



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

WELCOME OCTOBER

I hope you all had a lovely Thanksgiving.



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HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE PROPOSED NEW HRM DISTRICT BOUNDARIES



There is a District Boundary Review happening in HRM. This process involves reviewing the number of councillors and the boundaries for each polling district.

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 every 8 years. The most recent review was conducted in 2014 and the resulting district boundaries are currently in effect. Changes coming from this review will not come into effect until the 2024 Municipal Election.

The 2022 review is divided in two Phases. Phase 1 - determining the number of districts, which will stay at 16 - has been completed. Phase 2 is now in progress. Here's what has happened so far:

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

You can view the proposed draft district boundaries - as recommended by the District Boundary Resident Review Panel - here:

www.halifax.ca/boundaryreview.

Need a closer look at the Proposed Districts? This online map includes a swipe tool which can be moved left or right to view the current district boundaries and those that are being proposed:

<https://bit.ly/3T57Rel>

Have your say:

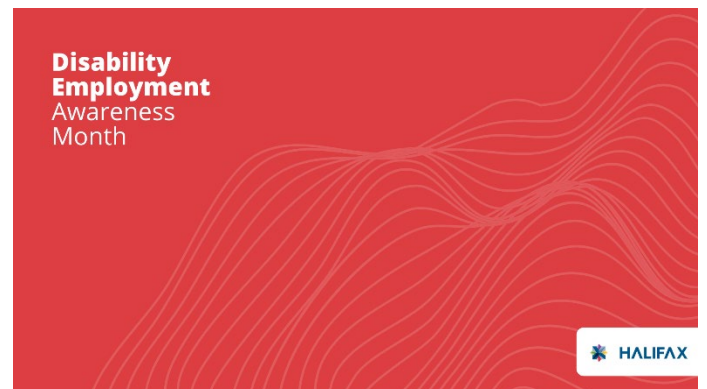
You can participate in the following ways:

- Submit feedback in the online survey at www.halifax.ca/boundaryreview. The survey will be open from Oct. 11 – 25.
- Participate in one of the public engagement sessions happening during October (these are all listed on www.halifax.ca/boundaryreview).

Residents can participate in both the public engagement sessions and the online survey. Feedback received from public consultations will be included in the final District Boundary Review recommendation, which will be provided to Regional Council later this year.

Learn more about the process at www.halifax.ca/boundaryreview or contact the Office of the Municipal Clerk: 902-490-4210 / clerks@halifax.ca.

OCTOBER IS DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH



October is Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM) an opportunity to recognize the contributions of people with disabilities in the workforce.

Throughout the month, DEAM initiatives aim to bring awareness to barriers experienced by those living with disabilities and encourage workplaces across



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the country to create inclusive and accessible environments for all.

→ Did you know that 30% of Nova Scotians over the age of 15 identify as having a disability?

→ The four most common disabilities among Nova Scotian adults include pain related disabilities, flexibility issues, mobility, and mental health related disabilities (The Canadian Survey on Disability, 2017)

→ As our population ages, the percentage of Nova Scotians identifying as living with a disability is expected to grow, making the municipality's commitment to improving accessibility and inclusion for our employees and residents increasingly important.

Keep an eye out - City Hall will be illuminated in blue and purple on October 20th in recognition of the DEAM Light It Up! awareness campaign.

We all play a part in breaking down the barriers that exist for people living with disabilities. Learn more here: <https://supportedemployment.ca/deam/>

TAX RELIEF FOR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS: NOW OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS

TAX RELIEF FOR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

This program is now open for applications to be considered in 2023. Visit halifax.ca to apply by Nov. 30th, 2022.

Questions?
nonprofittax@halifax.ca

HRM's Tax Relief for Non-Profit Organizations Program is now open for application to be considered in next year's program (2023). Be sure to apply by the deadline of **Wednesday, November 30th, 2022.**

This program can help some non-profit organizations reduce their annual property tax under Administrative Order 2014-001-ADM the Tax Relief for Non-Profit Organizations Program.

Learn more about eligibility and find the application form online at the bottom of this webpage: <https://www.halifax.ca/business/doing-business-halifax/tax-relief-non-profit-organizations>

Applications can be mailed (see the address on the webpage noted above), e-mailed, or dropped off at any HRM Customer Service Centre. Questions? Please reach out to the program's designated email address at: nonprofittax@halifax.ca.

YOUR PROPERTY TAXES

Property Tax Bill Update

The Halifax Regional Municipality has made changes to the property tax bill format and is providing additional ways to communicate about your account.

