Visit: www.halifax.ca/serve
 Questions? Call 902-490-4210 **HALIFAX**

IN PERSON MEETINGS RESUME

Regional Council, standing committees and the Harbour East Marine Drive Community Council (HEMDCC) are back to in person meetings.

The municipality was happy to partner Public Health for the use of our HEMDCC meeting room for testing. Now that we are back in person, meetings are open for public attendance and participation.

You can find the schedule and agendas for upcoming meetings [here](#).



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INVESTING IN CANADA FUNDING FOR MUNICIPAL PROJECTS

Regional Council have approved endorsing the following capital projects and applying for funding under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program's Green Environmental Quality Stream:

- Sawmill River Daylighting/Renewal Phase 2 (stormwater)
- Lake Major Pumping Station Renewal and New Intake (drinking water)
- Cole Harbour Road near John Stewart Drive (stormwater)
- Highway 101 Landfill Gas System (solid waste & remediation)

If successful, the grant would fund these four projects that will support quality and management improvements for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater, as well as reductions to soil and air pollutants through solid waste diversion and remediation. Funding for the projects would include 40% from the federal government, 33.33% from the provincial government and the remaining 26.67% from the municipality. You can find out more [here](#).

REGIONAL PLAN FEEDBACK

Residents are invited to participate in a review of Phase 3 of the Regional Plan until Monday, April 18, 2022.

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. You can visit the Regional Plan Review's [Shape Your City](#) page for more information.

NORTH GROVE PROGRAMS

The North Grove is resuming some of its great in person programming including Food and Families! They also have a community action office where you can connect with supports in the community. For more information, see their [April calendar](#).

CARVER/PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

A public information meeting was recently hosted regarding 16 Carver Street at the corner of Carver and Portland. This rezoning application aims to construct a 6-storey multi-unit residential building with a small ground floor commercial space. Staff are still accepting feedback for a report to the community council until April 19th. You can reach the planner, Dean MacDougall at 902.240.7085 or through [email](#).

it's okay to not be okay

Kids Help Phone:
1-800-668-6868

Nova Scotia
Mental Health Mobile Crisis Team
1-888-429-8167

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

Let's celebrate our local volunteers! April 24th – 30th is [National Volunteer Week](#). The volunteer week theme for 2022 is Volunteering is Empathy in Action. The empathy, compassion and generosity of volunteers creates connected communities and builds a stronger municipality. Thank you to all the volunteers who make our community great!

YOUTH LIVE PROGRAM DISCONTINUING BOTTLE DEPOT

The [Youth Live Program](#) has discontinued their operations at the Youth Live Enviro Depot (947 Mitchell Street) and transitioned to operating a café in the Sackville Sports Stadium. Residents can find other recycling depots at the Clifton Recycling Centre (2651 Clifton Street) and the Tanners Transfer (6393 Bayne Street). For more information on this transition, read the [staff report](#).



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RCMP MONTHLY IMPAIRED STATISTICS

As Nova Scotia's Provincial Police, road safety is a top priority. In an effort to keep citizens informed about enforcement on our roadways, the Nova Scotia RCMP is releasing statistics for all RCMP detachments in Nova Scotia for February 2022 on drivers charged for driving impaired by drugs or alcohol. For the month of February, Nova Scotia RCMP charged 91 drivers with impaired related offences. Citizens are asked to call 911 immediately if you see a driver who is driving erratically or unsafely.

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.

SCAM TARGETING GRANDPARENTS

Halifax District RCMP is warning the public about scams targeting grandparents instructing victims to mail money. Fraudsters are contacting victims and reporting that a grandchild has been arrested and requires funds in order to secure their release. Police are reminding the public to protect themselves by not sending money or anything of value to someone you have not met in person. If in doubt, hang up or delete and do not continue communication. Anyone who suspects they have been targeted is encouraged to contact their local police, and also the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or [online](#).

GREATER BURNSIDE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT APPLICATION

The Greater Burnside Business Association (GBBA) is excited to announce that they have formed a steering committee of Burnside business owners to bring together a plan for a Business Improvement District (BID) in Burnside.

A BID is an area where business owners join together to promote and improve the economic vitality of the area – like you see from Downtown Dartmouth, The Village on Main, and Downtown Halifax. A BID will allow businesses and employees in the park to have a united voice and the resources to make the improvements that are needed.

Stay tuned to follow the progress they have made towards the formation of a BID for Burnside.

LOCAL FOOD PROGRAMS

I'm so proud of the work our Square Roots East Dartmouth team and the Mobile Food Market are doing in the community to provide food to underserved families and communities.

Square Roots operates every two weeks packaging and delivering fresh produce to families in need in our community. If you're interested in getting involved or know someone who could benefit from this program please reach out to

squarerootseastdartmouth@gmail.com or keep an eye on my social media pages to sign up.

