



**COUNCILLOR IONA STODDARD**  
 DISTRICT 12 ONLINE NEWS  
 TIMBERLEA - BEECHVILLE - CLAYTON PARK - WEDGEWOOD

## WELCOME MAY!

April showers brings May flowers. Enjoy the sunshine. I hope it was a lovely Mother’s Day to all mothers, stepmothers, adopted mothers, grandmothers and remembering those mothers who have sadly left us.



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## MAY COMMEMORATIVE DATES



<b>May</b>	Asian Heritage Month
<b>May 8</b>	Mother's Day
<b>May 10 – May 16</b>	Mental Health Week
<b>May 17</b>	International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia
<b>May 20</b>	Bike to Work Day
<b>May 23</b>	Victoria Day
<b>May 24</b>	HRM Citizenship Awards
<b>May 29 – June 4</b>	Access Awareness Week

This means the average single-family home tax bill will increase by \$94 in 2022/23 to \$2,144. The average commercial property tax bill will increase by \$1,989 in 2022/23 to \$45,395.

Of the 4.6 per cent increase, 3.0 per cent goes towards the Climate Action Tax, which will directly support [HalifACT](#) – the municipality’s long-term climate action plan. The Climate Action Tax will fund projects such as:

- electric vehicles and buses
- net-zero buildings
- installing public electric vehicle chargers
- actions to improve the resiliency of communities and infrastructure against the impacts of climate change – which range from flood mitigation and stormwater management to food security and emergency preparedness.

The remaining 1.6 per cent increase will fund ongoing operations, public safety, maintenance and service improvements – such as the provincial road transfer – as well as strategic capital investments.

For more information, go to our [website](#).

## 2022-2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET PASSED

**1.4%**  
of municipal GDP is debt; down over 30 per cent since 1999, positioning it well to fund future capital projects that support Council priorities.

**4.6%**  
Increase in the average tax bill; 3.0 per cent is dedicated to the Climate Action Tax and 1.6 per cent will fund ongoing operations, capital investments, maintenance and service improvements.

**AVERAGE TAX BILL**

	2021/22	2022/23
<b>Residential</b>		
Average Assessment	\$252,100	\$270,000
Urban Tax Rate	0.813	0.794
Average Tax Bill	\$2,050	\$2,144
<b>Commercial</b>		
Average Assessment	\$1,469,900	\$1,462,000
Urban Tax Rate	2.953	3.105
Average Tax Bill	\$43,406	\$45,395

On April 12<sup>th</sup>, Regional Council approved the 2022/23 municipal budget of \$1.1 billion – including \$925.7 million in total municipal expenditures and \$180.2 million in provincial mandatory contributions – as well as a capital plan of \$318.9 million. The average residential and commercial property tax bill is increasing by 4.6 per cent.

2022/23 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

<p><b>\$925.7 million</b> Municipal Expenditures</p>	<p><b>\$318.9 million</b> Capital Investment</p>
<p><b>\$41 million</b> Street Recapitalization</p>	<p><b>\$4.7 million</b> Road Safety Improvement</p>
<p><b>\$10 million</b> HalifACT Climate Action Plan</p>	<p><b>\$63.4 million</b> Electric Buses</p>
<p><b>\$6.7 million</b> Regional Centre AAA Bikeways</p>	<p><b>\$8.1 million</b> Park Development &amp; Recapitalization</p>
<p><b>\$7.5 million</b> Halifax Common Pool Reconstruction</p>	

For more information about the municipal budget visit [halifax.ca/budget](http://halifax.ca/budget)



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### HRM HAS LAUNCHED LITTERATI - DOWNLOAD THE FREE APP



HRM has launched Litterati, an interactive tool to collect data on litter trends around the municipality - it's now available for residents to download! 📱

Litterati is an app that allows you to photograph and tag common pieces of litter found in your community. App users can geotag their location to help create a map of litter hotspots in the municipality. Plus, the app's artificial intelligence can categorize the type of litter.

The data collected using Litterati will be used to see where litter clean ups are taking place, track trends in the types of litter we are seeing in the community, identify illegal dumping locations, and to inform waste education efforts. To participate in challenges, residents must first download the Litterati App. Then, join the challenges or simply use the app to document any litter collected.

#### Quick Start Guide:

1. Download the free *Litterati – Cleaning The Earth* app from the [Apple App Store](#) or the [Google Play Store](#) and create your account.

2. Sign up for a cleanup challenge (watch our [website](#) or the [Halifax Recycles Facebook](#) page- for upcoming challenges).
3. Clean up & take photos.
4. Upload your photos via wi-fi when you are done.
5. Tag your photos in the gallery after uploading.

For more information on the Litterati app, visit our [website](#) or contact [Wasteless@halifax.ca](mailto:Wasteless@halifax.ca). Litterati is also funded in part by Divert NS and Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change.

### HRM LAKEWATCHERS WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM

#### You can get involved!



A new program called LakeWatchers has been launched by the municipality, and you can get involved in monitoring the quality of our local lakes.