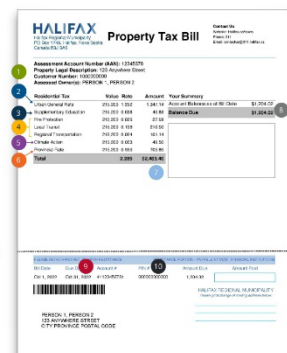
This insert explains those changes and introduces the new Climate Action Tax, which will fund ongoing and future climate change initiatives outlined in the municipality's long-term climate action plan, *HalifACT: Acting on Climate Together*.

Changes include:

- new property tax bill format
- new options to communicate about your tax bill
- account number update (which will mainly impact residents who pay via online banking)
- changes to your property tax bill amount

New property tax bill format

- 1 **Property description**
- 2 **General tax rate** – funds the various services the municipality provides, such as policing, solid waste, recreation programs, libraries and sports fields. The charge on your property tax bill will be listed as urban, suburban or rural, depending on where you live
- 3 **Supplementary education rate** – used to supplement funding to the Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) and the Conseil Scolaire Académic Provincial (CSAP), the province-wide Acadian school board, for programs within the Halifax region
- 4 **Area charges** – funds specific services in your area and will vary depending on where you live. For example, those in close proximity to transit routes will see a charge for "Local Transit" on their property tax bill
- 5 **Climate action** – see details on page two
- 6 **Provincial rate** – collected by the municipality on behalf of the Province of Nova Scotia
- 7 **Total property taxes for the current year**
- 8 **Balance due** – current amount owing
- 9 **Payment due date**
- 10 **PIN number** – required for email/SMS registration



Questions about the new bill format? Please call 311 or email contactus@311.halifax.ca.

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You may have recently received your property tax bill from the municipality. The tax bill includes an insert to inform you about changes to bills and to outline what the taxes are used for.

The due date for the bill is October 31st, 2022. As always, staff will work with residential and commercial customers who are experiencing financial difficulty to set up suitable payment arrangements.

Do you have other questions about your tax bill? Please reach out to 311 visit:

<https://www.halifax.ca/home-property/property-taxes/tax-bill>

-Tax Bill Payment Assistance-

If you need help paying your property taxes, the municipality offers a few choices via the Affordable Access Program. You can apply for a monthly payment plan, a rebate (if household income is less than \$43,000), a rebate and a deferral, or a deferral of local improvement charges.

For more information and eligibility requirements on assistance, please visit:

<https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/affordable-access-program/tax-bill-payment-assistance>

HALIFAX IS HIRING



Considering a career change or looking for work? With new opportunities posted each week, the Halifax Regional Municipality offers dynamic opportunities for a variety of skillsets.

There are great jobs available right now – apply online here: <http://halifax.ca/employment>

✓ The municipality employs between 3,600-5,000 people annually. You could be one of them.

✓ A municipal public servant makes a difference in the lives of over 400,000 people in the Halifax region.

✓ Mechanics, accountants, bus operators, planners, police and fire services: municipal careers are diverse and hands-on and offer exciting and dynamic opportunities.

USS CARRIER GERALD R. FORD SAILORS AVAILABLE TO VOLUNTEER WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS: OCTOBER 29TH – 31ST

I am sharing this information for local community groups. This is a very generous offer that I would like to highlight for any non-profit/volunteer-based group that could use a helping hand thanks to some additional volunteers:

RPC Yanet Chavez, naval staff with the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) has informed us that Commanding Officer Paul Lanzilotta is looking forward to coming into Halifax Harbour later this month aboard the USS Carrier Gerald R. Ford. He is encouraging his sailors to volunteer with community organizations from October 29th – 31st.

As part of their Community Program, they are offering up sailors to volunteer for 2-4 hours per day. They will sign up onboard the ship to volunteer for a specific activity with a community group/non-profit organization.

If you are involved with a non-profit group, or know a community group that could use a helping hand through this initiative – please let me know, and I will provide them with your contact information

Our community appreciates this kind offer!



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REGISTER FOR HRM'S ANNUAL VOLUNTEER CONFERENCE: NOVEMBER 18TH



Register now for HRM's annual volunteer conference!

When: Friday, Nov. 18th from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Where: DoubleTree by Hilton, 101 Wyse Rd

Learn more and register at halifax.ca/volunteerconference

The conference is an opportunity for volunteers to connect, celebrate, and learn relevant skills to build stronger volunteer capacity throughout the municipality. Delegates representing a variety of organizations and causes will participate in two

training workshops and networking activities and enjoy a keynote speech and seated meal.

This year's workshops will cover topics like grant opportunities, diversity and inclusion in the volunteer sector, collaboration as power, connecting with youth, marketing your organization, fundraising, volunteer recruitment and retention, community event planning, engaging your community, healthy board practices, rural perspectives in volunteerism, and improving accessibility in the volunteer sector.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLACEMAKING: APPLY FOR FUNDING TO CREATE A PROJECT IN YOUR OWN NEIGHBOURHOOD



Want to connect with your neighbours and create a placemaking project in your community? Apply to host a Neighbourhood Placemaking project and receive training, guidance, and up to \$1,500 in support funding from the municipality.