The [Mobile Food Market](#) is now serving almost 50 families in Dartmouth North with affordable and high quality foods.

NEW OFFICE CONTACT

My constituency coordinator Laura is back from maternity leave and can now be reached at 902-490-1577 or nooyela@halifax.ca.



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CYCLING IN HRM

As we conclude another budget season, there has been a lot of discussion regarding why HRM appears to be putting so much effort into planning more bike-related infrastructure around our city. HRM residents are surveyed regularly on their views on bicycling. Just over one-third of HRM residents report that they have bicycled the past year while 83% of residents in that same survey agreed that investing in safer bicycle infrastructure would be a good idea. Fear of traffic and connected bicycle routes were top factors influencing the decision to ride (or not). A total of 54% of Halifax residents would like to travel by bicycle more than they do now.

Bikes lanes and bikeways are strategically placed in certain areas around the municipality to connect where people live to where they access services, work, study and enjoy recreational activities. HRM, like most other North American cities, has been playing “catch-up” and retrofitting the street network to have safer bike facilities. If safer and more connected infrastructure is being built, the number of users will increase. For example, the number of people using new protected bike lanes on South Park Street increased by 40% between 2020 and 2021.

We want to have a regional network of urban, suburban, and rural bike facilities that connect HRM’s communities, ultimately making it possible for safer bike trips within communities. There are three types of safer bike facilities: protected bike lanes, local street bikeways and multi-use pathways (i.e., trails or greenways). This active transportation network will help increase safety for cyclists, provide transportation options for residents to avoid traffic and save money, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The goal is not to have bicycle facilities on every street. Rather it is to have a network so that all residents are within about 500m of a safer bike route.

In more rural communities the next steps include continued support for multi-use pathways (e.g., trails) and sometimes paved shoulders. In suburban communities the next steps include multi-use pathways and bike lanes with a focus on connections to local destinations and to transit services.

Key projects coming soon include bike facilities in Dartmouth North, the South End of the Peninsula, Almon Street and the Halifax-side of the Macdonald Bridge. The goal is by 2024, residents will have a connected network of safer bike facilities in the Regional Centre. At the same time, work will continue to make cycling safer in suburban and rural communities.





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BIRD FEEDER REMOVAL

Do you have a bird feeder placed outside your home? The Halifax Regional Municipality are encouraging residents to remove bird feeders from their property to help stop the spread of avian flu and protect our local bird population.

Nova Scotia is dealing with a deadly strain of avian flu in bird populations, and backyard bird feeders can facilitate the spread amongst wild birds. If you encounter a sick or dead bird in Nova Scotia, do not touch it. Please report it to the provincial Natural Resources Department at 1-800-565-2224. While there is a very low risk of humans getting sick from avian flu, it's common sense not to handle sick or dead birds at any time.



Introducing Taskforce 5's newest canine members who just arrived in Nova Scotia along with their handlers after an extensive training program in the USA! Congratulations all and welcome Vig & Vaz!

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 things such as snow removal, home repairs, lawn care, grocery delivery, and more. For more information you can check out their website [here](#). The deadline to apply is May 31st.

INTIMACY-INTIMITÉ

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH 2022 LE MOIS NATIONAL DE LA POÉSIE



RECREATION FEE CHANGES

On April 1, the Parks and Recreation fee structure changed. Parks and Recreation recently underwent a review of all fee structures, aiming to create a standardized recreation user fee structure that is based on the cost of providing a service with an appropriate subsidy. Some fees are increasing in cost while others are staying the same or decreasing. This is the first fee increase for our recreation services since 2011. These changes will affect all recreation services programs, rentals, drop-ins, vouchers and membership fees for [municipally-owned and operated facilities](#), and facilities operated by Nustadia Recreation Inc. on behalf of the municipality (RBC 4-pad and HRM 4-pad). You can find out more [here](#).



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The HRM Small Business Resources Virtual Information Session

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 19, 2022



Please join us and other small business owners at this **FREE** session to learn about the programs, resources, and tools that can help you today!

Starting a business or operating an existing business and wondering what is out there to help you? *This virtual opportunity is for you!*



Register on Eventbrite
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/309565818697>

OR, call 902.864.7520 or email employers@opportunityplace.ca

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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

PROPERTY TAX REBATE FOR SENIORS

The provincial government provides a program to help seniors with the cost of municipal residential property taxes.

The program is provided by Service Nova Scotia and Internal Services – Access Nova Scotia. Applicants must be receiving the [Guaranteed Income Supplement](#) (GIS).

Rebates are 50% of what you paid on last year's property taxes, up to a maximum of \$800.

Applications are accepted each year from July 1 to December 31. For more information please visit their [website](#).