The program will involve community teams to:

- ✓ Conduct environmental monitoring in 76 lakes across the municipality.
- ✓ Collect data, such as pH levels, to inform future actions to maintain/improve a lake's health.
- ✓ Share data with residents through future staff



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reports to Regional Council and through the municipality's [Open Data Portal](#)

Data collection will take place twice yearly through a year through internal sampling (staff or contractors) and/or trained community teams, called LakeWatchers. The municipality will leverage existing water quality community groups and welcomes new volunteers to collect data in support of this program.

Interested in getting involved? Click [here](#) to learn more [or check out this educational video here.](#)

\*Note that the LakeWatchers Program is separate from regular water quality testing for safe recreational use. This program runs every summer from July 1 to August 31.

### THE STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT



The Halifax Regional Municipality is marking the launch of its [Strategic Performance Snapshot](#) – a new online dashboard showcasing the municipality's progress as it delivers on the priorities of Regional Council and the administration.

It is an online record of the work being done by the municipality, based on data that is updated annually. The goal is to improve access to information and transparency through a centralized dashboard that shows how well the municipality is delivering

services, including Council Priorities.

Progress is measured by a variety of key performance indicators (KPIs) including:

- residents' satisfaction with services
- financial performance and stewardship
- employee retention
- achieving service standards and completion of project milestones.

Some of the key features of the dashboard include year-over-year trends, information about related KPIs, and at-a-glance graphs and charts. You can also access data on more than 80 municipal projects and initiatives.

All the work of the municipality is tied to the Council-approved strategic priorities (outlined on the dashboard). There are commitments to deliver on specific outcomes and initiatives to achieve each priority in the [2021-25 Strategic Priorities Plan](#).

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

### SUMMER JOB OPPORTUNITIES



Youth 15-30 can now apply for the federal government's Canada Summer Jobs program, as the hiring period for 2022 has been launched (open until July 24, 2022). This is your chance to gain experience and put your skills to use to help your community!



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Canada Summer Jobs aims to help younger Canadians develop the skills and experience to transition successfully into the labour market.

Keep an eye out here for the many opportunities that will be posted [here](#).

New jobs will be added regularly as they are approved for funding by the Canada Summer Jobs program.

### AFFORDABLE ACCESS PROGRAM

**Apply for the Affordable Access Program**

**Affordable Transit Pass:** save 50% on regular adult pass. Apply by July 1.

**Recreation Funding Access Program:** save 50-100% on child, youth, and adult participants in most recreation programs. Apply at least two weeks before registering for recreation programs.

**Property Tax Exemption & Deferral Program:** help or defer property tax. Apply by August 15 for an exemption on your final tax bill or December 31 for an exemption for the current year.

Apply: [halifax.ca/about-halifax/affordable-access-program/](http://halifax.ca/about-halifax/affordable-access-program/)

HALIFAX

With the Halifax Regional Municipality's **Affordable Access Program**, you only need one application to apply for:

- ☐ Affordable Transit Pass (applications open mid-May and processed on a first-come, first-served basis)
- ☐ Recreation programming funding (applications are open year-round with no deadline)
- ☐ Property tax payment assistance (deadline of August 15 for an exemption on your final tax bill)

To learn more, to see if you qualify, or to apply, call 311 or visit [our website](#).

### BACKYARD FIRE DO'S AND DON'TS – SUMMER REGULATIONS



#### BACKYARD FIRE DO'S AND DON'TS: *SUMMER REGULATIONS*

It's that time of year when many of us want to enjoy a warm spring or summer's evening by a backyard fire, or wish to burn some wood that we've cleared from our property while tidying up after the winter. But we must do this safely, abiding by all provincial and municipal rules around outdoor burning:

#### STEP 1: Check to see if fires are permitted by the Province of NS on a given day:

View the [Provincial Burning Restrictions Map](#) to check for bans every time before you burn (posted as of 2:00 p.m. each day)..

- Green = open air wood burning status is not posted yet (visit later - after 2:00 p.m.)
- Green = open air wood burning is allowed, beginning at 2:00 p.m.
- Yellow = open air wood burning is allowed, beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- Red = open air wood burning is not allowed at any time.



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### STEP 2: If burning is permitted that day, follow the municipal rules for backyard fires (domestic burning) that apply to you:

Check the information below to see if you're in a (A): "Permit Required Zone" or (B): "No Permit Required Zone". The following rules apply until October 15<sup>th</sup>:

#### (A) URBAN/SUBURBAN AREAS: "PERMIT REQUIRED ZONE"

*Your property is serviced with both municipal water AND sewer. Most urban/suburban lots in the municipality are in this Zone.*

✓ **One outdoor wood burning appliance** can be used without a permit if they meet the criteria in the By-law, which means they:

- must be placed a minimum of 4.75m (15ft) from any dwelling or accessory building.
- are not placed on a wooden deck/combustible platform.
- only burn dry seasoned wood.
- are equipped with a spark arrester with no opening large than 9.65 mm (3/8") to prevent sparks from leaving the appliance.
- are used per the manufacturer's instructions.