The deadline to apply for projects taking place in 2023 is October 31st, 2022. Apply today: www.halifax.ca/placemaking

-What is Neighborhood Placemaking?-

The purpose of Neighbourhood Placemaking is to celebrate and explore a neighbourhood's unique identity while connecting neighbours and creating a place people are drawn to. The result? Welcoming and livable communities where neighbours have more opportunities to get to know one another.

-What sort of projects could this include, and who leads them?-

Projects are resident-led and may include:

- painting on municipal street intersections



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- building a neighbourhood bench
 - creating stepping stones
 - making a community film screen
- any other creative idea you can think of!

WASTE REDUCTION WEEK IN HRM



In celebration of Waste Reduction Week, check out these events hosted by the Halifax Regional Municipality to help residents reduce waste and learn more about waste management...

INFORMATION SESSIONS

Swap, share, thrift, and repair: a guide to sharing/borrowing/repairing in the municipality
The municipality's Solid Waste team is partnering with the Halifax Public Libraries to offer the following in-person information sessions:

Tuesday, October 18th | 6 p.m. | Musquodoboit Harbour Public Library, 7900 Trunk 7, Musquodoboit Harbour

Thursday, October 20th | 7 p.m. | Keshen Goodman Public Library, 330 Lacewood Drive

Friday, October 21st | 2 p.m. | Dartmouth North Public Library, 105 Highfield Park Drive

Sunday, October 23rd | 2 p.m. | Central Library, Lou Duggan Creative Studio, 5440 Spring Garden Road

For more information and how to join our information sessions please visit Halifax Recycles on Facebook or email wasteless@halifax.ca.

SHRED INSTEAD EVENT

Saturday, October 22nd | 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. | Halifax Water Office | 450 Cowie Hill Road

Do you have sensitive documents you'd like to shred? Bring them to our event to securely shred them for free. Shredding documents is a great way to protect against identity theft. There is a limit of the equivalent of three boxes per household. Residential only, no business waste accepted.

This is a contactless event. When you arrive, please stay in your vehicle and pop your trunk when directed. Our on-site team will take your materials to the shredder. For more information, visit Halifax Recycles on Facebook or email wasteless@halifax.ca

MOBILE HOUSEHOLD SPECIAL WASTE EVENTS

Residents wishing to dispose of household special waste not acceptable for curbside collection can bring their materials to the following mobile special waste depot events:

Saturday, October 22nd | NSCC Leeds Street Campus | 5685 Leeds Street

The mobile drop-off depots will be in operation from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will take place rain or shine. The municipality also operates a permanent Household Special Waste Depot (20 Horseshoe Lake Drive). Drop-off times are on most Saturdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. The household special waste drop-off depots are open only to residents of the Halifax Regional Municipality. Commercial waste is not permitted.

For more information on our solid waste program including updates on future depot events, please visit our website, download the Halifax Recycles app or call 311.



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IN THE COMMUNITY



Pop up library in Beechville this summer



Truth and Reconciliation Day – Grande Parade – September 30



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New shed at BLT community garden – a district funding project



Halloween Safety Tips

Trick-or-treaters, parents and guardians:

- Follow normal pedestrian safety rules. Look both ways before crossing the street and watch for vehicles (especially vehicles backing out of driveways).

- Trick-or-treat with people from your household or your close social group; don't trick-or-treat alone.
- Try to limit criss-crossing the street. Go down one side of the street, then up the other.
- Ensure Halloween costumes are bright, reflective and fit well. Confirm that costumes allow the wearer to see clearly. Consider using face paint or makeup instead of a mask. Wear a non-medical mask if you are trick-or-treating indoors (e.g. an apartment complex).
- Carry a flashlight and stay close to well-lit areas.
- Be sure an adult checks all Halloween candy before trick-or-treaters dig in.
- Stay outside while trick-or-treating. Never enter someone's home.

Motorists:

- Drive slowly and be careful backing up.
- Drive with extra caution in residential areas.

Homeowners:

- Keep your doorway well-lit; clear of tripping hazards and open flames.
- Give out only commercially wrapped snacks.
- Keep pets inside on Halloween. Costumes and loud noises may scare them.

OCTOBER MEETING DATES

Special Halifax Regional Council:

Met in person on Tuesday, October 11 at 6:00 p.m.

Regional Council:

Tuesday, October 18 at 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 25 at 10:00 a.m.

Halifax and West Community Council:

Met in person on Tuesday, October 11 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 Regional Municipality
PO Box 1749
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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
- Heritage Advisory Committee
- Women's Advisory Committee
- Community Monitoring Committee