✓ **Burning in propane or natural gas CSA or ULC approved appliances** are permitted any time of day, as they are not regulated under the By-law, however all manufactures instructions must be followed.

✗ **Burning of brush/tree limbs and other domestic waste** (boxes, construction material, etc.) is prohibited.

✗ **Campfire burning** is prohibited (0.5m diameter open fire) except at campgrounds.

#### (B) RURAL AREAS: "NO PERMIT REQUIRED ZONE"

*Your property is **not** serviced with municipal water AND sewer. Most of the rural lots in the municipality are in this zone.*

✓ **Outdoor wood burning appliances** are allowed if they meet the criteria in the By-law (as indicated in section A).

✓ **Campfire burning** (0.5m diameter open fire) is allowed ONLY if the fire is 4.75m (15ft) away from any dwelling or accessory building. The campfire must be contained using non-combustible material and you must burn dry seasoned firewood. Only one campfire is permitted per property.

✓ **Burning in propane or natural gas CSA or ULC approved appliances** are permitted any time of day, as they are not regulated under the By-law, however all manufactures instructions must be followed.

✓ **Domestic burning of brush/tree limbs** is allowed ONLY if:

- the fire is 23m (75ft) away from any dwelling or accessory building.
- a person in charge of burning has a means to call 911 from site.
- at least two people 19 years of age or older are present.
- suitable equipment is in attendance to contain and extinguish the fire.
- wind velocity will not jeopardize the ability to control and contain the fire.
- the person in charge ensures all smoldering embers are completely extinguished prior to leaving the site.

✗ Domestic waste burning is prohibited (includes leaf and yard waste including grass and grass clippings, twigs, and house and garden plants, box board including cereal, shoe, tissue and detergent boxes, construction or demolition material, including saw dust, wood shavings, planking, siding, wood beams, plastic and rubber).

#### QUESTIONS/CONCERNS?

For more information on these burning types, please contact 311 and they will arrange for Fire Prevention Staff to contact you.

**Call 911** while illegal burning is occurring and advise the operator of the civic address where the burning is taking place and the reason you think the burning



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is in violation of the Halifax Regional Municipality's [By-Law Number O-109 Respecting Open Air Burning](#):

Visit the municipality's web page, [Burning Rules and Regulations](#), for more information.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL 2022 VOLUNTEER AWARDS RECIPIENTS



**Congratulations to ALL 2022 Volunteer Awards recipients, especially those in District 12!**

### Shabad Kaur - YOUTH

Shabad has all the qualities of a great leader. She arrives prepared and on time. She works well with others, demonstrates team effort and communicates well with others. Shabad is a valuable member of our community.

### Bob Angus

Bob is never too busy to meet with people to discuss and solve community concerns. Bob has been active in countless volunteer activities from the BLT Rails to Trails to input into our new BLT Recreation centre. He is highly regarded as a community leader. Even though he is retired, Bob works hard and tirelessly for his community.

### Zoya Hussain – YOUTH

Zoya demonstrates an exceptional level of commitment to all her volunteer activities. She can be absolutely counted on to be there. More importantly, Zoya brings a high level of focus and

creativity no matter how busy her life is or stresses she may be under. Her incredible efforts have greatly benefited our community.



### Kate Xinyi He

Kate is an easily recognizable face in the competitive debate community, whether coaching at Halifax West, her work with debate at Dalhousie or the hundreds of hours she has devoted to organizing events. She is a leader in the debate community and represents the Atlantic region in matters relating to intercollegiate debate. She is committed to fostering debate in Nova Scotia through her work at the Nova Scotia Debating Society.

To learn more about the 2022 Volunteer Awards recipients, and explore volunteer training opportunities, visit our [website](#).

## IN THE COMMUNITY



Picture: Ukraine painted rock seen in BLT Trail



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Picture: Flag raising Lyme awareness



Picture: Blue Mountain Birch Cove Lakes trail - at the Brookline neighborhood in Bedford West.



# FEEL THE LOVE

## Local Veggie Bundles at \$1 / lb!

The Salvation Army Halifax West Community Church  
50 Gesner Street, Fairview  
9:30am - 11:00am  
May 14th, 28th  
Cash or e-transfer

Links to register can be found at:

[facebook.com/squarerootsfvcp](https://facebook.com/squarerootsfvcp)

Registration is requested to ensure we have enough produce for everyone



*Square Roots is a social enterprise which redirects surplus farm produce to community members at an affordable rate. Visit [squarerootsfood.ca](https://squarerootsfood.ca) for more information.*

## HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings of Halifax Regional Council, and Halifax & West Community Council will take place virtually on the following dates:

### Regional Council:

On May 3, 2022 Regional Council met virtually  
Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.  
Tuesday, May 31, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

### Halifax & West Community Council:

Tuesday, May 10 at 6:00 p.m.

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



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**HALIFAX**      halifax.ca      311

I currently serve on the following boards and committees along with Regional Council and the Halifax & West Community Council:

- Appeals Standing Committee
- Transportation Standing Committee, Vice-Chair
- Halifax and West Community Council
- Heritage Advisory Committee
- Women's Advisory Committee
- Community Monitoring Committee